

LLANGWM NEWS

ISSUE 17 SEPTEMBER 2004



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And much more...



At Picnic in the Park, May Day, good weather encouraged an extremely good turn-out at our first companion dog show, judged by Mrs Julie Vaughan from Hill Mountain.

We had four pedigree classes.

Any variety puppy + best puppy in show was won by **Ruby**, Cairn Terrier with **Mrs Josie Bowen**, Milford Haven

Any variety non-sporting and reserve best in show was won by **Kishka**, Husky, with **Mrs Carol Davies**, Little Dumbledale Farm, Sardis

Any variety, sporting, was won by **Dennis**, Italian Spinone with **Andrea Falberg**, Hundleton

Any variety open and best in show was won by **Nia**, Belgian Shepherd with **Angela John**, Llangwm

The novelty classes were very well attended.

Best cross bred/mongrel was won by **Pepper** with **Enfys**, Llangwm

Prettiest bitch was won by **Jess** with **Kate**, Guildford Bridge, Llangwm

Most handsome dog was won by **Blue** with **Sian**, Pill Road, Hook

Best lady/gentleman handler was won by **Bonnie Jackson**, Barnlake, assisted by **Hattie**

Best child handler was won by **Jonathan** from Rectory Road, Llangwm

Best six legs was won by **Phillip Soloman**, Hubberston with **Jasper**. Nice legs!

Best veteran was won by **Dylan**, a seven year old English Sheepdog with **Mrs O' Donaghue**, Llangwm

A busy waggiest tail class was won by a very happy **Ted**, cheerfully handled by **Joy Williams**, Trecwn

Dog the Judge would most like to take home was won by **Jasper** with **Kate Soloman**, Hubberston

Best dog/bitch residing in Llangwm was won by **Max** and **Mr David Staak**, Main Street, Llangwm

Out of all these lovely dogs, the *best novelty* in

show was **Pepper**, handled extremely well all afternoon by **Enfys**



Best Novelty in the Show
Pepper Platten, **Enfys Bosworth**, **Bethan Rees**

(ed: I arrived home late one afternoon at the end of August to find this anonymous poem in my post box. It seems appropriate to print it here.)

We do enjoy our Black Tar walks
and sometimes get so hot,
to find a bowl of water helps us
with the homeward trot

Lately we've been saddened
for our bowl has not been there.
It's been put out, we are assured,
but gone we know not where

Someone is removing it
and really that's not fair!
It's not of any value—
Perhaps it's for a dare?

We hope a different coloured bowl
will not attract the thief
and we will have our water bowl
to help us with the heat.

~

An observation by the village dogs



This time last year we were celebrating our second place in the Pembrokeshire CALOR Village of the Year competition. Unfortunately, with a reduction in committee numbers, it was decided to give the competition a miss this year, and hopefully try again in 2005.

Once again Festival Fortnight was a success, despite ongoing problems with insurance for the carnival floats and certain other events.

The Festival Committee appreciate all of the help and support they get from all of the various groups who help in making it such a success, and would like to thank everyone who worked so hard throughout the festival, organising and participating in the various activities.

We were lucky to be blessed with good weather, especially in the second week, ending with the carnival, which was a very happy, fun, family day with lots of sunshine.

Being such a small band of volunteers (and reducing!), perhaps an explanation of its function is in order, with a plea for help.

The Committee

Long serving members are **Linda Rees** (Chairperson), **Lewis Taylor** (Treasurer) and **Pat Morris** (you name it - Pat does it!), with **Patrick Wordsworth**, **Pat & Jeff James** currently serving their apprenticeship, while **Clare Phillips** and **Helen Carrington** joined the team at the start of the year, bringing real energy and enthusiasm.

What have we done in 2004?

Auction night - in April.

Picnic in the Park - continued on from the successful Jubilee picnic in 2002, and this year included a dog show more than ably organised by Helen Carrington.

Festival Fortnight - generally oversee the

fortnight to ensure events do not clash
Scarecrow competition - registration, judging, etc.

Carnival Parade & Fete - organisation, marshalling, etc, etc.

What's left to do in 2004?

Father Christmas at the village green - mulled wine and carols - organised jointly with the Community Council

Not forgetting our **Fireworks display** on New Year's Day 2005.

And now finally...

Some members of the already sparse committee intend to have a break at the end of this year, so **YES PLEASE!** If you feel you have a little spare time, and want to help Llangwm Festival events continue, then please speak to any member of the Festival Committee.

We usually meet around once a month at The Cottage Inn, and always mix work with fun.

editorial

I asked Graham Brace if it was my imagination or had those geese arrived early this year. Yes, early, he said, but it was an early spring, remember?

No, Graham, I hadn't remembered. Spring seems so long away, right now, yet this year seems to have zipped by: a super-turbo-charged 2004. Not only for me: I was so astounded by time rushing by, I kept asking everyone I knew and a number of complete strangers as well. Everyone agreed with me.

So, as well as accelerated global warming, we have accelerated time.

I looked back over the year so far. Had I made it worthwhile? I seem to have rushed around a great deal—and slobbered around just as much. I've made good decisions, terrible decisions. I've been optimistic, pessimistic... the usual evensteven.

