

## Llangwm: second place in Pembrokeshire 'Village of the Year' 2003

Many of you will already have heard the exciting news that Llangwm came second in this year's 'Pembrokeshire Village of the year' competition, sponsored by Calor. The first round, on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, was for the 'Best in Pembrokeshire', to be followed later with 'Best in Wales', and then 'Best in Britain'.

For us, it all came about when one of the event organisers - Mike Dingley-Jones - visited Llangwm in the middle of Scarecrow Fortnight, was very impressed, and suggested Llangwm had all the right ingredients to enter the competition.

Full details of the story on page 3...



### Inside this issue

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Community Council - what is happening to our environment?

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Linda Rees reviews the Festival...

This year's Festival was the best yet—despite our worries over floats for the carnival and insurance.

The committee worked hard to dispel the gloom and doom that was, at one point, threatening to consume us. What turned it around for us was seeing all your efforts with the scarecrows and the Art & Craft Exhibition—not to mention the wonderful Carnival entries. The residents of Glan Hafan really pulled out all the stops. It just goes to show that we didn't need the lorries anyway!

#### winning combination

Thank you for all your efforts. You are the reason that we managed to win the community category of the Pembrokeshire Village of the Year. Thanks also to the splendid work done by Elaine Winfield in setting up the Village Website; we also won the IT category. Help is needed in keeping the site updated. Training will be given if you are interested so, please, if you are, contact Elaine Winfield at PAVs.

#### festival folk

This year's Festival saw a new event very well received. Folk Night! Well, I may have got the billing slightly wrong as the evening turned out to include a variety of music—but it worked really well. I would like to thank all those who took part and gave their time and talent free of charge. We will do it again!

#### auction night promises

The Committee is just getting back into harness and looking at the coming year. Events are planned for future dates. Once again, if you have any items for Auction Night, we would be glad to receive them. If you are prepared to offer your services and make a promise we can auction, please let a member of the Committee know. Something new and currently in the planning stages is an evening of entertainment based on TV and Radio quizzes. Keep an eye out for that—it should be fun!

#### father christmas fireworks

Of course, Father Christmas and Fireworks are on the list. Just keep your eyes open for posters giving details of these and other events. The Christmas edition of the Llangwm News will have more up-to-date Information.

If anyone has any suggestions for new events or ways to improve old ones or wants to volunteer to help—don't hold back! Ring Linda Rees on 891233

## Village Music Night



Following the success of the inaugural village music night held as part of this year's Village Festival, we hope to repeat the event with a view to establishing a regular community evening.

We have booked the Rugby Club for the evening of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October and are now eager for performers to join us.

All are welcome but to ensure that everybody "gets a go" all potential performers are requested to call Nick on 891711 to confirm a slot.

#### Comment

The geese are arriving: So that means autumn and winter on the way...after such a memorable summer!

This year has seen the best-ever Festival, achieved through community endeavour. However, I am sure all of you will agree that it would never happen without the energy and determination of our Festival Committee. Thank you, all you amazing people!

Again, lots to read in the newsletter.

**Deadline for the December edition?**

**Friday 15 November 2003**

**Please help - get your news in on time!**

**e-mail: mags@madagascar.com**

**tel. margaret 01437 890029**



## Calor Village of the Year competition 2003—continued from page one...

Villages are judged on five categories: Community Life, Business, Young People, Older People and Environment, with Information Technology an optional 6<sup>th</sup>, and the judges look for evidence of community involvement, pride and initiative.

### Postal hitch

Then, due to a postal problem, we only received the entry forms towards the end of July, although by the 22<sup>nd</sup> August, we put on a presentation in the village hall, masterminded by the Festival Committee.

All the various groups provided photographs, write-ups, newspaper cuttings, etc., with David Mathias compiling a video showing the various scarecrows, carnival, long boat regatta etc, Margaret Llewellyn provided a display of old photographs from the History Group, Margaret Brace supplying the extra printed material for all categories, Jane & David Mills on the Village Hall re-furbishment programme, Liz Jones on the Youth Club, and Gardening Club, Peter Owen representing the Community Council, together with the Rugby and Cricket clubs, Elaine Winfield in charge of the (her) website, and Linda Rees being our main presenter.

### The cat's whisker!

After a week of careful consideration, the Judges informed us it had been a very difficult decision, and that Cilgerran were the winners, and we were a 'cat's whisker' behind them, winning the Community and the optional I.T. categories, as follows :-

Community	Llangwm
Business	Cilgerran
Young people	Herbranston
Older people	Cilgerran
Environment	Penally
Information Technology	Llangwm

**Wait for it - the winners, Cilgerran, cannot enter the competition for two years, so next year we'll be trying that much harder (and sooner).**

**In the next eleven months, therefore, if you are involved in any activities or your group organises a special event, then please take some photographs, and if you already have any photographs or reports of any activities in Llangwm (printable !) which you feel will show how good Llangwm is, then please contact Jeff James on 01437 890841.**

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## Community Council News

### Llangwm—Pilot Recycling Scheme.

As part of the Waste Strategy for Pembrokeshire, the County Council plans to introduce kerbside collections of recyclables to 40% of households by 2005.

