

LLANGWM VILLAGE NEWS

ISSUE 41 Spring/Summer 2015

LITTLE VILLAGE, BIG RESULT



Llangwm women re-create the days of the WW1 Red Cross Working Party, knitting socks and scarves for the men at the front line, in a memorable scene from the recent Village Opera, which played to full audiences and great acclaim in Llangwm and beyond.

Read the full story behind the production on the centre pages.

ALSO...Catch up with Club news in Gardening, Rowing, Choir, Rugby, Cricket and lots more.

Welcome to the Spring and Summer issue of Llangwm's village newsletter.

This edition makes special mention of Llangwm's unique piece of musical theatre, "WW1 - A Village Opera" which took audiences by storm in November of last year. With so much interest and acclaim - and DVDs selling like hot cakes - who knows what this village can achieve next?

Now, though, it's time to relax into summer - if you can ever relax around here! There's the Summer Festival coming up, with a carnival, scarecrows, music concerts and other interesting events during the course of the fortnight. Watch out next for the Festival Flyer towards the end of June. Something for everyone - not least the children of the village, who love dressing up for the carnival and seeing the scarecrow creations! This year's theme is 'Nursery Rhymes', so do make an effort for them.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to, and helped with, this edition.

If you have an item of interest for the next (Autumn/Winter) newsletter, you can get in touch at any time, on 01437 891580 or via email at m.brace@btinternet.com

Margaret Brace - Editor



A familiar village scene—inside our much-valued Village Shop and Post Office.

Llangwm Shop - Easter Opening Hours

Good Friday 3 April 8am – 12 noon

Easter Saturday 4 April 8am - 1pm

Easter Sunday 5 April 9am – 12 noon

Easter Monday 6 April CLOSED

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY....

3 April Good Friday Concert *Llangwm Village Voices*, with *Tempus* and *Cantabile* choirs. St Mary's Church, H'west
27 March-5 April Easter Events and Services at Llangwm's church and chapels - see pages 18 and 19 of this newsletter.
15 April Talk by David Saunders: 'A history of the islands of Skomer and Skokholm' Village Hall 7.30 All welcome.
14 May History Society visit to Ffynnone House and nearby places of interest in north Pembrokeshire.
2 May (Sat) Charity Auction (and related entertainment!) Village Hall 7.30 in aid of St Jerome's Church funds.
31 May (Sun) 2-6pm Open Afternoon at the Little Museum at Edwards Pill, in aid of Llangwm Festival funds.
26/27 Jun -11Jul Llangwm Festival Fortnight...RFC/Choir charity concert 9 Jul...Carnival 11 Jul...Chapel Teas 29Jun -10Jul
...and lots more...make a note of more dates and events as you go through the pages of Llangwm News...

LLANGWM SOCCER NEWS

This is the season's report from Llangwm Football Club, "promoted" to the front of the newsletter as we ran out of space on the Sports Pages at the back! (Ed.)

This year saw Llangwm play in the 4th Division Pembrokeshire League after gaining promotion last season. The club has had a mixed season and currently stand 5th in the League with three games to go. Promotion will have to wait to next season now.

On Saturday 28th February the team played against Neyland in the 4th division cup semi final at Monkton. Unfortunately after playing very well the team eventually lost 3:2. The players were very disappointed with the result as they felt that they had put in a very good performance and deserved to win.

We would like to thank our sponsors for all their support this season. Richard Nash Plumbing, Hook. Scott Gregory, Caddies Café. Anthony Phillips, Builder. Also thanks to Natalie at Llangwm RFC for cooking the food for us after the games.

Andrew Harding - Llangwm FC

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LLANGWM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this newsletter is accurate and up-to-date, but we regret we cannot accept responsibility for any errors which may have occurred.

News from the Llangwm Festival Committee

Our Next Event...