I'm thankful there's still a whole quarter of the year left to tip that balance in the best direction.

Can you help?

An e-mail arrived this summer from John Hill, Canada. If you have any information, please contact him.

From: John Hill [email:vjohn.hhill@bmts.com]
Subject: Llangwm St Jerome Church

Dear Sir or Madam,

I was a member of the Church back in the 1950s and was a choir boy under the guidance of the Rev. Faulkner and I lived in Port Lion with my parents and Grandfather Ernest Lewis.

I immigrated to Canada in 1965 and have just recently retired.

I am looking to contact the Reverend Faulkner's son, Rev. David Faulkner who, I understand, was the vicar of St Jerome's at some time. David and I were great friends before we parted company and went our own ways in the early 1960s.

If you know of his whereabouts, I would appreciate it if you could give me an address: or perhaps you can tell me of someone I can contact who might know where he is now.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

Vivian J. Hill

737 Goldie Crescent,
Kincardine, Ontario,
N2Z 2Z9 Canada
Formally of: Woodvilla, Port Lion,

Did anyone else see..

...late one night, mid August, a very beautiful and strange narrow curtain of green light high in the sky around the Black Tar area?

Natural phenomena? Alien sighting? Definitely not fireworks—nor that extra glass of red wine!

SCOTTISH DANCING

Children's Scottish Dancing resumes in the Village Hall on Wednesdays, from 8th September, at 6pm.

Any child (six years old and over) who enjoys dancing is welcome to come along. The cost is £1 per session, and classes continue throughout the school terms. It's not just strictly Scottish dancing - some English and Welsh country dances are also learned and performed.

There is also an adult Scottish Dancing group which meets in the Jubilee Hall, Houghton, each Monday evening at 7.30pm (commencing 6th September).

Anyone interested in joining either group, or requiring further information, can contact Mrs Mary Kinder on 01437 890189.

A Letter to Llangwm

I have been living in Llangwm for a year and a half. I am 7 years old and have a little brother called Patrick. The best thing I like about living in Wales is we are by the sea and there are mountains to climb and castles to visit. My hobbies are swimming and horse riding.

My house is in Main Street. It is just over 100 years old. Our back garden is very big; we have a pond, 2 Guinea pigs, a caravan to play in, a green house and a vegetable patch. My school is the best school I've ever been to because I have at least 30 friends and we do lots of art and DT.

I like having a village shop in Llangwm, it is just up the road from our house so my Mum sends me to get things. The best things I do with my family in Pembrokeshire are camping and cycling round the cycle track. My best friend is called Saffron, she lives next door so we can call for each other. I love living in Llangwm and this is why IT'S THE BEST VILLAGE IN WALES!!

By Fionnuala Smith

Disabled access

As a result of a successful grant application, the village hall now has much improved access for the less able-bodied in our community.

Legislation which comes into effect in October means that all public places must make every effort to improve access conditions for the disabled.

A survey of the hall was conducted by the Pembrokeshire Access Group, who were complimentary about the majority of our facilities, particularly the wheelchair-friendly kitchen and the colour scheme which is ideal for the visually impaired.

However, there were two main recommendations to improve facilities: installing a hearing loop, which is now completed; the pathways to both doors of the hall needed improving for wheelchair access.

This second part has now been completed and will help not only those in wheelchairs, but parents with pushchairs and those not so steady on their feet. Many thanks to Sustainable Pembrokeshire Small Grants Scheme which made this possible.

Dates for your Diary

Harvest Supper: Friday 8 October at 7.30pm

Following the success of our first Harvest Supper last year, we are planning to celebrate the harvest again. The evening will include a traditional harvest meal followed by a time of fun and games. Last year's Call My Bluff proved to be hilarious and, this year—come along and see!

Tickets are limited so watch out for the posters and then get your tickets from any Committee Member.

Christmas Market: Saturday 27 November

A new event last year, the Christmas Market proved to be an outstanding success with so many craftspeople from the village represented. Everyone had an opportunity to stock up on unique Christmas gifts as well as enjoying a cup of tea and a chat with friends.

So successful did it prove to be that every stallholder will come again this year! The date for this year's market is Saturday 27 November. Make a note of it now and come along to support our local people.

Plans are still afoot to extend the village hall and provide much needed additional facilities. Both these events are fundraisers for the possible extension, so do come along to support our hall which provides a venue for so many activities and events in the village.

Thank you

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to extend a very big 'thank you' to Margaret Watkins who, for several years, has been the Community Council representative on the Hall Committee. She has worked unstintingly to support the hall and the numerous events taking place there, has always been available to sell raffle tickets, help serve teas and generally to support such a wonderful community facility. We are very grateful to her and look forward to her on-going support. The committee would also like to welcome Jeff James, who is current Community council representative, and is looking forward to working with him.

Hatha Yoga Classes ~ Liz Jones

Because the two original classes currently running in the Village Hall are at full capacity, a new class is starting on **October 12**. The class will run from **2.30—4.00 pm**, and costs **£12 for 6 sessions**. If you are interested, please come along and bring a mat/something to lie on, a blanket, a pillow and a notebook.

