

LLANGWM VILLAGE NEWS

ISSUE 39 Spring 2014



Springtime on Llangwm Green

Llangwm Community Council

Over the last few months, Llangwm Community Council has been working on several important issues:

Cleddau Reach School

LCC remain very concerned about the future housing development on land next to Cleddau Reach School. This land was originally purchased for the school, but PCC has submitted plans for a housing development via a design agent. Initially the plan incorporated 25 houses, but the Planning Department has asked the agent to consider a smaller development. The plans for this are on PCC's web-site.

Most residents have concerns about parking outside the school at the start and end of the school day. PCC carried out a review of traffic and parking last November/December. Their view is that the current allowance meets guidelines, but this conclusion does not satisfy neither residents fears nor those of LCC.. The issuing of the original notice just before a holiday and the subsequent process was also

flawed. LCC organized a petition to present to PCC. Many thanks to the 326 villagers who signed, and an especial thanks to those who collected the signatures. LCC will be pursuing this matter.

Black Tar public toilet and parking area

The Community Council has applied for grant aid and support from various organizations in order to maintain this amenity for the village. This has been unsuccessful as yet. The annual running costs for the last 3 years has been £2,200. As the annual precept is only just over £5,000, LCC do not feel that this amount can be paid every year unless the precept is raised considerably. In a time of increasing costs, it is not felt that this would be the correct solution.

Possible alternatives include reducing the opening times to 3 months a year, and encouraging volunteers from the village to clean the toilets on a regular basis. If anyone would like to volunteer or has an alternative plan, please contact one of your

community councilors. Otherwise the toilets will close and the parking area lost from April 2014.

Common land at Black Tar

Two new picnic tables have been purchased and will be placed on the common land next to Quay House at Black Tar. As safety is a priority, we will monitor the situation and take reasonable steps to ensure public safety. Other matters receiving attention include the introduction of a super-fast broadband connection to come on stream in June this year.

Also a new bin for dog owners to deposit dog mess has been purchased and will be erected near the playing fields at Pill Parks Way. Please be aware that children play on the field and the grounds are used regularly for sporting fixtures.

We welcome Mrs Ruth Preece to the Community Council, and would like to thank all those volunteers who helped erect and decorate the Christmas tree on the Green. It looked truly splendid this year.



Are any ladies out there interested in belonging to a **Llangwm Ladies' Darts Team** to compete in the autumn based at the Cottage Inn, the Rugby Club or other local venue?

If so, please email nikki.bosworth@btinternet.com

Easter Opening Hours at the Village Shop

The Shop will be open over the Easter weekend at the following times:

Good Friday (18 April)
9am-1pm

Easter Saturday (19 April)
8am-1pm

Easter Sunday (20 April)
9am-12noon

Bank Holiday Monday (April 21)
CLOSED

Don't forget your continued custom and support of our local village caterers!

Matthew at The Cottage Inn

Restaurant meals and group bookings
Tel: (01437) 891494

and

Owen at The Cookhouse

Takeaways on Wed and Fri evenings
Tel: (01437) 899880

LLANGWM FESTIVAL

Festival Week 28 June-5 July 2014

The **Festival Committee** has expanded. The new members are **Laurie Kent, Pat Morris, Tasmin Nash, Lucy Arnold, Clare Holland, Kerry Hunt, Toni-Marie Dorkings.**

Carnival Day will be on **Saturday 5th July** and will, as well as the usual stalls, have a **Craft Fair** with the theme "**All Things Bright and Beautiful**".

There are plans for a **comedy evening,**

prize bingo or family quiz, and a treasure hunt during Festival Week. We are hoping too that there will be a **dog agility display.**

We are having a **children's sunflower competition** in the lead-up to the Festival with judging for the tallest sunflower on Carnival day.

The **theme for Scarecrows** this year is "**Under the Sea**" - sea monsters, mermaids, etc. Let your imagination flow freely!

We will be sending out a **Carnival Flyer**

nearer the time. If any local businesses would like to **sponsor the flyer** please get in touch.

Similarly, if anyone would like to join us and have some fun as a **volunteer on Carnival Day**, you would be more than welcome. Just give your names at the Shop.

We are all looking forward to another **fun-packed Festival** and some **marvellous scarecrows.**

Pat Morris

Llangwm & District Gardening Club News - Spring 2014



Citizen's Science



At last the sun is shining, the daffs and snowdrops are dancing and the awful winter is fading into memory. They say that gardeners are eternal optimists, but the recent weather must have tested everyone to their limits of internal happiness! Unusually we seem to have survived relatively unscathed in our little corner of Pembrokeshire – we are normally at the brunt of the storms.

Now we can safely say Spring has arrived, and creatures are emerging from winter hibernation (hibernation seems such a good idea!)

A pioneering "**Citizen's Science**" project called **Garden Wildlife Health**, has been organised by a collaboration between the **RSPB, the British Trust for Ornithology, Froglife**, and the **Zoological Society of London**. It aims to collect data provided by gardeners across the nation to monitor trends and identify emerging threats to wildlife.

The project is asking gardeners to report sightings of sick, diseased or dead birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals in their garden. The data will be posted on the website, and build on previous projects on frogs, bats, red kites, whales and dolphins. The project coordinator said "We share our gardens with wildlife, but often fail to notice how they are faring, and we want to find out if disease is a factor in the decline of some iconic animals such as the hedgehog." The **website** for reporting any observations is : www.gardenwildlifehealth.org.



All the birds that visit my feeders seem remarkably healthy , and get through the peanuts and fatballs in no time at all! But I shall keep an eye open for any oddities.

Programme Notes

Since Christmas we have had some interesting meetings, starting in January with our annual New Year Quiz – nice social evening, but

the rivalry between teams can be quite edgy at times! The challenges to some "correct" answers task the Quizmasters, but usually get resolved amicably, though I'm sure members rush to the books at home to verify some decisions!