Saturday 28th March 2015

Easter family fun and games at Llangwm Village Hall, 10am 'til 12pm. Kids bingo, games, raffle and prizes...refreshments available...Just £2.50 per child...We'd love to see you there!!!



Sunday 31st May 2pm 'til 6pm

An opportunity to go to Llangwm's very own "Little Museum"...Jeff and Pat will offer you a warm welcome and show you around what can only be described as a treasure trove of antiques and artefacts from years gone by. Refreshments available.

Llangwm Carnival News

****NEW DATE FOR CARNIVAL** 11th July 2015**

We have taken the decision to change the date due to various reasons, mainly due to a big event on in Pembroke Castle, "Rock the Castle"...which may lose us a few people on carnival day and we don't want that to happen, also Milford Carnival would clash with our carnival...and we want as many people as possible to attend this years Llangwm Carnival!!!!...apologies from us..but I think you'll agree a good decision! Having moved away from July 4th, we have also changed the theme to "Nursery Rhymes"...so put your thinking caps on for scarecrow ideas!!!!...exciting news to follow with

the "scarecrows", so keep your eye out for news! Festival fortnight is already taking great shape with a History Society talk, Rowing Club Duck Race, the ever-popular teas at the Methodist Chapel, and numerous Music Nights at the Rugby Club including 'Llangwm Village Voices' choir. It is sure going to be a festival worth being around for!

Film Club News

We held a " Family Film Club" at Llangwm village hall once a month during the wet and cold winter months, which was a lovely event and much appreciated from those who attended. However we decided to withdraw this event due to dwindling numbers and "technical difficulties". If you would like to see "film club" return next winter please drop me a line, we have ironed out the technical side of things but we need people to attend to make this a success. To give you an idea, we set up the village hall as a cinema, showed a family friendly film, sold tea, coffee, cake, popcorn and sweets.. not at cinema prices!! - all for £6 per family...sound good?

Committee news

Well, it's all change here on the Festival Committee, Pat Morris and Laurie Kent have done an amazing job keeping the committee running over the past years and have provided us with some amazing events I'm sure you'll agree, however they are both to step down from their roles on the committee due to various commitments. I'm sure you will join me in saying a huge big "thank you" to both Pat and Laurie. We can now announce our new committee members as Claire Holland, Lucy Arnold, Kerry Hunt, Toni-Marie Dorkings and Liz Whitelaw, also Tasmin Nash will be assisting with advertising behind the scenes!! We are all looking forward to providing our community with some amazing events in the future, as well as our best ever carnival this year!...but we cannot do this without you! Any comments or suggestions, good or bad, would be greatly appreciated!! Please call Claire Holland on 07809 446439 or email claire@mylittlecupcake.co with any thoughts you may have.

Look out for updates on:-

www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk and Facebook - "Llangwm Scarecrow Festival" page also various posters in and around the village.

If any group, club or business would like to raise money for themselves and hold an event or stall during the Festival or at the Carnival please do get in touch.

We also need volunteers to help with Festival week!!

*See you soon
Claire Holland*

LLANGWM COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

November at the Village Hall was first marked by a moving **re-dedication of the World War 1 Memorial Plaque** which had been placed outside on the wall near the entrance, earlier in the year. This was followed by the fascinating and highly professional **WW1 exhibition** created and organised by the History Society, which ran for 2 weeks in the Hall, supported by a team of volunteers, brilliantly linking up Llangwm's WW1 story with the events that were happening nationally. As the poet Ford Maddox Ford wrote:

*"That day the sunlight lay on the farms,
On the morrow the bitter frost that there was!"*

The exhibition drew in visitors from a wide area, many of whom had links with the Village and many who had moving stories to tell about their relatives during that time.

The growing **'Village Voices' choir** continue to meet weekly on Thursdays in the Hall, and also spent many hours there rehearsing for the **Opera** that came to fruition in mid-November. As if they hadn't sung their socks off enough, in December, they then gave, what is becoming a regular event, **a concert of Christmas carols** in the Hall, with mulled wine and food that they provided. Donations were generously given towards the Ebola Crisis Appeal.