This gentle form of exercise is suitable for all ages and physical abilities. Yoga helps to improve balance and coordination; regulates blood pressure; increases mobility and flexibility in joints; strengthens lung capacity and muscle tone.

Students of the two later classes have successfully transferred to Stage 23. Please note that these classes will also recommence on **October 12**, at **4.00** and **5.30** respectively.

HOMAGE TO NORMANDY

On Friday 4 June 2004 Chris Thurston, of 7 Gail Rise, Llangwm, set out from Pembrokeshire for Normandy, northern France, on a Silcox coach full of D-Day veterans and their families and friends, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

The objective was to pay tribute to his father's part in the Allied landings on Gold Beach, Arromanches, and to collect his father's medal, the 'Medaille d'Honneur', a tribute given by the French Government to all participants in the invasion force, not only on D-Day (6 June) but to all those who landed in France up to 19 August 1944.

This was the last formal celebration of a D-day anniversary. Anyone still surviving can go in the future - but no more ceremonies are planned by the French Government for the veterans, many of whom are well into their 80s.

Chris remains deeply impressed by the moving stories and courage of the veterans, and the respect they showed to their fallen comrades, even after sixty years. For him, a visit to the Virtual Reality Room at Bayeux - where you actually feel that you're on a landing craft, then in the water, and on the beach - was a levelling experience.

His lasting memory of the trip is of watching the Pembrokeshire veterans marching with resolute pride in the hot Normandy sunshine to collect their medals, in the presence of world leaders and heads of state.

Wonderful hospitality was shown to the Veterans themselves by the people of Normandy - their restaurant and bar bills were frequently torn up, and the French police willingly escorted the Pembrokeshire coach around - amid tight security for Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair - to make the journey easier.

206,703 Allies lost their lives, a total made up of 82,309 British and Canadians, and 124,394 Americans. The Germans lost 82,309.

The lost lives of this campaign, and other victims of war, are commemorated annually at our village's own brief **Service of Remembrance** - at the memorial on the Green, on the Sunday closest to 11 November, Armistice Day, usually at 3 p.m. Please try to come along to pay your respect to those men of the village who gave their lives for our freedom.

GALILEE BAPTIST CHAPEL

~

A PROUD CENTENARY: 1904-2004

A special service marking the Centenary of the chapel building is to be held on Sunday 12 September 2004, at 2.30 pm, followed by afternoon tea.

The service will be taken by Rev. Dr. John Weaver, Principal of the Cardiff Baptist College, echoing the ministry of his predecessor who led the worship at the Chapel's opening service one hundred years ago.

The Baptist cause in the village of Llangwm has, however, a much older history. The previous Baptist chapel was built on the site of the present-day chapel car park, and the remnants of the old red sandstone walls can still be seen there.

An exhibition of old photographs will be on display in the vestry at the time of the Centenary.

Harvest time beckons, too, when the chapel will be filled with the fruit and flowers of nature, in praise of God's creation. Harvest services will be held on 23rd September, at 10.30 am and 5 pm. Do join us then to sing the favourite harvest hymns.

Women's Fellowship meetings resume in October, after the summer break. They are held fortnightly in the chapel schoolroom, on Thursday afternoons at 2 pm. They are interesting, informative - and a great way to spend time among friends.

All are warmly welcomed.

Llangwm VC School News

The Summer term proved busy with many educational and sporting activities taking place.

We are pleased to inform parents that, from September 2004, the school status will change so that we will be able to admit 3 year olds. The **School Nursery** will provide morning sessions from 9.00am-11.30am each week day.

The school has been working with the National Parks in designing and building a **new school pond**. This was opened on the longest day in the year, 21 June 2004. The pupils look forward to spending many quiet hours observing and learning about pond life.

One of our parents, Mrs Mandie Davies, is currently working on an **exciting school mural** based on story book characters. The school wishes to thank Mrs Davies for all the work she is doing with this project.

Visits

On Thursday 10 June, the infant classes visited Silent World, Tenby. They had a very enjoyable morning learning about sea creatures and were able to touch some of them. After lunch, they spent time on Tenby beach making sandcastles and generally having a lot of fun!

On Thursday 24 June, class 3 enjoyed a day learning about the River Cleddau. They travelled to Bwlch Gwynt, Rosebush Reservoir, Farthings Hook, Llys-y-Fran, Stepside Bridge, Gelli Bridge and finished off at Blackpool Mill. The School wishes to thank the National Parks for all their help during this most enjoyable day.

Also on Thursday 24 June, Class 4 visited Haverfordwest Town Museum and Haverfordwest Castle and enjoyed learning about the history of the town.

Sports

Our annual school sports day was held during the Village Festival Fortnight. All the children took part during the afternoon and enjoyed all the different sporting events that took place: sprint, skipping, obstacle, bean bag, sack, relay, tug-of-war and 400m. The high jump, long jump and

throwing events took place prior to Sports Day. Skomer and Caldey houses were very close with points but, at the end of a very exciting afternoon, Caldey were the winners. The team captains—Jason Phillips and Eleanor Ewart—collected the James Brock cup from Mr & Mrs James Brock. Thank you to all family and friends who joined us.