February was a **Garden Planning Session**, very well organised by one of our committee members, Karen Shepherd. After splitting into groups, the exercise was to revamp a section of a member's garden so that she could make better use of it, rather than leaving it neglected. Each group suggested new plans and ideas for planting, so it was a very enthusiastic and constructive evening, with the owner of the garden taking home lots of fresh ideas.

For our **March** meeting we had Peter Stock as a visiting speaker, talking about the old **Fruit Trade of Pembrokeshire** in which he worked in the fifties and sixties. Haverfordwest was a main distribution centre for the imported fruit that was imported through Southampton and brought in by rail – mainly bananas. There were several warehouses along Quay Street where the fruit was carefully ripened before distributing to the shops. Peter was full of very funny anecdotes, which made for quite a hilarious evening! He was also asked to judge the **Daffodil Arrangement Competition** which was won by **Liz Beresford** with a lovely entry with Tenby Daffodils, catkins and spring greenery.

Maureen John

Our Programme for the rest of this year is as follows :

7th April "Have you tried these?"

Alternative Planting Suggestions : Maureen John

12th May Garden Treasure Hunt around Llangwm

Karen Shepherd

17th May (Sat) CLUB PLANT SALE
with Refreshments - Tea, Coffee, Cakes

2nd June "Perennials that really will grow in our Climate"

PLUS "Slug control in practice" : Jennifer Matthews, Moorland Cottage Plants

June Open Gardens for The Llangwm Festival
(date to be announced)

7th July AGM & BBQ

August Summer Break

Arts and Crafts Sales are Bright Spots in the Mission Hall Calendar

Over the last couple of years the young mums, grans and supporters of the St Mary's Toddler Group have been holding colourful and successful fundraising sales each season at their base in the Hill Mountain Mission Hall.

It is a popular outing for people of all ages—there are so many stalls to see, handiwork to admire, vintage items to browse and craft items to buy as unusual and unique gifts.

Teas and coffees are available, with festive treats such as mince pies and Welsh cakes as tempting extras at bargain prices. There are cupcakes for children to decorate and a choice of delicious cakes to buy and to eat.

If you have not already been to one of their sales, be sure to attend one soon - it's a work of art!

Hopefully you will be reading this in time to catch the Easter sale on Saturday 5th April between 10 am and 2pm. Under-11s in an Easter Bonnet will receive a chocolate egg from the Easter Bunny! The Mission Hall, Hill Mountain, is off New Wells Road quite near the junction with the Haverfordwest-Burton road.

If this edition of the newsletter has not been distributed by then, remember to watch for the (All things) Bright and Beautiful Craft Fair at the Pill Parks field/Village Hall on Llangwm Carnival Day, Saturday 5th July.



Cleddau Communities After School Club (CCASC)

We are also known as **Kingfishers After School Club**.

It is based at Cleddau Reach VC Primary School, and provides afterschool care for 3-11 year olds in the safety of the school environment.

Kingfishers provides a range of activities for children to enjoy, including crafts, games and theme nights.

We would like to give a big Thank You to Mrs Pat Morris, Vaughans and Vincent Davies for their generous donations to the Kingfishers After School Club.

It is almost a year since we moved to Cleddau Reach VC School and after the Easter holidays the children are looking forward to a party celebrating our 1st birthday at their new site.

The After School Club runs in term time from 3.25pm – 5.25pm.
£6 per session, per child.

Bookings are made via the School Office.
01437 899419

Llangwm Community Hall

Anyone lucky enough to get a ticket (a sell out!!) for the **St.David's Day Supper and Concert**, was in for a treat. The evening started with a superb performance by our very own '**Village Voices**'. Their opening song, a rendering of *Adiemus*, beautifully sung, took your breath away. The standard the choir have reached, in a relatively short time, is a credit to their very talented Musical Director, *Sue Howley*. Sue also brought along 3 of her very able pupils: *Corey Bullock*, *Louise Hales* and *James Owen*, who performed



wonderful solos that sent a tingle down the spine. We are very fortunate to have such talent in our village. Everyone then enjoyed a delicious home-cooked supper of chilli and as usual the vast array of excellent puddings.

In December, a **Carol Concert** was organised by **Village Voices**, with a collection being taken for the 'Sands'

charity. Mulled wine and 'festive fare' donated by the choir, were served at the end of a lovely evening. It was yet another very sociable event, with young and old joining in with the traditional carols.

In November we were treated to a performance of the '**Iranian Feast**' performed by the **Farnham Maltings Company**. This was done through the '**Night Out Scheme**' by which the **Arts Council of Wales** enables local volunteer promoters to put professional performances in village halls. Many thanks to *Pam Hunt* for setting this up for us. As the play unfolded, we learnt about a family in crisis, living in modern day Tehran. The drama, was told through a clever combination of food, music and dancing and performed in the centre of the hall. A meal was prepared and cooked with members of the audience invited to help (standing in as neighbours and friends!). At the end of this, we were all treated to a bowl of delicious Persian food. Despite terrible weather and a brief power cut, the evening was a great success, with tickets again sold out.

Gail Kelly/Val John
Llangwm Community Centre

What a variety!

The Village Hall is now used by a wide variety of community groups, such as

History Society meetings and research

Village Voices Choir (rehearsals and concerts)

Church Meetings and Krafty Kids (for St Jerome's)

Private Parties (for adults and children)

Tai Chi classes (via Neyland U3A)

Fundraising Sales for charity

Family film showings (for Festival funds)

Current hire costs are as follows:

£7.50 per class session of 2-3 hours

£20.00 – Children's parties

£20 – Fund raising events

£30 – Adult party

Full details are available from Pat in the shop. Many thanks to Pat for her work with both the hiring, and also the selling of tickets for events put on by the committee.

Pill Parks Appeal

Dog fouling continues to be a major problem on the playing areas used by so many children and adults throughout the year. Players young and old have the right to safe hygiene in these designated areas yet games are frequently interrupted for the removal of dogs' mess.

It is also a common occurrence for dog owners to drop bags of faecal material in the Litter Bin by the children's' playground. This is disrespectful as this is not emptied by Council employees but by Rugby and Cricket volunteers – we even have to pick up soiled nappies on a regular basis!