Pembrokeshire is introducing a Pilot Kerbside Collection of recyclables to just over 3,000 households during the first half of 2004. The proposed pilot scheme will affect a large number of households in Llangwm.

### Collaboration is key to success

The success of the scheme will depend on the participation of the households. The county council is to arrange meetings, school visits and door-to-door visits.

If any of the public is keen to encourage people to recycle and is able to give a little time in making visits, contact Waste Strategy Section, County Hall, Tel 775728 or e-mail: [waste.strategy@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:waste.strategy@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

There will be remuneration for all time spent in assisting in this activity.

### What is "Kerbside Collection"?

For this trial it is the collection of RECYCLABLES ONLY e.g. paper, cans, plastics from HOUSEHOLDS.

### How long will the trial last?

Twelve months. However, the kerbside collection of recyclables from those households in the pilot scheme will continue into the future. It may be in the same manner or replaced with something else, depending on its success.

Continued on page 4



## **When and How of collection**

Recyclables will be put out for collection in a container (e.g. coloured bag) on the SAME DAY as the normal refuse collection. This container will be placed beside the black bags at the kerbside but will be collected by a separate vehicle.

### **Why do we need to recycle more?**

#### **For many reasons:**

- Environmental issues (to reduce the use of landfill sites and resources).
- To meet recycling targets. The Welsh Assembly target is to recycle or compost at least 25% of waste by 2006/07.
- To follow the Council's "Waste Strategy for Pembrokeshire". The Council intends to meet the 25% target by a recycling approach, of which Kerbside collection is one. The recycling and composting rate for 2002/03 was only 15.45%.

### **Bluestone Project**

The Community Council has requested confirmation that the proposed sewerage outfall into the upper reaches of the Cleddau would be of the highest standard. Although this request was made some time ago, the council has received no reply; nor even acknowledgement of the enquiry.

**If granted, the proposed development could generate sewerage similar to a small town. It is therefore necessary that the treatment works must be of the highest standard. Nothing else will do.**

### **Troopers Inn Junction**

Following repeated requests by Llangwm Community Council, the visibility at the road junction has been greatly improved. We had hoped that the visibility to the north could have been improved at the same time with little extra work. The County Council has advised that this work would be done in the future.

### **Christmas Tree**

No decision has been made as to whether the community council will erect a tree on the Green. Last year and in the past the tree has been subjected to vandalism. The Council is seeking prices for a more vandal proof lighting system.

It's up to you to make sure we keep our Village Christmas Tree!



## **Liz Jones says 'Yoga your way to health...'**

Hatha Yoga has really taken off in the village, with both classes being full. A waiting list is being developed, so, if there is sufficient demand, a third class could start.

Part of its appeal is the low cost of the courses. Each course of 6 weeks costs £10—less than half the usual cost. Each session lasts for one and a half hours and is a gentle way of exercising both the body and the mind. Yoga is for everyone, no matter what your age or level of fitness or flexibility.

If you want to stave off the effects of old age, please give Liz Jones a ring on 891706

### **Llangwm Methodist Church**

Minister - Reverend Linda Woolacott

Treasurer — Mr Lloyd Curtis

Secretary - Mrs Jane Brock

Sunday Services ~ every Sunday ~ 11.am

Sunday School ~ every Sunday ~ 11.am

Family Service ~ first Sunday in the month ~ 11.am

Women's Fellowship ~ fortnightly ~ Wednesday ~ 2.pm

### **Forthcoming events**

#### **Sunday 12 October**

An evening of Wesley hymn singing. Guest soloists: Mr Derek John and Miss Harriet Lloyd. The evening will commence at 8.00 pm

**Afternoon tea, mince pies and carols.** Date to be confirmed. Posters will be displayed around the village nearer the time.