Our school cricket team again had a very successful Pembrokeshire Kwik Cricket tournament, winning all their five matches. They went on to the West Wales Region on Tuesday 22 June to play two matches, winning one and losing the second by only three runs. The team were a credit to the school.

We are delighted to continue our report on Joseph Kiff who has been selected for the Wales Under 11 cricket team. Joseph has been playing against top teams during the summer and has had successful tours in England with the Welsh team. Joseph has also been very busy playing cricket for West Wales, Pembrokeshire and different age groups for his village.

Our annual Swimming Gala took place on Thursday 17 June at Haverfordwest swimming pool. It was a very exciting Gala, well supported by parents and grandparents. The team captains were Joseph Kiff and Jennie Brock (Skomer) and Adam Williams and Leah Winfield (Caldey). The cup was won by Caldey and the team captains received the trophy from Mr Nick Groves, Headteacher.

Athletics; Jennie Brock ran for West Wales Schools on Monday 14 June at Carmarthen Athletics Stadium. Jennie ran in the 800 metres, coming 2nd in her heat, losing out by 500ths of a second! Jennie finished the day coming 6th overall. Jennie has also had a busy athletic season with Pembrokeshire Harriers, competing in the 800m javelin, 1000m walk and relays at Carmarthen, Neath, Aberdare and Newport.

Village Festival Fortnight

The school was very successful, winning the Best Scarecrow award.

(contd. p8)

The children joined the Carnival procession dressed in 'Mardi Gras' costume. Thank you to all parents for providing such colourful costumes.

Leavers' Assembly

Our leavers' Assembly took place on Friday 16 July 2004. Our Year 6 pupils read their 'Memories of Llangwm School' and Mr Groves followed this by speaking about each individual child in Year 6. All the staff at Llangwm School wish them the very best for their future Secondary School life.

During this special assembly, awards were presented to the following:

Eleanor Ewart crowned her days at school by winning the Golden Jubilee Achievement shield, presented by Reverend Hooper. Eleanor has achieved excellent academic results and participated in lots of musical and PE activities. The shield was given to the school by the Community Council to mark the Queen's Jubilee.

Jennie Brock was awarded the Natalie Smith Victrix Ludorum. Jennie is the Pembrokeshire Schools cross country champion and has also represented West Wales Schools. She also came 1st in the recent District Sports at 400 metres. Jennie runs for Pembrokeshire Harriers Cross Country Team and, during the 2003/2004 season, finished 10th overall against clubs from Wales, West England and the Midlands.

Joseph Kiff was presented with the Jamie Smith Victor Ludorum. During the winter months, Joseph travelled to Cardiff, taking part in trials for the Welsh Under 11s cricket team. After much hard work and dedication, Joseph was selected for Wales. He also travelled to Neath once a week during the winter, training for West Wales cricket. He played for Pembrokeshire and his village during the summer.

Adam Williams shared the Jamie Smith victr Ludorum and was also presented with a shield. After trials during the autumn, Adam was chosen to play in the Pembrokeshire

Schools Under 11s rugby team. After having many successful games during the winter, Adam was selected to tour Spain with this team. He had an excellent tour and was chosen as 'player of the tour'.

Forthcoming events

Thursday 23 September: our Harvest Festival service will take place at St Jerome's Church. The children will perform songs and poems. A collection for a chosen charity will take place during the service.

Several school visits have been arranged for this term for all classes. Classes 1 & 2 will visit herons Brook; Class 3 Scolton Manor; our special visit to Llangwm School, North Wales, will take place during October for Class 4. It is important to us, as a school, to continue our strong links with Llangwm School, Conwy.

GARDENING CLUB NEWS

In a busy year at the Gardening Club we have enjoyed talks on bees, trees, the National Park, had demonstrations on grafting (not hard work!) and hanging baskets, several garden visits, and even found time for a Christmas Dinner, and a Barbecue in the summer - no time to get bored!

During the Llangwm Festival week, members opened gardens, provided teas, sold plants and raised £300 for the Village Hall extension.

Now it's time to all get together again at the start of the new season and enjoy the social and informative meetings coming up. The programme up to Christmas will be:

Mon 06 Sept: Angela Hair, RSPB-Wildlife Gardening

Mon 04 Oct: Gavin Davies - Aberglasney Gardens

Mon 01 Nov: Gerald White - Vegetable Gardening

Mon 06 Dec: Christmas Dinner - details t.b.c.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month - all are welcome to our friendly group.

Please join us in the restaurant at The Cottage Inn at 7.30pm.

Extracts from Haverfordwest Gaol Register

Thomas Halfhead of Llangwm, aged 28

Physical description - 5 feet 7½ inches high, brown hair and eyes, sallow complexion, long visage, anchor on base of right hand, 2 rings on fingers.

Occupation - Collier

Degree of education - cannot read.

When received into prison - 2.15 p.m. on 2nd October 1847.

Charged with - disobeying an order in a case of bastardy.

Term of imprisonment - 3 calendar months or pay £2 3s 0d.

Discharged - 5 p.m. on 1st January 1848

The chaplain to the prison added the comments that Thomas Halfhead was married and of "bad" character.