For your information the 2 bins by the main gate are Council controlled although the 'Dog' bin has been broken for a long time.

Please keep your dog on a lead in Pill Parks, pick up any 'droppings' and take home with you.

Owen John
Grandstand/Changing Rooms Manager and Pill Parks Cleaner

HEROES AND THE HOME FRONT: LLANGWM COMMEMORATES WW1

Stories of the heroism of Llangwm men on the front in the First World War and the losses suffered by their families back home have emerged in research for Llangwm's war commemorations.

The Llangwm Local History Society is staging an exhibition of photographs, documents and other memorabilia in November as well as several performances of a village opera to be staged in schools in Llangwm and Newport.

The exhibition will also include filmed interviews with local people reliving memories.

The project, *Llangwm: a Village at War*, won Heritage Lottery funding of almost £10,000.

The community opera is being specially written by composer Sue Howley and librettist Peter George and will cover the outbreak of the First World War, the experiences of Llangwm men at the front and their families at home, and the war's relevance to young people today.

Heather Payton

Did someone from your family serve in World War One?

If you would like to honour their memory in the village's exhibition - or tell us any information or anecdotes for our archives, please contact Jane Mills (890147), Liz Beresford (891500) or Liz Rawlings (891706).

Or you may have something relating to the village at that time.

Photographs and memorabilia can be scanned or photographed in your presence, nothing need be handed over.



Above: "Research work continues towards the village's World War One exhibition later this year. Mark Thomas, Head of the Pembrokeshire Museum Service led a second photo-scanning session in the village hall on 5 March."

Below: Anna Wilson (left) discusses the group's World War One research with Liz Rawlings (right) of Llangwm Local History Society.



Exciting opportunity for budding theatre impresarios

The Llangwm Local History Society is appealing for volunteers to help in the production of a community opera commemorating the First World War.

Help is needed with scenery building, prop sourcing, looking after costumes and organising transport.

"You don't need to have experience in these fields - what we're looking for is willing hands who can help out", said working party chairman Jane Mills.

Contact: llangwmavillageatwar@yahoo.co.uk, or telephone 01437 890147



LATEST NEWS

Heritage Lottery might have given us the green light to make a start on our project in mid January, but it will be another year before building work starts. So what's happening now?

To put it simply we are in a development phase. We have commissioned Acanthus Holden, who specialise in architectural services for the renovation of historic buildings to draw up specifications and drawings. Once completed, these will be submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Council, CADW, and The Governing Body of the Church in Wales for their approval. Then and only then can we start to cost the project out.

But this project goes way beyond a renovation of the church. Indeed it was the Heritage Llangwm group's proposal that we dig deep into South Pembrokeshire's Flemish past that won us the award. So while the architects are busy doing drawings, we are talking to the archaeologists, digging into archives,

establishing the whereabouts of medieval documents, looking for the old families of Llangwm, seeking advice from experts in stone masonry, historical carvings, effigies, medieval history, genetics and DNA ... The list is endless. Even so by the end of July, we will have discovered our sources and will have finally cost out the entire project right down to the last paper clip. So there is still a long way to go.

Every project nowadays, has to be 'branded' with a logo and the logo you see with this article has been kindly created and donated to the project by Graham Brace. In addition Graham's former business partner Tim Harvatt, of Rockpool Design Ltd based at Little Haven, put the elements all together in finished artwork form, donating his time and services to the project. One thing we really want to achieve is to get as many in our community as possible to become involved once the work gets underway next year. Many have volunteered already and Graham and Tim have very kindly put their special design skills to our logo. But we have other specific appeals for help right now:

Can you trace your ancestry in the Llangwm area to well before 1800? If so, we'd like to talk to you about taking part in a DNA trace. This will reveal where your ancestors lived over the last 1,000 years. If we can find a reasonable sample of volunteers to take part, we hope we can establish from where in Flanders Llangwm's ancestors came.

Are you good at needlework and would you like to help make a special tapestry? This will become a key aspect of the exhibition and will end up being much more than a tapestry. If you would like to help with either of the above, then please call Pam Hunt on 01437 899 966.

In order to see this project through, we also still need to raise at least £3,000 of our own match funding. Here's how you can help here:

Do you do Internet shopping? If so, you can help support this project without costing yourself a penny. Go to **Easyfundraising.org.uk** and sign up to donate to *St. Jerome's Church, Haverfordwest*. Then every time you want to do some shopping, simply go through the Easy fundraising portal and the company you buy from will donate a percentage of your purchase to the project.

Support Miss Daisy on her drive round the coastal roads of Wales. This journey which is about 1,500 miles will be undertaken towards the end of May and we are looking for individual sponsorship to help raise more funds. Sponsorship forms can be found in the Shop, at the church and at The Cottage Inn.

Whatever you choose to do to help this project, thank you very much.

The Heritage Llangwm Team

A Different Sort of Reading

This part of the Newsletter has, so far, been exclusively about prose. On this occasion I'd like to devote the column to, what some would say is the greatest form of literature, poetry.

Towards the end of last Summer, Derek John very kindly presented me with a copy of *'Who Travels Down this Narrow Road'* a collection of poems by Henry Pluckrose. The author was an educationalist who wrote a lot of books of varying types and in the latter part of his life turned his talents to poetry. He was a regular visitor to our village and on those visits spent time with Derek and Barbara. He was very

fond of this part of the world and some of his poems are based on local places. One is entitled *'Hook'* in which he describes, with affection, Hook Chapel and its grounds. In another called *'Murmurs from the Past'*, he writes:

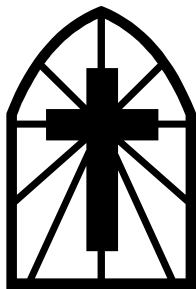
*'Around the small village green,
Before the church,
In the shadow of the Baptist chapel
Along Mill Lane
Here you feel the spirit of Llangwm
long gone.'*

Have you spotted the error, perhaps not accidental? But that aside, this is a sensitive piece from someone who enjoyed being here and I enjoyed reading what he had to say in this and the other poems in the collection.