The **annual St. David's Day event** in the Hall was more successful than ever this year, with all tickets selling out well before the day and a record 72 guests enjoying a supper of cottage pie and peas followed by a selection of truly scrumptious desserts. Our thanks must go to Sue Howley, their choir master, and the 'Village Voices' who sang a very varied programme ranging from Broadway to the West End, Vivaldi to Mozart. It included Dave Moore and Louise Hales singing duets by Puccini - "liberated" by Andrew Lloyd Weber, as Sue put it, a beautiful, pure sounding flute solo by Abi Price and even a performance by surely a star in the making, 8 year old Emily Nash who sang *Consider Yourself* from *Oliver!* And Cosette's song *Castle on a Cloud* from *Les Miserables*.

Besides the choir, the Hall is also regularly used for **History Group meetings, Tai Chi classes** run by Suzanne Davies on Tuesday mornings and is also hired for children's and adult parties. There is now also a **Beadcraft class** running in the Hall on Thursdays, so watch out for the publicity to get exact times and dates.

The **Book Sale** of second hand (50p paperback) and (£1 hardback) books continues to be popular, so don't give your money to Amazon, donate your books, and try a good book someone else in the village has enjoyed!



Night Out Events

This scheme run by the Arts Council of Wales to put on professional performances in village Halls, is supporting us to put on a puppet version of **Aladdin** on **Saturday 12th December**. This will be a show for all the family, so do put this date in your diaries now!

We are also hoping to have 'The New Rope String Band,' back by popular demand, some time in September.

Hall Charges – again no increase

Children's parties.....£20
Adult parties.....£30
Session hire.....£7.50 for 2-3 hours
Loan of equipmentDeposit + £5-£10

If you hire the hall, plates, glasses and cutlery are included in the price.

There is an additional cost for heating.

For those who only wish to borrow equipment, please ensure that you return exactly those items that are borrowed so we do not end up with an odd assortment or incomplete sets of items.

Lastly, please remember, you are expected to leave the hall in as clean and tidy a condition as you would wish to find it as there is no regular cleaner employed for the premises. To do so would mean that we would have to increase the hall charges considerably. It's your choice!

And finally, a big thank you to everyone who keeps the hall going, whether a committee member or friend and especially to Pat in the shop who keeps tabs on all the key, ticket sales, loans etc. What would we do without you?

by Val John

(Picture left:)

'Village Voices' choir at the recent St Davids Day celebration supper.

(Picture right:)

Kerry Steed along with other members of the choir read popular excerpts from Dylan Thomas "A Child's Christmas in Wales" as part of the Christmas charity concert given in the Hall by the 'Village Voices' choir (see report).



Tai Chi

Experience calm and relaxation

What is Tai Chi?

Tai Chi is a sequence of gentle, flowing movements performed with balance and calmness to develop a healthy body and tranquil mind

It reduces stress and anxiety, increases energy and stamina, increases flexibility and agility, enhances quality of sleep, reduces risks of falls in older adults and improves balance and co-ordination

Weekly classes held at Llangwm Village Hall

Tuesday 9.30 – 10.30am

For more information about this and other classes, please contact

Suzanne Davies

Tel: 01646 601304/07909821947

email : suzannedavies21@gmail.com

Some useful links:

Llangwm's village website:

www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk

Facebook Pages:

"Llangwm" (public group)
"Llangwm Village Voices"
"W_W_1 A Village Opera"

Cleddau Reach VC Primary School News

Welcome to the Cleddau Reach VC School section of the newsletter. We hope that you will enjoy reading about some of the events which have taken place since the last edition of the community newsletter.

School's First Film Wins Fantastic Prize

A documentary about the life of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas has earned pupils at Cleddau Reach VC Primary School a fantastic prize.