~

Sarah Johns of Llangwm, aged 19, Methodist

Physical description - 5 feet, brown hair, grey eyes, sallow complexion, rather stout person

Occupation - hawker of fish

When received into prison - 10.50 a.m. on 23 September 1854

Charged with - foraging for oysters in Milford Harbour when out of season, contrary to the Act of 4 Geo 3.

Term of imprisonment - 6 weeks or pay £1 6s 6d.

Discharged - Saturday 23rd September 1854

~

William Jacks of Haverfordwest, aged 18, Church of England

Physical description - 5 feet 4½ inches, brown hair, brown eyes, sallow complexion, scars from burns each side of mouth, scar on left eyebrow, large scar from burn on left arm.

Occupation - servant in husbandry

When received into prison - 7 p.m. on 10th December 1860

Charged with - unlawfully and wilfully committing damage, injury and spoil to and upon a certain gate, the property of John Davies, to the amount of 2 shillings at the parish of Llangwm on 28th October 1860.

Term of imprisonment - 7 days to hard labour or pay 12s 2d.

Discharged - 4.15 p.m. on Saturday 15th December 1860

~

Research by Nikki Bosworth

History Society

Llangwm Local History Society is continuing to compile a village archive by collecting photographs, oral and written memories, and other information about the village, and we are grateful to all those who have helped. Our thanks to members of the Methodist Chapel for allowing us to hold our Festival Exhibition in their lovely building; thanks, too, to all who lent photographs, visited the exhibition, or made helpful suggestions and comments.

See you next year!

At our **May meeting**, **Nikki Bosworth** led an excellent workshop in which we learnt how to access some of our history from a range of very different documents kindly lent by the Record Office.

In **July**, **Margaret Brace** took us to those parts of Llangwm which we don't normally reach, as we explored some of the village's old gardens, many of them some distance from the owners' houses. A most enjoyable evening, ending at the Cottage Inn.

A day at the **National Library in Aberystwyth** was our **August event**, and a small group of us were shown round the library, which is expanding as much as its limited space will allow, and now has two new exhibition areas. These are free to all, but those wishing to do their own research need a reader's ticket, easily obtainable at the entrance - providing you have proof of identity.

In the **autumn**, we shall be trying to identify what it is that makes Llangwm special, and working on a village trail.

Do join us if you can -
meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at the Community Hall, 7.45. p.m.

Margaret Llewellyn



Farm Diary: Will Scales

19th August 2004

As I write, rain is bashing on the windows of the house. This unseasonably wet weather is beginning to spoil some of my corn fields and twelve months of preparation and work are on the cusp of turning what was to be, three weeks ago, the most exciting and satisfying time of year into a bit of a damp squib. Such are the joys of farming.

My mood was not enhanced when Dad said to me that we'd have to do what farmers in America do when it rains at harvest.

"What's that Dad?" I asked, hoping for some piece of farming wisdom from his years of experience.

"They let it!" he said.....

Elsewhere on the farm we're starting to see some of the rewards from all the conservation work we've been doing.

I've never seen so many pheasants as this year, mainly as a result of providing a bit more cover for them to hide from foxes. They are interesting creatures to watch, not least because they are not too afraid of humans, and so you can get quite close to them.

In the spring, I frequently saw the males out on the prowl looking for a mate, a fight or merely posturing. They seemed to enjoy using the dung heap as a place to find worms and to stage these fights, and at times the heap resembled the pheasant equivalent of Castle Square on a Saturday night!

Later on, in early summer, the odd cock pheasant could be seen proudly strutting around the fields alone all day and, in the evenings, they would give the wife a break from nesting, and bring her around the farm for a stroll around the corn fields. The male would proudly walk a couple of steps ahead of the female, always with his head up and looking out to protect his partner.

I've been lucky enough to get to the final of a national farm conservation competition. The judges have been and gone and I think they liked what I was doing. However, I won't find out whether I win until November. I also did a video diary about the competition for Country File and it was good to get something positive about farming on the TV.

I thought I'd really enjoy doing the video diary but, when I played it back, I didn't like the way I came across at all. The camera never lies I suppose.....

"Use it or lose it!"

Pat says...

On 27 May 2004, Pat Morris took over the running of the village shop and Post office.

Without Pat's rescue bid, Llangwm would now be without its one remaining shop and lifeline PO, which was under serious threat of closure.

Try to imagine the village without the shop. More than any other place—including the Village Hall—this is the hub of Llangwm. This is where the buying and selling goes on, the rush for the fresh delivery from Snowdrop Lane Bakery, the meat supplied locally, vegetables, milk, newspapers...the kids' sweets when they get home from school...ice cream on a hot day...that bottle of wine ...cigarettes...the items you forgot to buy in Tesco...

Imagine if we didn't have the post office: the trek to Haverfordwest Quay Street and the impossibility of parking anywhere near it. Even Merlin's Bridge has problems with lethal traffic on the roundabout. Here in the village we can stroll along—or squeeze into a parking place—post our letters, parcels, buy stamps, pay bills, certain of good service, while the rest of the UK complains, because we are a community and this is our shop and PO.

It is our Information Centre. Post your flier, advertise 'for sale' or events, book the Village Hall. You can do it all at the village shop. Stay long enough and you meet everyone you know. It's the Community Centre!