There are two centenaries this year not to be forgotten. The first is the birth of *Dylan Thomas*, our greatest Welsh poet, in Swansea in 1914 and the second the outbreak of the First World War. This catastrophic event produced great writers, none greater than *Wilfred Owen*, a Shropshire man, who was the voice of the soldier in that most terrible of times. I leave you with the opening of *'Anthem For Doomed Youth'*.

*'What passing bells for these who die
as cattle
Only the monstrous anger of the guns,
Only the stuttering rifle's rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.'*

Barry Childs



ST. JEROME'S **NEWS**

Last year's Remembrance Concert on Friday 8th November held in St. Jerome's, featuring Goodwick Brass Band and was once again wonderfully organised by Pam Hunt. It paid special tribute to The Dambusters and as always, the church was packed. Sadly, Rev Jane was not well enough to attend.

The Pet Service was attended by a wide variety of animals, which included dogs, tortoises and bearded dragons!

The annual Children's Christmas Party was very well attended in Llangwm Village Hall, with a surprise visit from "Mother Claus," who duly delivered presents to everyone!

The year of 2014 at St Jerome's started with the very sad news of Rev Jane's passing, after a very long brave fight. She will be deeply missed by everyone. Thankfully, we have had our Curate Rev Victoria to support us, across all 3 churches in the parish, at this difficult time. We would like to say a big thank you to Rev Victoria for the exceptional way she has carried out all the duties she has had to undertake at this very difficult time. A couple of events were postponed, Crafty Kids and The Curry Night.

Crafty Kids will be starting again on Saturday 29th March, in Llangwm Village Hall, from 4pm-5.30pm. Theme for this month is Love & Hope. The next Crafty Kids will be Saturday 31st May – details will be on posters around the village and in the shop, nearer the time.

Worship Time is on the first Sunday of every month at 10am and is for

everyone of all ages! Please come and join us with refreshments afterwards. In June, the Worship Time Theme will be "Celebration".

There is a change of date for Worship Time in April. It will be moved to Sunday 30th March at 10am to celebrate Mothering Sunday. It will be a joint service, with the children serving cakes and refreshments after, assisted by the older children.

The service on Sunday 6th April will now be a joint service to be held at St Peter's in Johnston at 10am.

Planned Services and Events for the Easter period:

Sunday 13th April (Palm Sunday) – Walk of Witness, 10 am starting at the bottom of The Gail; (entrance up to Cottage Inn car park); members from St Jerome's have invited members of the Methodist Chapel and Galilee Baptist to walk with them through the village to The Green for the service, followed by lunch at The Cottage. Please contact your Church Wardens for further details.

Friday 18th April (Good Friday) –

11am Service at St. Jerome's
Saturday 19th April – Easter Egg Hunt, at St Jerome's 2pm. Don't forget your Easter bonnets!

Sunday 20th April – Easter Sunday Service, 9am Eucharist.

The Annual Summer Bar-b-Que will be on Saturday 21st June at Llangwm Village Hall, 2pm.

The Teddy Bear's Picnic will be at St Jerome's on Saturday 28th June at 3pm. Don't forget your Teddy Bears!

Sunday 29th June is a joint service in St Jerome's, Llangwm at 10am.

The Summer Garden Party this year will be on Saturday 12th July at 2pm. Ann Wicks has kindly agreed that it can be held in her garden. Her house is on the Deerland Road.

In August we will be holding our annual Sunday School Beach barbeque, hopefully

again on Nolton Haven beach. Date & time is yet to be finalised, as the afternoon is always dependent on tide times. Let's hope the weather will be kind to us again this summer! We always have a fantastic time.

We have a very active Sunday School, which is held during the regular morning service; except Worship Time. New children are always welcome.

Pam Hunt is fundraising for the renovation of St Jerome's, by doing a sponsored drive in Miss Daisy. They will be driving round the coastal roads of Wales, departing from Llangwm on Thursday 22nd May. It's about 1500 miles all the way round. Pam has sponsorship forms available if anyone would like to sponsor her. We wish her and Miss Daisy a safe journey.

There will be information on the Church Notice Board giving full details of events involving St Jerome's, as well as information and updates concerning the ongoing St Jerome's Renovation and Heritage Llangwm Project.

Reverend Victoria, Church Wardens and everyone from St. Jerome's Church would like to wish everyone a peaceful Easter and hopefully, a lovely summer.

Debbie Lawson-Earley



IN MEMORIAM: Later this year we are planning to hold a Service in Celebration of the life of Rev Jane Goupillon as her daughters and family would like to come back to Llangwm and be part of it. She is shown here photographed at a Pet Service some years ago.

News from GALILEE BAPTIST CHAPEL

Rev Roger Hart is settling well into his new ministry at Galilee, and welcomes the opportunity to visit many of the congregation in their homes in the village.

Since his Induction Service in December 2013 he has presided over some memorable times of worship including the Christmas Service of Readings and Carols, services for the New Year, Lent and services leading up to Easter.

He is ably supported by the officers of the chapel, the deacons and by talented organists Mrs Margaret Davies and Mr Nigel Thomas.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Good Friday Service – 9.30 a.m. to be led by Rev. Roger Hart, plus an invitation to share hot cross buns, coffee or tea afterwards in the Vestry.

Easter Sunday – morning service at 10.30 a.m. – Rev. Roger Hart

Chapel Anniversary – 25 May 10.30am and 5.00pm – Rev. Roger Hart

Sunday School Anniversary - 15 June.

Harvest Festival – 28 Sept, to be taken by Rev. Roger Hart at 10.30am and 5.00pm



Pictured at the recent service of induction at Galilee Baptist Chapel, Llangwm, are (left to right): Mr Huw Breeze (Chapel Secretary), Mr Clive Sheridan (President of the Baptist Union of Wales), Mrs Maureen Kiff (deacon), Mr Peter Phillips (Treasurer) and Reverend Roger Hart (Minister).