#### **Sunday 21 December**

Carol service commencing at 6.00 pm

**A warm welcome is always extended to everyone to join us at the above services and events.**

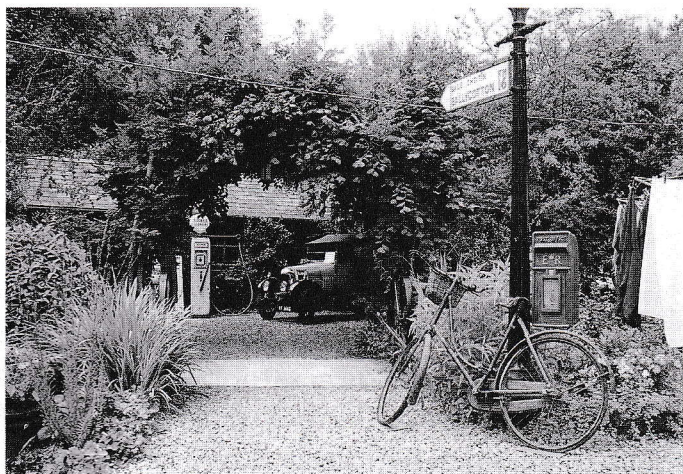


## Museum of Scrimpinology !

The Gardening Club's 'open gardens day' in July was a little unusual this year, when tea/cakes were provided by Club members at 4 Edwards Pill, to over 215 people, most of whom visited Jeff James's private museum which was opened for the first time.

It all began last September when neighbour Ben Cutting suggested to Jeff that he displayed some of the old items he had acquired. Then friends and neighbours added to the collection, wanting their old possessions to be seen, rather than stored in attics. And Jeff searched in antique shops, auctions and bric-a-brac stalls for more bits of memorabilia.

Items included are military, household, agricultural, transport, mining (from Hook), electrical, tins, bottles, postcards, medical, photography, maritime, tools, a school section which includes a desk from Llangwm school, and even some items from the old Empire Cinema, Milford Haven.



Jeff explained that he wants the museum to be enjoyed by those in Llangwm who want to take a trip down 'Memory Lane'. 'The older you are, the more nostalgic it will be,' he says, and he is always pleased to show people around - possibly gathering more knowledge on some of the local 'finds' at the same time.

But please give Pat or Jeff a call first (01437 890841) to see if it is convenient, and be prepared to spend about an hour looking around the 'museum'.

## NEWS FROM GALILEE

### Looking Back over a Lovely Summer

It was a great delight at this year's Anniversary Service (15 June) to see the Sunday School children perform their songs and recitations on the platform.

Aged between just two and six years old, they were word and song perfect, in time and tune. What's more, they really enjoyed themselves, judging by the smiling faces.

Taking part were: Toby Asson, Emily and Thomas Carrington, Jonathan and Zoe Clout, George and Eddie John, James and Sara John-Davies. Mr. Derek John of Glan Hafan, gave a fine solo., Rev. Stephen Woods of Hook presided over the service, and the organist was Mrs. Margaret Davies.

The ladies of Galilee Chapel assisted on Carnival Day. A Cake Stall was organised by Mrs. Dorothy John, Mrs. Doris Alcock and others, and proved very popular. Adding a splash of colour to the Fete were Helen Carrington, Gaynor John-Davies and others from Galilee Mums & Tots Group whose face-painting turned over 50 eager young faces into butterflies, tigers and other splendid creatures! This creative group also held a Teddy Bears' Picnic as a summer treat for the children.

Family services and Sunday School are held at Galilee at 10.30 am on Sundays.; Women's Fellowship alternate Thursdays at 2 pm in the Vestry.; Mums and Tots Group weekly on Thursday mornings, at 10 am. Do please feel free to come along and enjoy the company and special companionship in faith that is offered.

By the time the newsletter reaches you, we will have celebrated our harvest Festival. It is a time of thanksgiving to God for the fruits of the earth; wonderful flowers and fruit stuffs decorate the chapel at this time of year and we remember those around the globe who are not so fortunate.

The well loved Harvest hymns come into their own at this season:

'All good gifts around us  
Are sent from Heaven above'



## More 'Notes from the Shore' by Graham Brace

From early April to the end of August, bird activity in and around the Pill is low key—some days in early summer, virtually non-existent. Apart from a couple of shelduck and mallard (and our two resident mute swans), the wildfowl and waders that throng our shore during the winter move upriver or further north to Scotland and on to the Arctic to breed.

However, most days there was something interesting to look at - perhaps a solitary heron, oyster catcher, curlew or little egret. A (family?) group of seven to nine mallard has been present all summer with occasional visits by their pure white cousin. Is this a genuine albino or a domestic escapee? Little egrets are now virtually a permanent feature in and around the Pill with 5 individuals present on the 4th and 5th September. Earlier in the summer a group of no less than 17 were seen preparing to roost on a tree alongside Sprinkle Pill!

A highlight for me was on 7th April when I witnessed a spectacular kill by a female sparrow hawk in our garden. The unfortunate victim was a plump wood pigeon minding its own business on our lawn. Our cat eventually ended the butchery after 10 minutes and the sparrow hawk flew off, leaving me to dispose of the corpse and discarded feathers.