I managed to have a few words with Pat one afternoon—apologies to the shoppers I held up!

It's been hectic, Pat said, but she was thrown in at the deep end. Was she enjoying it? She pulled a face. 'Weeell...so-so. There's good and bad.'

In a neat twist, Pat Thomas now works for Pat Morris along with Jenny and family members ('my mother and brother, as and when needed'). Pat hopes for support from the village. As she says, you either use it or lose it.



WILDLIFE MATTERS

Notes by Graham Brace

Re-reading the article I wrote for the same period last year made me realise just how repetitive the cycle of events in the natural world really is. As usual, the local pills and adjacent shore were very quiet during the latter part of April, through May, June and July. The birds that over-winter with us had all dispersed to their various breeding areas, leaving a few curlew, mallard, shelduck...and gulls. There were one or two exceptions - a common sandpiper was seen in the Pill on 17th April and whimbrel were passing through during the last week of April and the first week of May.

My first swallow of the spring flew over our house on 16th April, after which they increased steadily in numbers.

Our two resident swans have been replaced by another splendid pair. The female of the previous couple was injured and taken away to hospital in West Williamston, hopefully to be restored to health. This isolated the male who relinquished the territory to the new resident pair. Ten swans, including a family group of 2 adults and 6 immature, were present in the Pill mid June. They gradually dispersed, leaving our new pair.

The last week of June, black headed gulls started to return, and 29th June saw the arrival of 5 redshank, the first since the end of March. On 7th July I saw a single common sandpiper bobbing at the water's edge alongside the slip at Black Tar and, on 13th July, a little egret was feeding in the Pill.

A pleasure boat moored off the Cunnigar attracted lots of attention from bird spotters. Attached to the top of its mast is a very realistic lifesize model of a peregrine falcon: its function, presumably, to prevent passing gulls from taking a rest and leaving unwelcome deposits! A visitor sitting on one of the seats on the Cunnigar, binoculars glued to his eyes, commented that he had been watching for an hour and it had not moved!

On 28th July, I discovered a treecreeper clinging to the window frame on our front porch. It appeared to be stunned. Concerned for its safety (unsympathetic neighbourhood cats at large), I held it to remove it to one of the trees in the garden: it started to struggle and flew off. What delicate birds they are with their fine curved beaks perfectly designed for extracting insects and grubs from the nooks and crannies in tree bark. (What's more, dammit, I stupidly missed the opportunity to photograph it before it flew off.)

At dusk on Friday 20th August, a skein of 10 Canada geese flew over our house. Since then, their numbers

have increased greatly and, most days, provide an early morning wake up call as they pass over. Again at dusk, 1st September, a huge flock of about 250 geese flew over the house towards the Pill, in their midst two snow geese - presumably the same two that were around last winter. The presence of the snow geese proved that the flock that roosted overnight in Llangwm was part of the same flock of 500-600 birds I had seen that afternoon at Little Milford. Here they were, busily preening and bathing, flapping their wings in shallows of the river, and - something I'd not seen before - diving under the water completely, re-surfacing a couple of seconds later with a huge splash. Full of the joys of living and a magnificent sight! Also at Little Milford were numerous mallard ducks, 8 black tailed godwits, 5 greenshank and a dazzling kingfisher sitting on a stone at the water's edge.

The little egrets are back in large numbers (does anybody know if they are breeding locally - if so, where?). Out rowing early on Thursday, 2 September, we were delighted to see 4 (and a heron) resting in a tree in Knapp Wood, another 8 in a dead tree overlooking the entrance to Sprinkle Pill, another flew over us at Picton Point and another 8 were resting on the shore above Landshipping...21 individuals altogether!

On the slip at Black Tar yesterday morning (2 September), a faint, rasping croak made me look up and, very high up, barely visible, was a flock of 9 herons trying hard to fly in formation and making very slow progress in a down river direction.

other wildlife news

The last week of July, Tim Cripps 'apprehended' a 3ft long snake swimming offshore at Black Tar. Olive green in colour with a rather large, cobra-like head, it was probably a grass snake as they are very good swimmers - but who knows?

The 3rd and 4th August, it was reliably reported by two people that a porpoise had been seen off Black Tar. Have there been any other such sightings in the area.

Otter activity seems to have decreased around Llangwm recently - no signs of fresh spraints at any of the three locations to the south of the Pill. However, the sprainting points upstream of the Vitling Rock appear to be still in use. The carcass of a large otter was recently found on the high tide line at Little Milford but, unfortunately, the spring tides washed it away before it could be collected by CCW and sent off for a post mortem examination.

Don't forget...if you see anything of interest (wildlife-wise!) give me a ring on 891580 or email me at grahambrace@btinternet.com

Community Council News

Following the recent election held on Thursday 10 June this year, the AGM and first meeting of the newly elected Llangwm Community Council took place on the evening of Tuesday 13 June.