GALILEE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The ladies of the Women's League meet on alternate Thursdays from early October until June.

After a short devotional period taken by the ladies, various speakers are invited to come and talk about their special interests or hobbies. The current programme has included a debut visit from our new Pastor Rev Roger Hart; a demonstration of her beautiful art work by Fran Evans, an inspiring insight into his charity work by Mr Steve Richards, and a fascinating exploration of seven Biblical gardens by Mrs Cherri Phillips.

The ladies enjoy two day trips during the session. Last summer there was a visit to Narberth for coffee and shopping followed by lunch in the beautiful surroundings of Trefloyne Manor. Christmas lunch was at Diablos Restaurant, Narberth.

We are a happy easygoing group of ladies and would warmly welcome any ladies who would like to join us.

Maureen Kiff

SPORTS NEWS

BOWLING SUCCESS

James John-Davies of River View, Llangwm, has had a busy few months.

FLAT GREEN BOWLS

It all started in October with Welsh Academy Trials u21 in which he was successful. He will play and train with the squad over the summer as well as playing league games for 'Castle', his Haverfordwest team.

SHORT MAT

James, who plays for Freystrop Short Mat Bowls Club, was selected to play for the County Squad in the Tri-County

Tournament and given the honour of carrying the flag for Pembrokeshire. Held over two days at Heatherton near Tenby, it was a great experience playing against England's top county Cheshire and Ireland's top county Armagh.

This was followed by a call from the Welsh selectors for James to play in Weston-super-Mare for the game against England. This meant a weekend trip, off on the bus at St Clears with his Dad as he had to have a chaperone being under-18.

James was invited along with his sister Sara (14) to attend the Welsh Under-21 trial. We now know they have both been selected to play for Wales against England on 26th April in Carmarthen.

GOOD LUCK, JAMES & SARA!



James John-Davies carried the flag for Pembrokeshire in the recent Tri-County Short Mat Bowls Tournament.

LLANGWM METHODIST CHURCH

MINISTER: Reverend Hugh-John Wilson

SECRETARY: Mrs Jane Brock

TREASURER: Mrs Hilary Hitchings

Sunday Services:

Morning 9.30am

Sunday School 9.30am

Special Services at 9.30am and 6.00pm –

Chapel Anniversary, Sunday School Anniversary
and Harvest Festival

Sunday School - please come and join us at 'Sunday School'. Children of all ages welcome. We meet every Sunday morning- 9.30am – 10.30am. We read bible stories, sing, crafts, drama, puzzles & games and colouring but most of all we have an enjoyable hour and have fun.

Women's Fellowship: Fortnightly on Wednesdays - 2.00pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 18th April

Good Friday Service – 3.30pm – 4.00pm

in main chapel conducted by Reverend Hugh-John Wilson, followed by Good Friday tea at 4.00pm in the Sunday School Room

Sunday 20th April

Easter Service – 9.30am

Sunday 18th May

Chapel Anniversary Services -9.30am and 6.00pm

Sunday 29th June

Sunday School Anniversary Evening Service at 6pm –
items given by the children and adult choir

Monday 30th June ~

Summer teas served during the Village

Friday 11th July inclusive

Festival and the week after ~ 12 noon – 6pm daily

Sunday 21st September

Harvest Festival Services ~ 9.30am and 6.00pm

**A VERY WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL TO JOIN US AT THE ABOVE
SERVICES AND EVENTS AT ALL TIMES**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

100 years ago

From the pages of the 'Pembroke County Guardian' newspaper: -

January 1914

A library had been started at the **Llangwm Institute** and now contained over 100 volumes. The billiards were "going strong". The Institute had 84 paying members and a balance of over £12.

February 1914

"Villagers win splendid game" was the headline for a report on the match between **Llangwm Rugby Club** and the Border Regiment in the West of Llanelly league. "The weather was beautifully fine but the turf was in a wretched condition after the heavy rains". "The Llangwm backs' tackling, as usual, was deadly". Llangwm team members included Messrs Warlow, Brown, Bryant and Palmer and the final score was 6 points to nil to Llangwm.

March 1914

The **new school at Hook** was opened on 16th March by Mr S B Sketch, Chairman of the Education Committee. Mr Sketch admitted, in his speech, that despite living in Pembrokeshire for 20 years he had never before visited Hook. The new school had accommodation for 65 children but there were "many more children of school

age in the locality". Originally the school had been intended to accommodate 100 children. However, "the parents were unanimous in the decision not to send their children to Llangwm School after the opening of the school at Hook".

March 1914

Llangwm's **rugby match** against Pembroke was refereed by Mr William Jolley of Neyland. At half-time, the score was 6 points to nil to Llangwm. A few minutes before full-time, "clenched fists were shooting in all directions", "the referee was powerless" and game was abandoned.

May 1914

An accident occurred at **Sprinkle Pill Farm** when "a youth, William Hitchings, fell against a pick which penetrated his foot". He had been holding a calf "which gave a spring" and unbalanced him. William was taken to Haverfordwest Infirmary where he was reported to be making a successful recovery.

June 1914

A service to celebrate the anniversary of **Galilee Baptist Sunday School** included recitations by the children and a performance by the choir which "reflected great credit upon the energetic conductor Mr William Palmer of Fox Hall and the faithful organist Miss T Muriel Owen". The annual tea was held in Guildford Park by kind permission of Mr James of Barn Farm.

*Nikki Bosworth
Pembrokeshire Archives*

Llangwm Village Voices - Choir News

Since the last edition of *Llangwm News* the choir has moved on... a bit.

At the Church's **Harvest Supper** in October our version of Vivaldi's *Domine Fili* was unleashed on to the village along with a varied programme of songs and a surprise flute solo from Abi Price, a pupil at Tasker Milward School.

Christmas came along, as it does, and we did a free **Carol Concert** in the village hall with poems composed and read by Kerry Steed. We can't be that bad because we played to a packed house, standing room only. And the residents of **Williamston Nursing Home** didn't complain either when we all went over to entertain them at their Christmas party.