At a ceremony in Swansea the Cleddau Reach filmmakers were named winners of the National Into Film Competition, which invited young people aged 5 to 19 to make a film in one of three categories: a personal adaptation of a piece of Dylan Thomas's work, a short documentary about the poet or an animation inspired by his work.



The winners were announced on Thursday, November 6, as part of a day of activities celebrating the centenary of Dylan Thomas, and the children were presented with their overall winners certificate and their prize - a filmmaking workshop for their school film club - by Huw Lewis, Minister for Education and Skills.

Cleddau Reach headteacher Nick Groves said the experience had been wonderful for all the staff and children involved.



"The words written by Dylan Thomas were a powerful inspiration for the children to create their own words and images to record the people and places within their own local community of Llangwm," he said.

He said the project had also helped the children develop their literacy, numeracy and thinking skills.

Pupil Jasmine Tjoonk, 10, said: "I have learnt many new things making the film, including how to use a boom which picks up sound which was fun. I hope we can make another film soon."

Film club leader Lorraine Allman added: "To receive such a special award for our first film is truly amazing and a testament to the hard work all the children put in. We can't wait to start work on ideas for a new film to make next term!"

Into Film is an education charity supported by the British Film Institute (BFI) with Lottery funding.



School Council "fizzing with energy and ideas"

In January the Welsh Secretary and local MP Stephen Crabb was invited to sit in on a School Council meeting at Cleddau Reach.

After the meeting Mr Crabb talked to the pupils about some of the similarities to weekly Cabinet meetings in Westminster and the importance of listening and teamwork.

He concluded the visit by doing a question and answer session with our Year 6 class.

Speaking after the visit, Mr Crabb said:

"I was really impressed with the school council meeting. Cleddau Reach VC is an excellent school and the pupils on the council were fizzing with energy and ideas to make it even better!"



Enterprise Troopers Competition



Cleddau Reach recently entered the Enterprise Troopers Competition which encourages schools to provide opportunities for children to plan and undertake a range of entrepreneurial challenges. From over eighty schools which took part in the South and West Region of Wales, the Cleddau Reach entries from both Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 were selected for the Regional Finals at the Halliwell Centre in Carmarthen on Tuesday 25th February.

The Foundation Phase entry was the overall winner for West Wales and the work of the Key Stage 2 children was highly commended



Charity and Community Events

The Harvest Festivals and a Coffee Morning supported by the children and staff raised £423.29 for the Macmillan Charity in October.

The school hall hosted two of the performances of 'A Village Opera' to a capacity audience in November. The opera was written to recognise the impact of the outbreak of World War One on the local Llangwm Community. Several of our Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in this performance and others at the Merlin Theatre.

The Poppy Appeal in school raised £236.40 and the school was represented by staff and children at the service of remembrance within Llangwm village.



A traditional Nativity Service was held at St. Mary's Church Burton on the last morning of the autumn term. After the service the children and staff from Year 5 and Year 6 also visited Williamston Nursing home to share a wide range of Christmas carols with the residents.

Four Christmas Concerts took place in our school hall playing to large and enthusiastic audiences. Each concert was very well received.

The school raised the amount of £928.61 for the Children in Need Appeal.

Seventy six boxes were sent from the school as part of the Operation Christmas Child appeal.

Year 5 Residential Visit to Cardiff

The children in Year 5 recently experienced a wonderful three day visit to Cardiff. During the visit they stayed at the Urdd Centre in Cardiff Bay.



The children and staff visited the Senedd, Techniquet, St Fagans, Caerleon Roman town and the Millennium Stadium. All of the children enjoyed their trip and were a credit to their school, families and communities.



from the County Archives
with Nikki Bosworth

Farmers and gardeners could purchase “first class quality Peruvian guano” at £14 per ton from Thomas Hughes in Haverfordwest.

[illegible]

At the inquest on the body of Thomas Brock, he was described as “a porter in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company at Neyland”. His death occurred when he was helping to shift two loaded trucks from the pontoon onto the railway line. Thomas went to unhook the trucks, slipped and was crushed between the buffers. The verdict was ‘accidental death’.