Councillors for the current term of office (four years) are as follows:

Barry Childs, 'Wentworth', Pill Parks Way (890819)

Pat Morris, 12 Lake Villas (& at Llangwm Shop) (891288)

Peter Owen, 12 Gail Rise (890689)

Neville Lewis, The Cottgae Inn (891494)

Margaret Watkins, Deerland Park (890556)

Margaret Brace, Guildford House, Butterhill (891580)

Jeff James, 4 Edwards Pill (890841)

Michael John, Millbrook house, Main Street (890175)

Should any member of the community have any concerns, they are free to contact any one of the above, who will endeavour to help, and to report relevant matters to the council at the earliest opportunity.

Community policing

Agenda items were rearranged to accommodate the visit of Sgt. David Perry, who spoke to the Council on the subject of community policing, crime prevention, traffic matters and general ways in which police can work together with all sections of the community. He was thanked for his attendance at the meeting, and for giving up his own time to clarify points which had previously been raised. It was felt that his visit was informative and useful.

During the AGM, the following officers were elected:

Chairman - Mr Barry Childs

Vice-Chairman - Mrs Pat Morris

It was decided that the Clerk, Mrs Angela Jones, would also, for the time being, take on the duties of Treasurer.

Vote of thanks

The Chairman welcomed the new members present, and proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring members of the Council: Mr Mike Hardwick, Mrs Marion Eynon and Mr Reg Jenkins. They had worked hard during their term of office and had given sterling service to the community.

Matters for concern

Various matters were brought to the notice of the council, including the parking of boats on the shore behind Rectory Road Picnic Area and the incidence of foul water leakage at Black Tar which, when analysed, was found to contain traces of human sewage.

This matter is currently being investigated by the Environment Agency and the Environmental Health Department of Pembrokeshire County Council. Any member of the public who notices a leak of water on to the shore, in dry weather conditions, is urged to report it to the Environmental Health Department, or to a Councillor (contact addresses and telephone numbers as listed in this report).

The next meeting of the Community council, after the August break, will be on Tuesday 14 September at 7 pm.

To All Contributors to Llangwm News -

Please note that the deadline for items for the next (December) issue of 'Llangwm News' is Friday 12th November, in order to cover all the forthcoming Christmas events.

rugby

Senior Rugby

Once again the Summer has come and gone in a flash and it is time to put our thoughts to the coming 2004/2005 season. Not that the players need reminding - they have already been pre-season training for 2 months and seem determined to build on the successes of last year.

Senior Coach, Alan McClelland, has been putting the boys through their paces with several intense sessions on Broad Haven Beach and in the Gym as well as the usual training on Pill Parks. The sessions have been well attended this year, in marked contrast to the usual 'leave it to last minute' pre-season Llangwm training. The players have put in a lot of hard work and let's hope this enthusiasm is a sign of good things to come and is not short lived. After all, it is a long season.

Greg McCann has taken over the post of 1st XV captain from Henry Thomas, with Roger "Tom" Lewis continuing in the team manager role. Greg has been with the club for several years and will always give 100% so it is up to the rest of the club to get behind him and give him the support he and the club need to succeed.

It is also hoped to field a 2nd XV this year but this is dependent on playing numbers. 2nd team rugby is slightly less serious than 1st team and is the ideal springboard for young players to find their feet in the senior game as well as an opportunity for "older" players to round off their playing days. If anybody is interested please contact the club for details.

The club is also looking for a first aider/trainer to attend with the 1st's on match days. If you are interested, please contact the club

Youth Rugby

Although the Youth pulled out of the league last season they did manage to play a few friendly matches towards the end of the season which gives hope that Youth Rugby can continue this season.

We have entered a team in the Pembrokeshire league which has been expanded to cover a full fixture list of 22 matches offering weekly rugby to those interested in playing. This has come about due to a new structure agreed with the schools in Pembrokeshire to enable Saturdays to be left clear for Youth Rugby with Schools playing on Wednesdays.

Youth training takes place every Thursday evening at 6.30pm at Pill Parks and all players are welcome. It is up to the players to turn up if they wish to play Youth Rugby. It is a simple fact that if we do not get the necessary number then we will not play.

If you want any further information on Youth Rugby, please contact Michael John or Jeremy Brock on 01437 890175 or 01437 890462.

Junior Rugby

Junior Rugby training will resume on Sunday 5th September at Pill Parks and all players, old or new, are welcome to come along.

All present coaches have the necessary W.R.U. Coaching qualifications but, if anybody is interested in becoming a coach or referee, please contact the club for details. In this day and age, it is now a legal requirement that anybody wishing to help with coaching must first complete the necessary course.

This season we will be running teams at U13, U12, U10, U9 and hopefully U8 if numbers allow.

As always any help, with the Juniors, on and off the field, is appreciated. It is always busy on match days with plenty to be done, from putting out flags to cooking food. If any body can offer any help please contact the club.

Social Club

A reminder that Llangwm Rugby & Cricket Club is a private members' club and only Members and their guests are permitted to use the Club's facilities. Membership is due for renewal 1st September and can be paid at the clubhouse.

If you wish to become a member, please contact the club for details on 01437 890462

LLANGWM CRICKET CLUB

The highlight of our season so far has been the lifting of the Alec Colley Cup by our 2nd team, beating a very much fancied Haverfordwest side at Treleet, Pembroke in a very exciting game.