And on to the **St David's Day Supper**... out came all the old favourites again, nothing much new although to be fair we had spent quite a lot of time before Christmas practising *The Sans Day Carol*, *Torches*, *Sir Christemas* and *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*. We have since been knocking into shape the third Vivaldi, *Et in Terra Pax Hominibus*, but it wasn't polished enough for human consumption just then.

However, Sue valiantly gave in to pressure to teach us *Myfanwy*. Reluctantly because she said she had memories of drunken sentimental rugby supporters droning it on the homecoming bus after a match. To paraphrase Nessa from *Gavin and Stacey*, I've got to be honest with you, we made a right pig's ear of the humming of the second verse. The rest of the

programme seemed to go down well though.

The choir's contribution was interspersed with performances from three absolutely brilliant young soloists. James Owen, Lou Hales and our own, our very own Corey Bullock who was supported by a tableload of fans. Quite who was running the pub that evening is anyone's guess although their customers may well have been in the audience. Tickets had sold out and there had been a waiting list.

So in the future you lucky Llangwms, you can look forward to *Et in Terra*, some Beatles' songs, some Broadway songs and maybe even the *Hallelujah Chorus*. *Sylvia* may one day return but that's an in-joke and *Bohemian Rhapsody*....? There are a couple of concerts in the pipeline, one in Llangwm of course and maybe one in **St Mary's, Haverfordwest**.*

To anyone interested, soprano, alto, tenor, bass or undecided, come along at 7pm every Thursday in the Village Hall. NO VOICE TESTING! It's £5 every five weeks (what a bargain) and Sue emails MP3 recordings of the parts so an ability to read music is not needed.

Fiona Cutting

(*Latest information: the **St. Mary's concert** is to be held on 23rd May while a **Llangwm Rugby Club charity concert** will be held on 17th July)(to be confirmed).



Llangwm Village Voices choir were in fine voice and party spirit at the recent St David's Day Supper and Entertainment Evening at the Village Hall. (Photo: Jeff James)



Llangwm Rugby Club News



Whilst the results have gone against Llangwm this season, the commitment by the coaching staff and the players has been admirable with some fantastic performances, especially during the second half, in games against those teams nearest to us in the league.

Win, lose or draw the club needs support, especially financial, since costs always occur regardless of the success or otherwise on the pitch. Throughout this challenging playing season the 'regulars', on the top line and in the stand, have been present in their usual numbers and afterwards in the club. Their comments have been telling and to the point with much 'wisdom' being imparted to the players and on more than one occasion in the direction of the referee as well. Nevertheless, despite what they say, they value the efforts made by the players and coaches and the opportunity to be entertained on a Saturday afternoon.

Games need referees and so it was pleasing to note that for the Llangwm v Tregaron match a young and upcoming referee was

appointed and took control in the presence of his advisor, international referee Nigel Owens. In the clubhouse afterwards Nigel answered questions and shared his views informally. All this after being in charge of a Pro 12 game the night before.

Reference has already been made of the importance of income and the work of those who arrange and manage the monthly music nights is to be applauded.

Equally, thank you to those who come and enjoy the entertainment. The club continues to pride itself in the range of real ales on offer. There is no doubt that many other places would not offer such a regularly changing selection.

An open meeting for members provided an opportunity for a full and frank exchange of views. Subsequent to these discussions efforts have been initiated to bring the various sections of the Club into one unit. Continuity through the age groups is essential for the development and well-being of the club. This is a concern for the WRU

since many young people play through the age groups then get 'lost' when they should be moving into the senior ranks. Perhaps Llangwm RFC is ahead of national thinking.

The wild and very wet weather of this winter caused havoc for many. Pill Parks survived well and only one fixture had to be postponed. Sadly, a second cedar tree did not survive nor did another tree behind the top touchline (cricket square end).

The top line faithful home supporters and visitors had, on occasions, to wade through some extremely wet and muddy ground in the corner nearest to the cemetery. Much local speculation followed as to the cause of the problem and its solution. Then came the dry weather and all was forgotten - until the next time.

Meetings can be tedious and time consuming, however it is most important that members make every effort to attend the Annual General Meeting which this year will be held in the Club on Monday 28 July at 20:00. Please make a note NOW.

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High jinks! This photograph was taken by Mike Hardwick at Llangwm's recent First XV game against Neyland at Llangwm's home ground of Pill Parks. 22nd March 2014.

...STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS...

**** Don't miss Music Night Friday 11 April with Caroline Harrison ****

The rugby season may be over at this point but contentious issues may fester away and the odd moments worthy of praise, forgotten. Do come along and have your say. After all, a new season will soon be upon us and should be approached, as ever, with optimism.

Work continues to upgrade and modernise the facilities available to all, and the most recent project has just been completed. Visitors to the club will notice a new floor in the main entrance along with replacement flooring in both toilets. An ongoing project is to modernise all the lighting within the club, changing the existing lights for low energy bulbs and associated fittings in an attempt to reduce the electricity bill. This has already seen the changing of bulbs above the bar for their low energy equivalents.

As we near the end of the season, it is timely to remind all potential spectators of the dates of our two remaining home games:-
Cefneithin on 05/04/14 and

Llangadog on 19/04/14. Both games kick off at 14:30.

Many people, not just in Llangwm, have commented that their greatest desire is to return to local fixtures as they increase the interest in games as well as being big money earners for clubs and the WRU has taken this on board and a restructure of the current leagues will happen in the closed season. League 6 West will disappear and more local teams will be part of our new League. Of note will be the return of St. David's to our playing schedule. The WRU still have some work to complete this change but it will happen – Watch this space. For all information about the rugby club, including details of the regular music nights, please log on to:- <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/llangwm>

Please contact the Clubhouse for any information on membership, events or participation in rugby for Llangwm RFC. Tel: 01437 890462.

(report by Steve Poole)

LLANGWM LADIES' TOUCH RUGBY



Were you involved last year?

Do you fancy participating?