During the last week of April and beginning of May, whimbrel (sometimes up to 4 individuals) were present around the Cunnigar and Edwards Pill. These birds, on passage to breeding grounds in Scotland or further north, are distinguished from their close cousin, the curlew, by its smaller size, shorter bill and striped crown.

One afternoon in June I spent an entertaining couple of minutes watching a great black backed gull making a meal of a large flat fish and getting plastered in mud into the bargain; a few weeks ago I watched a cormorant gallantly trying to swallow a similar fish of large proportions and fail miserably.

In early July, after an absence of over three months, the black headed gulls (complete with black heads) and redshanks started to reappear. The last week of July saw a solitary common sandpiper stop over in the vicinity of Edwards Pill. By this time, the black headed gulls had returned in large numbers and most had moulted their black heads in exchange for the black spot behind the eye. The redshanks also were now back in force.

At 7.30 am on 30th July we witnessed an over-flight of around 35 Canada geese. Large groups were reported on a couple of occasions during the third week of August in the Pill. At the beginning of September large numbers have been overflying Haverfordwest and are much in evidence further up river.

Rod Billen saw 6 ringed plover on the Cunnigar on 10th August but, despite looking out for them daily on my morning walk around the shore, I didn't see any until the first week of September when I counted 23 birds in the same place. These pretty little plover are virtually impossible to see against the mud and weed until they move. The teal are now returning from northern regions with 2 present on 1st September and seven on 6th September. These numbers will steadily grow until they reach the 200 or so that overwinter with us in the Pill.

If you want a real treat and an insight into garden wildlife, take a look at Dave Hall's website. [www.daviv.com](http://www.daviv.com) Dave lives in Ashdale Lane and his garden is visited by a variety of birds and animals, all photographed where possible and written about in a very entertaining style. The nest box diary is a gem where you can watch the progress of a family of blue tits (from inside!).

Just to remind you...if you see anything interesting, birdwise, please let me know on 891580 or mail me at [grahambrace@btinternet.com](mailto:grahambrace@btinternet.com)

### The Gardening Club

Following the hugely successful 'Open Gardens Day' during the Festival, the Gardening Club again has an exciting programme for the forthcoming year.

<b>Monday 6 October:</b>	Andy Cook
Herbs & Shrubs	
<b>Monday 3 November:</b>	Gerald White
More about propagation	
<b>Monday 1 December</b>	Christmas Meal
final date/venue/price TBA	



## **Lisa and Roger Smith arrive in LLANGWM**

'I was very surprised to be asked to write an article on being a newcomer to Llangwm for this edition of our magazine because the very last thing I feel like is a newcomer, I feel like we've been here for ages.

We moved into Main Street last December and it's a year since we found the house. I'd spent weeks on the net searching property in Pembrokeshire and when I found our house I knew it was 'the one' straight away. We arrived in the village half an hour before our appointment to view the house and drove around to get a feel for things. It was 4pm on a Friday afternoon and we could see people in the school so we went in to pick up a prospectus - we received the warmest welcome from Jane Brock and Nick Groves; this was a great start as changing schools had concerned us very much. The house was all I'd hoped it would be and I could not believe it when our offer was quickly accepted. We sold our house in Bucks and within 3 months the Smiths had arrived in Llangwm!

I used to come on holiday to Pembrokeshire as a child, my parents used to rent a caravan in Saundersfoot or Tenby. Before I was born they were quartered in Haverfordwest as newlyweds when my dad was serving at HMS Brawdy. My mum still tells tales about pushing my sister up the High Street in a huge Silver Cross pram! So my connections with the area go back quite a way.

Roger and I have had a rather nomadic life up until the last 12 months. Fen lived in 4 houses before she was 2, and the only stability we found in our 9 years of roaming together (we weren't gypsies - we were both in the Army!) was our holidays in St Davids. Every year we came down, and each time I found it harder to go back, so when our circumstances changed dramatically in August last year, we bit the bullet and followed a whim!

I've lived in other villages where I knew I'd be a newcomer all my life, but I've never felt like that in Llangwm. It's a friendly, thriving village and it's not just the abundance of activities going on that impresses me, but the way in which they are attended and supported. I also feel very safe here, and feel certain that everyone is looking out for each other, particularly the children. For us, moving away from the 'rat race' (remember, even if you win, you're still a rat!), the 'Pembrokeshire Promise' is refreshing and de-stressing. When I look out of my kitchen window over beautiful countryside, or take a short walk down to the river, everything falls into perspective and now it's very easy to remember the important things in life.

I'm not sure all this qualifies as news; it's just every-day, run-of-the-mill stuff for anyone who's been here longer than we have. Amazingly I still get that feeling, the one I used to get when our holidays in St David's ended; whenever I drive out of Pembrokeshire, my heart sinks. This is my home and I hope it stays that way for many years.'