Man-of-the match

Our Matthew Hughes was Man-of-the-Match with both runs and wickets to his name: doubly deserved as he undoubtedly was the man to win the even more exciting semi-final against Cresselly with his swashbuckling batting - true Llangwm style!

Availability

However, in the Leagues, all three Senior teams have struggled with player availability as well as the opposition. The 1st XI will be in division 2 next year, and the 2nd XI will return to division 4. The big plus factor is that we have blooded a lot of our up-and-coming youth players in the first and third divisions, and they have responded extremely well.

Shining Youth—and Juniors

Our Youth and Juniors continue to shine and appear again in the Ormond Youth Cup final on Sunday 29th August when they take on Whitland for the third time in six years. Both the under 15s and under 13s are contending for places in the play-off finals on 5th September, and put up creditable performances in the Welsh Cups.

Starring roles

It is great to report that Stephen Inward has had another tremendous season with the Welsh under 13s, and also that Joseph Kiff has been playing in the Welsh under 11s with great success. Again, many of our Juniors have represented Pembroke-shire and West Wales, so the Club has plenty to look forward to.



WANTED!

**EDITOR
FOR
'LLANGWM NEWS'**

Pressure of work means that I must regretfully hand over the job of editing the Llangwm News.

It is now two years since I edited my first issue - number 11: September 2002! Every issue between that and number 17 - this one - has included a 'little something extra' from a whole range of diverse Llangwm and area folk. My thanks to all contributors—you are the people who make a newsletter possible.

Now, the search is on for a new editor! It can gobble up time, true, but I can promise you it's time well spent.

Interested? Contact:

Margaret Redfern (890029)
e-mail mags@madagascar.com

or

Margaret Brace (891580)

or

that vital information centre
Pat-the-Shop

HARVEST THOUGHTS

Autumn is the time for Harvest Festivals. These special services are festivals of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth, usually celebrated in September or October after the in-gathering of the harvest. Our churches are decorated with fruit, flowers and vegetables which are later used for charitable purposes. Traditional thanksgiving hymns are sung and there is often a visiting preacher.

In mediaeval England, August 1st, Lammas Day, was regarded as a thanksgiving for the harvest first fruits. Bread made with the new harvest wheat was offered at the mass and solemnly blessed. The eccentric Revd. R. S. Hawker of Morwenstow in Cornwall revived this old custom in 1843 and, by the mid century, the Harvest Festival became an annual event replacing the traditional Harvest Home.

As we celebrate, it is essential that we distinguish between "Thanksgiving" and "Thanksgetting". We sing our praises for the blessings we have all received through the constant grace of God, especially as symbolised in the harvest of nature. But if it stops there, it is thanksgetting rather than thanksgiving.

True thanksgiving means that we show our gratitude by giving to others and sharing with others. We need to remember that, while we live out of our abundance, there are so many

people who do not have the same sufficiency or anything near it.

As we enjoy our way of life, the sights and smells of harvest festival, and sing our traditional thanksgiving hymns, we must bear in mind that we should really give thanks by helping others.

This is my last harvest festival before my retirement as Rector of the Parish: may I take the opportunity to thank all those who have supported me and my family during our stay in the community.

Rev. W. G. Hooper.

Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Linda Woolacott

Treasurer: Mr Lloyd Curtis

Secretary: Mrs Jane Brock

Sunday Services: 11.00 am

Sunday School: 11.00 AM

Women's Fellowship: fortnightly on Wednesdays at 2.00 pm.

Forthcoming events

Sunday 19 September: Harvest Festival

11.00 am: Mr Richard Laws

6.00 pm: rev. Linda Woolacott

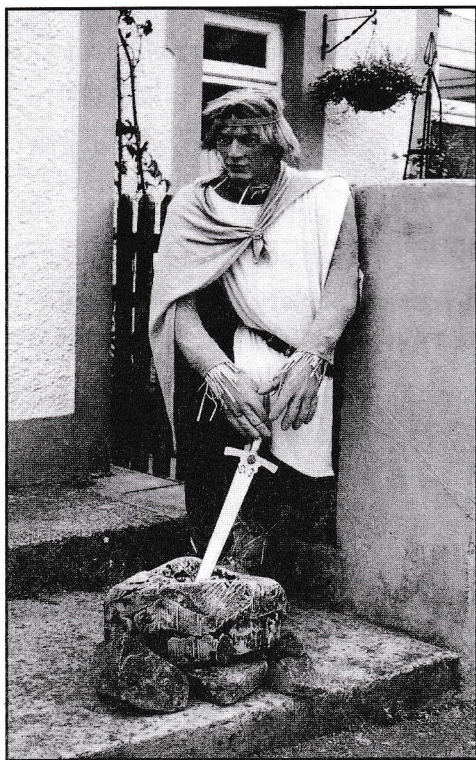
Harvest Supper—date to be arranged.

Sunday 19 December—Christmas Carol Service at 6.00 pm.

A warm welcome is extended to all to join us at the above services and events.

Llangwm Local History Society: 'Then & Now' exhibition in the Wesleyan Chapel, July 2004





Here's a
Selection of some
of the
'Heroes and Villains'
who took part
in this year's
Llangwm
Festival.