Contact Alastair Platten or Llangwm Rugby Club to express your interest.

Training dates to be announced shortly.

See Llangwm Ladies on Facebook, or look up Llangwm RFC's website www.pitchero.com/clubs/llangwm

Llangwm Rugby Club Junior section

The Junior section of Llangwm Rugby Club is still steadily going from strength to strength, we are working hard to try and strengthen the teams we have while also looking to the future to develop new teams.

We currently have 6 junior sides playing on a regular basis, under 13's, under 11's, under 10's and under 9's play tackle rugby and the under 8's and under 7's play tag rugby.

On a regular basis we have in excess of 80 children at Llangwm field playing rugby and in total have more than 100 junior players who could potentially play for us. With this number of children we have had to split our indoor sessions at Moor Farm into two time slots.

We are delighted that we have strength in numbers at the younger age groups

but it is particularly encouraging that we have maintained the older age groups (10s, 11s and 13s) and have slowly managed to attract new players to these teams.

Despite almost continuous rain for January and February, all teams have played a considerable number of games this season.

Home matches take place in Llangwm at around 11am on Sunday mornings. We try to keep congestion in the village to a minimum by asking people to park on the field. All our teams would appreciate any extra support and its encouraging to see

Llangwm field full of black and amber clad young boys and girls. We welcome all positive support for our teams.

When we look back at this season we will be able to say that all our junior teams have enjoyed a large degree of success. But most of all the games have been fun and played in a good spirit and our young players have behaved in a way that has been a credit to the club.

Next season we aim to play an under 14s team, so will have 7 junior teams in total in the village. This will mean more junior members than ever before playing at Llangwm.

Any children between the ages of 6 and 13 regardless of previous rugby experience are more than welcome to join the junior section and help Llangwm junior rugby section to continue to grow. We encourage all children who train with us to play in our matches. Keep up to date on our web page www.pitchero.com/clubs/llangwm or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/llangwmrfcminisjuniors.

Suzanne Bartlett



Some of Llangwm's enthusiastic Under-13s in their smart black-and-amber strip sponsored by Hook Construction Partnership.

LLANGWM CRICKET CLUB

Review of the 2013 Season

For a Village Club to appear in the two most prestigious cricket finals in Pembrokeshire in the same season was down to hard work, planning, ability and a modicum of luck, which unfortunately deserted us in the Final on both occasions. The loss of Steve Inward through injury did not help our cause.

There is enormous cricketing talent in Llangwm Cricket Club. Unfortunately it does not always recognise how much of that talent will turn up at each match – sometimes all the talent, sometime none of it. In stating that it has to be acknowledged that the cup performances of Will Beresford will take some beating. His Harrison Allen semi-final century against Whitland C.C. at Narberth was outstanding, bettered only by his phenomenal innings in front of the Sky TV cameras in the Harrison Allen Bowl Final against Neyland C.C. The six that brought up his 2nd innings century which sailed over the head of his father Stuart, and the accompanying crescendo of noise will live with us through many years to come. This was a day on which every

player gave of their best and the fact that we finished the day as losing finalists still left all of us very proud as to what the Club had achieved and how close we came to beating a very strong Neyland side.

August unfortunately saw us fall back to a bygone era which cast a shadow over the Club and we struggled for commitment from players. Without this commitment all the hard work and endeavours of the Club Committee together with the many stalwarts from decades of association, was wasted. Off the field there is a vision, ambitious perhaps but achievable. We have stabilised the Club financially and have an administration route to ensure we can move with the times. This has to be supported by the players not just by committing to play during the season but also by supporting the Club throughout the year.

At the end of August we suffered the indignity of a double relegation which was a bitter pill to swallow but with a full complement of the 1st XI squad each week we wouldn't have been in this position. The 2nd XI can only be as strong as the 1st XI but when we end up with very few seasoned cricketers available the result is

inevitable.

Next season sees Joe Kiff lead the 1st XI, which is a bold and forthright statement of intent. He came of age last year as a player and has the ability to lead from the front. Again how successful he will be is down to the support, commitment and drive he receives from his fellow players. This will indeed focus Sean Waller the 2nd XI captain and his team for the better. The Club has forged links in the community to reintroduce cricket at a junior level which is going to be one small footprint within the road we are following (see below).

In conclusion this club has very many people to thank for their support over many years and we include sponsors, vice presidents, members, ball sponsors, the cricket square and outfield grounds men, scorers, tea ladies, raffle ticket sellers, Llangwm Rugby Club, Llangwm Community Council, the Village Post Office and Matthew at the Cottage Inn. Regrettably all too many to name within the limited space available for this article.

To them all our grateful thanks.



Centurians: Llangwm's William Beresford (right) with Neyland's Ashley Sutton (left) photographed at the 2014 Harrison Allen Bowl Final. The pair created history by both hitting tons in the final.

LLANGWM CRICKET CLUB JUNIOR SECTION

The Junior section of Llangwm Cricket Club is entering an under 11 team in the Pembrokeshire Junior League this year, and also plans to participate in the under-9 tournaments to be organised throughout the County during the season which starts on 28th April this year.

Details of our training evenings and fixtures are not yet finalised, so watch out for posters around the neighbourhood and also on the Club website www.pitchero.com/clubs/llangwmcricketclub/ in the next couple of weeks. Notices will also be posted on the upstairs door of the Stand at Pill Parks, which we expect to be our Club Room for the coming season.

Our Club has a proud history of success including no less than four appearances in the Pembrokeshire Ormond Youth Cup Final since 1999, winning it in the year 2000. A number of our Juniors have represented Pembrokeshire and Wales at various age groups, with one even playing for England.

Telephone 01437 891500 for further information about how to join the club.

What a winter! Gale followed gale with a much higher than normal rainfall throughout December and January culminating in possibly one of the most ferocious gales we've ever experienced in Llangwm on 12th February which brought down or damaged many trees in and around the village (at Nash and Port Lion particularly). This wet and windy weather was followed by a prolonged run of lovely sunny, even warm days in early March. The generally mild weather and the lack of serious frosts resulted in spring flowers emerging much earlier than usual. We had *crocuses* in flower by the first week of February with *primroses*, *celandines* and *daffodils* in bloom by the last week of that month. *Bumble bees* and even a few *small tortoiseshell butterflies* had emerged by early March.