## **Will Scale's Farm Diary**

**It has been some time since I last wrote. It's nice to be back.**

**Farming is always an interesting challenge and it's a pleasure to share this way of life with Llangwm Newsletter readers.**

Farming life is dominated by the rhythm of the seasons and there's only an annual chance to get things right when growing crops—I suspect I will always feel like a novice. The whole philosophy behind my farming is to focus on producing good quality food using methods that also encourage wildlife. After all, a farmer is a steward of land for only forty years. We have a responsibility to make sure we leave plenty of places and food for wildlife as well.

These methods have been given a boost lately when we were accepted by the Government funded Tir Gofal (Land Care) scheme whereby we farm the land in an 'environmentally friendly manner'. For example, we no longer spray our wheat and barley fields, encouraging more weeds for insects and birds. Pembrokeshire is famous for its rare arable weeds and a few of them have cropped up in my cornfields, some quite pretty, others barely noticeable. I am not sure how happy I am about their presence.

Some of you may have seen the sunflowers in a field between Llangwm and Troopers' Inn. These were easily the most striking flowers of a mixture that is to form a giant winter bird table. A lot of farmland birds get very short of food in winter and the seeds that shed in this area are the equivalent of a nice rump steak for a skylark.

We have been very lucky with the cereal harvest this year. The wonderful, hot, dry days of August ensured our combine harvester and driver (my dad), with a combined age of 92, made speedy progress through the crops without complaint! At this time of the year I'm looking forward to the arrival of the woolly vacuum cleaners—the sheep—which will chomp through grass and turnips all winter. I'd better get Sian the sheepdog, who's had a relaxing summer, into fitness...



**Summer in Llangwm, in the past, raised temperatures in more ways than one! Read how the earth moved, and tempers exploded... researched by Nikki Bosworth**

## Earthquake in Llangwm

Early on Thursday 18 August 1892, a series of tremors shook South Wales. The most severe of the shocks were felt in Milford Haven, but Llangwm was also affected. The Western Telegraph of 24 August reported that the first shock was felt about 12.20 am.

A dead calm was experienced before the event. Sea birds circled overhead with a plaintive call and other animals behaved unnaturally. For a few seconds, a distinct rumbling sound was heard. The sound increased in volume until houses appeared to rock to and fro. Pictures on the walls and ornaments on chimney-pieces rattled. In some places, people fell out of bed.

The second shock-wave came at about 1.45 am.—and was followed by lesser tremors. After the earthquake, people reported that there was a strong smell of ozone.

In a history of Llangwm written by Miss Eliza Morgan of North Nash Farm in 1953, Miss Morgan writes about her memories of the event.

'The day before the shock was felt, my father was bothered about the abnormal ebb and flow of the tide....However, he took his boat and nets out, and went fishing, with some other men, as usual'. Although Miss Morgan had gone to bed on the night of the 17th., she was unable to sleep. She continued, 'There was a loud, long rumbling under the house and, as the sound receded, the house seemed to lift and settle, crockery rattled, birds outside were disturbed and cows that were in a field close by began lowing. I jumped out of bed for I knew it was an earthquake. My father was soon home.'

A tidal wave had been predicted but did not materialise. The centre of the earthquake was reputedly in the mid Atlantic Ocean.

## Affray at Llangwm—1903

Farm labourer Alfred Thomas (age 23) of Knapp Farm, was charged with unlawfully wounding Frederick Griffiths of Barn Farm, Burton, also a farm labourer, at Llangwm on the evening of Tuesday 7 July 1903.

The men had been drinking at the Black Horse Inn (now Knowle Cottage) in the company of Jim Llewellyn from Hook. As they left the pub, arguing amongst themselves, the men met Evan Howells of Llangwm Farm and his teams man (in charge of the horses used

for ploughing), William Jones.

Frederick Griffiths went back to Llangwm Farm with Evan Howells, while Alfred Thomas remained in the roadway shouting abuse. Frederick Griffiths went back outside, afterwards claiming, 'I thought it was to be a fair fight, with fists.'

During the ensuing fight, Alfred Thomas stabbed Frederick Griffiths five times in the fleshy part of the left arm and breast. The injured man was taken to Haverfordwest Infirmary (his arm having been temporarily bound up by Mrs Elizabeth Howells) where the wounds were stitched by Dr Williams.

Alfred Thomas spent the night in custody and was bailed on a surety of £50 by Rev. Henry Evans, Rector of Llangwm. He was subsequently found guilty of unlawful wounding and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour.