BIRD HIGHLIGHTS

I had a very close encounter with a *dipper* which was 'bobbing' on a rock in the stream at the top end of Edwards Pill on 14th October. Normally seen up the Eastern and Western Cleddau well beyond the tidal limits, it is quite at home swimming and diving in fast flowing water in search of larvae and small fish. A 'first' for me in Llangwm, it eventually took flight up stream and disappeared.

The view from the top of the hill behind Knapp Farm is, in my opinion, one of the finest in Pembrokeshire. This view was very much enhanced by a flock of 113 *greylag geese* grazing in the field overlooking Fowborough. Below on the mudflats were huge numbers of *golden plover* accompanied by 9 *curlew* and 7 *little egrets*.

Whilst carrying out my monthly Wetlands Bird Survey (WeBS) count on 11th November I was surprised and delighted to record two female *red breasted mergansers* swimming and diving in the Pill on a high tide. These sleek 'sawbill' ducks breed in northern Britain, Iceland and Scandinavia and winter around our coasts and estuaries. Frequently seen upstream around Fowborough but rarely seen in Llangwm Pill.

LLANGWM NATURE NOTES Spring 2014

The exceptionally high tide on 3rd January covered Guildford Bridge with a foot of water. As it receded it left behind a rather disorientated *little grebe* (dabchick or 'Tom Pudding' as it is known locally) high and dry on the bridge. Eventually it found its way back to the water.

ON THE FARM

Throughout January and February a group of *little egrets* decided that there was a more rewarding source of food in some of the fields around the village than in their usual haunts in the creeks and gullies around the shore. The sodden ground, well-trodden by cattle obviously provided a rich source of invertebrates. Initially, 3 egrets took up residence in the field above Wellhead and then moved across to the field immediately to the south of Main Street. On some days as many as 9 individuals were present accompanied by the occasional *grey heron*. When the ground started to dry out a bit at the end of February they disappeared, presumably back to the shore.

All the usual species occupied the Pill and adjacent shoreline over the winter months. February 7th produced a lovely bright sunny morning after a spell of stormy weather and the Pill was teeming with birdlife including 400+ *lapwings*, 300+ *dunlins*, 100+ *teal*, 9 *curlews*, 23 *shelducks*, 8 *mallards* and 2 *little grebes*.

UNUSUAL VISITORS

On 12th February, as virtual hurricane-force winds whipped up and drove great swirls of white spray across the river a *great northern diver* turned off Llangwm Ferry and seemingly oblivious to the weather conditions proceeded to dive and catch small flatfish and crabs throughout the day and for most of the following week. Then again on 5th March on a high tide I watched (possibly the

same individual) fishing offshore at Black Tar. At one point it came within 10 yards of where I was standing and through the binoculars.

I felt I could reach out and touch it. The largest of the divers, the great northern (or *loon* as it is often called) breeds in Iceland and is generally scarcer than its red-throated and black-throated cousins.

Later that day while sitting at my computer a chance glance through the window revealed a red kite flying low over the trees in our garden. I rushed out in time to see it being mobbed by a gang of rooks from the nearby rookery at the bottom of Lake Villas. Since then in the last fortnight I've seen one twice over the village adding further evidence that this beautiful raptor is becoming more commonly widespread and is no longer a rarity.

EN MASSE

While on the subject of raptors, on 13th March there were seven *buzzards* circling on the thermals high over our house. I suspect they had been feeding on the worms and leatherjackets exposed by the extensive ploughing of the fields east of Butterhill.

Our garden bird feeders have proved popular with a rich variety of birds over the winter months attracting *blue*, *great*, *coal* and *long tailed tits*, *chaffinches*, *greenfinches*, *goldfinches*, *house sparrows*, *starlings* and less welcome *jackdaws* and *rooks*. The big attraction for us has been the regular daily visits by a pair (male and female) of *great spotted woodpeckers*. What stunning looking birds! I recall 50 years ago they were rarely seen in Pembrokeshire with the larger green woodpecker being more common. This situation is now very much reversed with great spotted woodpeckers frequently being seen and heard around the county. We've also been amused by the acrobatic behaviour of grey squirrels on the feeders. Left to their own devices these canny devils will eventually devise a way to dismantle the feeders to get at the nuts inside.

(continued on back page)



*The farming year gets into full swing with the planting of potatoes.
Graham Stephens of Llangwm Ferry captured this image - a field with a view,
above Benton Wood looking towards the Preseli Hills.*

LLANGWM NATURE NOTES

(continued from previous page)

OTTER SIGHTINGS

Early in the morning of 14th November I was ecstatic to see a large dog *otter* swimming upstream just a couple of yards offshore at Black Tar. It emerged from the water briefly near where I was standing before continuing upstream. Having regularly found spraint and tracks around the shore and the occasional corpse this was my first sighting of a live animal in this vicinity in nearly

40 years. On January 14th Julian and Alastair Platten encountered two otters playing in the seaweed near the slip at Black Tar and produced a photograph to prove it! Further proof that otters are now very much resident and active around our neighbouring shores and watercourses.

AND FINALLY...

As I write this on April 1st the *teal* and *redshank* population in the Pill has reduced to a few individuals and they will be gone to their breeding grounds within the week. Over the next couple of weeks we should see

some small groups of *whimbrel* passing through and those folk with a keen eye may have the enormous good fortune to see an osprey on the last leg of its journey from Africa to its nesting site in North Wales, Cumbria or Scotland. Hopefully, one day, they may stop over and establish a nest site in the upper reaches of the Daugleddau.

Please keep your eyes peeled and let me know if you see anything unusual, wildlife-wise by phoning me on 891580 or emailing me at

grahambrace@btinternet.com

Graham Brace

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