## Liz's hints n' tips for autumn...

### Don't put that tree too close to your house!

Important advice for gardeners has been issued on the planting of trees near their homes through the magazine 'Garden Answers'. Most people realise that there is a significant risk of subsidence through tree roots. However, the distances that trees should be planted away from your house are:

Willow	40m/131ft	Poplar	35m/115ft
Holly	6m/19.5ft	Oak	30m/98.5ft
Laburnum	9m/29.5ft	Ash	21m/59ft
Hawthorn	12m/30ft	Cypress	20m/65.5ft
Beech	15m/40ft	Sycamore	17m/56ft

### General Tips

- Plant now for Spring colour next year
- Take cuttings of your favourite roses
- Split day lilies and peonies
- Stake young trees
- Box, yew and other fine-leaved hedging plants need a gentle haircut
- Mulch your borders
- Pull up your weeds before they seed

Give your lawn an MOT by removing thatch; spike the grass; remove all weeds; sprinkle a combination of sand, loam and peat on to the lawn; scatter grass seed over the top where there are bare patches.



# Local History Group

It has been a good year for the Local History Society, following the adoption of its constitution at the AGM in March, and the committee has been well-supported by members.

Summer activities included a guided tour of Llangwm Church by the Rev. Hooper, and a trip to the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. During the Festival, the Society arranged an Exhibition of Llangwm photographs and artefacts at the Methodist Church and we are grateful to all who helped mount and set up the exhibits, lent items for display, or made donations. Special thanks to members of the Chapel for stewarding this event. Our monthly meeting for July was a Scarecrow Stroll, enjoying the variety of this year's entries.

Historical research has been continuing, and the Society was able to provide material for the Village Community Competition display in August. Roger Smith is now setting up our Web Page to link with the Village one at [www.llangwm-villages.com](http://www.llangwm-villages.com).

We have welcomed the advice of Emma Heard, Community Regeneration Officer for Pembrokeshire, as a result of which we have agreed a 3-year Action Plan, to support our application for funding and give focus to future plans.

We meet on the second Wednesday in the month at 7.45 in the Community Hall. New members and visitors always welcome.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS:-**

- 8<sup>th</sup> October - **LLANGWM RUGBY** -Richard Howells  
12<sup>th</sup> Nov. - **Members Meeting with Ruth Roberts from Llanteg.**  
10<sup>th</sup> Dec. - **Christmas Dinner (To be arranged)**

## **Residential visit with Llangwm School, North Wales**

Last year our school travelled to Llangwm, North Wales, for three days (sleeping over for two) and a brilliant time was had by all. This year, they will be coming to us from Wednesday 11—Friday 13 November. They will be spending time at the school but most of the visit will be spent at Stackpole Centre where they will enjoy different activities arranged by staff and children from our Class 4. The children are looking forward to renewing their friendships.

# Drama Group



The Drama Group has had a season of mixed success. As something of a feather in our collective cap, we were one of only three villages in Pembrokeshire to be supported by SPAN ARTS in a Community Enterprise—ours for Street Theatre.

Our link colleague was Lisa-from-Sweden, an energetic, professional and thoroughly likeable young woman who secured for us a series of workshops.

In March, the first of the script writing workshops was held, led by Dave Ainsworth, in the idyllic surroundings of Will's Cottage, Llangwm Ferry. Thanks to Susan Davies for providing us with this treat.

Our team of writers spent an exciting and productive day, working in teams on historical Llangwm stories. By the end of the day, we had several scripts knocked into shape—and a cracking connecting narrative.

**If you want to see us at work, visit  
[www.span-arts.org.uk/project 2003](http://www.span-arts.org.uk/project%202003)**

The Youth Group, too, worked on a dramatic script. We worked hard to secure funding from PAVs, costumes from Milford Haven, a route mapped out through the village...so where did it go wrong?

Maybe trying to do too much too soon. Writers are not usually actors and we lacked actors to make our scripts come to life.

So we look forward to next year—and the opportunity of using our scripts to make real community street theatre which focuses on extraordinary events in Llangwm's past. But we need your help!

**There will be a meeting of the Drama Group on Wednesday 15 October at 8.00 pm at The Cottage Inn.**

**On 6 December, there will be a final workshop with Dave Ainsworth for the writing group (and anyone else interested!). Details to be finalised.**



## What do you know?

### A miscellany of origins by Jane Mills

Have you ever stopped to think about the origins of various customs and sayings? Well, here are some common ones which date their origins back to the 1500s...

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled reasonably good in June. However, they were not perfect so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour.

The man of the house had the privilege of clean water for washing, followed by all the other men. Then came the women and children and, finally, the babies. Unfortunately, by this time, the water was so dirty that you could actually lose someone in it—hence the saying, 'Don't throw the baby out with the bath water'.

Houses then had thatched roofs with no wood underneath which provided the perfect place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small creatures lived in the roof. When it rained, the thatch became slippery thus causing the animals to fall off the roof. Hence the saying, 'it's raining cats and dogs'.

This could cause a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and droppings could fall on to the bed. So a structure with tall posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection and canopy beds came into existence.

The floor would be made of dirt, with only the wealthy having something better—hence the saying 'dirt poor'. The wealthy could have slate floors which would get slippery in winter when wet, so they spread thresh or straw on the floor to provide a foothold. As the winter wore on, more thresh was added until it would all start slipping out through the door. A piece of wood was therefore placed in the entrance to catch the thresh—which is the origin of the word 'threshold'.

Cooking was fairly primitive, with a large pot or kettle hung over the fire. Each day, the fire was lit and things added to the pot—mostly vegetables, with very little meat. The resulting stew would be eaten for dinner with the remainder left to get cold overnight and then added to the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite some time—which resulted in the rhyme, 'peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, 'peas porridge in the pot nine days old'.



Mary Kinder (Llangwm): Assist./Leader, Louise Randall; Carina Evans; Pat Rye (Leader/Teacher); Lynette Kinder

### More medals for Llangwm Scottish!

Members of the Llangwm Scottish Dancers were again successful in examinations held in for the British Association of Teachers of Dance. These examinations, held in conjunction with the South Wales Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, resulted in six Pembrokeshire dancers achieving very high results in tests that included traditional and modern Scottish reels, jigs and strathspeys.

All the local dancers achieved Commended or Highly Commended, and were praised by the examiner for their high standard, their precision of stepping and their knowledge of the individual dances.

The following awards were achieved:

Carina Evans	(Burton)	-Pre-Bronze
Louise Randall	(Hundleton)	- Pre-Bronze
Kate McLoughlin	(Llangwm)	- Gold
Kimberley Waller	(Llangwm)	- Gold
Sophie Williams	(Llangwm)	- Gold

Lynette Kinder (Llangwm), who dances with the Houghton Scottish Dancers, gained the Blue Riband (Highly Commended), to add to her previous Gold Award.

Members of the Houghton Scottish Dancers, at the Summer Garden Party Dance at Lower Triffleton, presented three of the young dancers with their awards and medals, and congratulated them on their success.

The Llangwm Dancers meet in Llangwm Community Hall on Wednesdays during school terms, and welcome young dancers aged 6 and over. The Houghton Scottish Dancers meet on Monday evenings at Burton Jubilee hall in Houghton. Both groups can be contacted through their teacher, Mrs Pat Rye, tel. 01646 69846



## Llangwm Cricket

A very good summer all round: good weather, and the first XI, led by Darren Brick, finishing comfortably in sixth position in the league with five wins and four draws. The second XI, led by Paul Morgan, gained promotion from the fourth division. And the icing on the cake was the winning of the prestigious Duggie Morris cup on August Bank Holiday Monday. The sun has certainly been shining on Llangwm!

George Thomas has had a superb year with the bat getting almost 1000 runs for the Club, and another home grown youngster, Chris Inward, has greatly impressed with both bat and ball in his first full season in the first XI. Our young side is threatening to come of age sooner than expected!

We were delighted that Darren Brick was selected to play for the senior County Side this year. Congratulations also to our two Welsh Internationals—James Venables (under 14s) and Stephen Inward (under 12s vice-captain), both of whom have had very good seasons.

The Llangwm Ladies have had an enjoyable season, with limited success but lots of fun. Several new players have emerged this year and added to the character of the squad.

The junior section has been very active with 13s and 15s age levels again acquitting themselves well in the Welsh Cup competitions. In the County Leagues, our 11s were unbeaten and the 13s and 15s finished mid-table.

Our young Ormond Youth side was narrowly beaten in the quarter finals by the eventual finalists, Whitland, so we look forward to the next two years at this level with some anticipation. Our Llangwm Cricket Festival was held for under-14s this year and our lads did the business and lifted the trophy by beating Neyland in the final.

We had plenty of Llangwm players representing Pembrokeshire and West Wales during the season. West Wales Region are in the Welsh under-11 finals, due to be played on 7 September, with Oliver Davies and David Lewis carrying the banner for Llangwm. We wish them luck. **STOP PRESS—They WON!**

The County Junior Presentation Evening took place at Hook Social Club on Friday 26 September. There was a good attendance to see the cream of the County Juniors, including many of our own.

The club was delighted that Llangwm School got through to the Welsh Final of the Primary Schools competition held in Cardiff.

There will be the usual programme of Dragon Junior Coaching being held at Thornton later this winter. All the young cricketers are urged to attend and reap the benefits of indoor coaching courses run by the Pembrokeshire Association of Cricket Coaches.

**Contact Ray Kane on Pembroke 01646 682106 for details of dates and times.**

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## SENIOR RUGBY

Once again the Summer has passed in a flash and it's time to turn the attention from cricket to rugby.

This time last year there was a sense of despondency as several players had left the club leaving the squad low in numbers. This season has, however, seen a turn around with not only players returning to the club but also several new signings and there is certainly an air of optimism for the months ahead.

Training has been well attended throughout the closed season with Simon Gerson putting the players through hard but enjoyable sessions. Former Milford coach, Alan McClelland has been helping out with the coaching and the club can only benefit from his experience. This season's captain is local all-round sportsman Henry Thomas who takes over from Hamish Nicolls. Stalwart, Roger Lewis is continuing in the role of team manager for a 2nd season and all at the club are sure we will see an improvement in results this season.

Training takes place every Monday 7-8 pm at Sir Thomas Picton all-weather pitch and Thursdays 7 pm at Pill Parks Llangwm

## YOUTH RUGBY

The Youth Squad has been almost totally re-built this season as many boys left due to age and also college commitments. "Old Timer", John O'Boyle, is this season's captain in his 3rd year with Llangwm Youth. There have been many new signings which ensure Youth Rugby can continue this coming season. Phil Clarke is to continue as coach and he can be found at the field every Wednesday putting the boys through their paces with great enthusiasm...

With the current average age of the squad being low, it is certain that, if they stay together, there is the makings of a good side over the next year or so.

If you require any information regarding youth rugby, please contact **Michael John on 01437 890175**

The Youth have a web site at: **[www.dragonsrugbytrust.com](http://www.dragonsrugbytrust.com) / Club Sites..LLANGWM**



## **JUNIOR RUGBY**

Junior Rugby continues at the club with teams now running at several age groups.

There is regular training on Sunday mornings at 10.30 am for any boys, or girls, who wish to play rugby.

The coaching is carried out by parents who have passed the necessary WRU coaching courses. There are regular matches through the Winter, also held on Sunday mornings.

**If you want any information on Junior, Youth or Senior Rugby please contact the club on 01437 890462.**

## **School news**

After a very busy Summer term, the children were welcomed back to the start of Autumn term and a new school year on Tuesday 2 September. We wish a very happy start to secondary school life to our Year 6 pupils who have left and moved to Tasker Milward. A special welcome to all our new children who started school for the first time and for those who have started with us in different year groups, having moved into the area over the summer holidays.

### **Sport at school**

#### **Success for our cricket team!**

Llangwm School's cricket team performed with great skill and success at the Welsh Primary Cricket Finals held at Sophia Gardens on Monday 7 July.

The team had reached the finals for the first time after winning the West Wales competition in Carmarthen. Llangwm was the smallest school competing in the finals but was still able to dominate and win matches against much larger schools that could choose from several hundred pupils. Not only this, they reached the final of a competition that had started with over six hundred Welsh primary schools. The team eventually lost by 5 runs in a match that went down to the final ball. Llangwm head teacher and coach, Nick Groves, was delighted with how the team performed - and the enthusiastic support given to them.

After such a successful cricket season, Dragon Cricket Courses are usually held outside school during the winter. Details will be available from the school for all interested pupils.

## **Tennis**

Years 4, 5 and 6 girls enjoyed a special morning at the Dome, Tasker Milward, on Friday 11 July at a Tennis Festival arranged by Pembrokeshire County Council. The aim of the morning was to have fun, meet new friends and, above all, enjoy a morning of tennis.

### **School Sports Day**

A very successful Sports Day was held on Tuesday 1 July. All the children took part in events ranging from sprint to sack race to skipping and relays. It was a very close event but the afternoon was won by Caldey. The points were: Skomer—384; Caldey—416. The James Brock Trophy was presented to the team captains of Caldey by Mr & Mrs James Brock.

### **Swimming gala**

This was held on Thursday 20 June. The children displayed excellent swimming skills in all races. The Mary Kinder trophy was won again by Caldey with Skomer very close behind. The trophy was presented to the team captains of Caldey.

### **Pembrokeshire Watersports**

Pupils from Class 4 enjoyed several day visits to Pembrokeshire Watersports during June. They had a very enjoyable time learning how to sail, kayak and raft build—and, most of all, about safety on the water.

### **Gardening Help**

Thanks to members of The Gardening Club who came up to the school during the summer term and helped the children prepare the garden for the summer. If any parents or grandparents are able to help us with preparing our garden for the winter, please contact the school office on 01437 89052

### **Christmas Fayre**

This is to be held on Wednesday 26 November, commencing 6.30 pm. Please join us for this evening. There will be a variety of stalls and Father Christmas will be in his Grotto—where photographs can be taken of your children. Last year proved such a success. All funds will go directly to enrich the learning of the children at our school.

### **Christmas Concert**

This will be held on Tuesday 9 December commencing at 6.30 pm. The children will be performing a well known pantomime. Please look out for posters around the village for more details nearer the time.