LLANGWM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB NEWS

Good Vibrations!

We had an instructive and interesting evening in February on 'First Aid in the Garden', given by Dillwyn and Pamela Griffiths from Pembrokeshire First Aid Training Centre based in Milford Haven. Being a retired Paramedic himself, Dillwyn was very informative and practical. He discussed electric shocks, choking and Pamela demonstrated resuscitation techniques, **BUT** what is the biggest killer? – you guessed it, **heart attacks**.

If the heart stops, or goes into a fast beating called fibrillation, you have very little time to act. CPR will keep blood circulating and get oxygen to the brain, but it won't start the heart again. And that's where the Defibrillator Units come in – used by ambulance crew if they are present, but also foolproof to use by members of the public, as Dillwyn demonstrated, stressing that their use can make the difference between life or death.

There is now a **Defibrillator Unit** outside Hook shop – the site chosen after a cricketer suffered a heart attack on the sports field, and Dillwyn's aim in life is to get the units in every village in Pembrokeshire. There are some in place – I believe in Dale and Marloes on the coast, and one on Riverside, Haverfordwest - used to

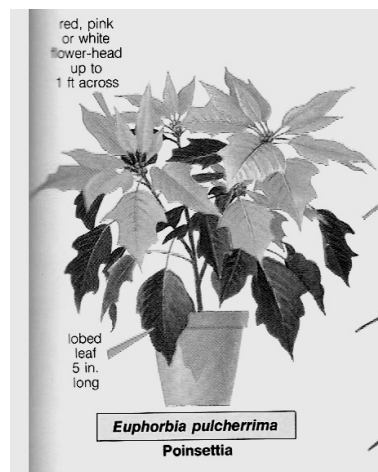
good effect when someone collapsed nearby a few years ago. **There isn't one in Llangwm***, so maybe we should be pressing for one by the Village Shop – they are still quite expensive (a Unit costs about £1400) but what cost to save a life? We all came away with much more knowledge and confidence to help someone in an emergency.



Hook Shop Defibrillator

Our March meeting brought us a little warmth and sunshine after the cold weather – 'Flowers in Madeira', a talk given by Annie Haycock.

Having visited Madeira briefly some years ago, my lasting memory was of the big poinsettia bushes in full red colours that were used as 'municipal planting' down the central reservation of the busy main road! My poor Christmas specimens faded into insignificance after that, usually ending up in the compost heap in the New Year .



The rest of our 2015 programme is listed below :

April 13 th	Llangwm & Districts' own Gardeners' Question Time
May 11 th	Evening Plant Sale and Buffet
May/June	Visit to Scolton t.b.a.
June 1 st	Skomer Sea Reserve & Island Plants
July 6 th	AGM & BBQ
August	Holiday Break

Meetings are at The Cottage Pub, 7.30pm, all are welcome to come.

Maureen John, Feb 2015

*** See update on the situation concerning a defibrillator for Llangwm in the Community Council report on page 15.**

(Editor)

THE AUCTIONEERS RETURN!

No, folks, not a new pub, but the resurrection of the two old fogies – sorry, I meant Dave and Jeff – who will come out of retirement to stage a **Charity Auction** in aid of funds to run St Jerome's Church. It's 9 years since they last did this sort of thing so who knows what might go wrong – hearing aid battery failure, zimmer frame collapse – always assuming their carers allow them out for the evening! Make a note in your diary now (important events section):

Date: Saturday 2 May 2015

Venue: Llangwm Village Hall

Time: 7.30 pm

Meantime you can help by donating any items that are cluttering your garage/workshop/greenhouse/loft and we will dispose of them! Please 'phone **Mike Wargent on mobile 07539 052 068, or David Mills on 01437 890 147.**

There will be 3 types of auction going on – hammer, silent, and bric-a-brac.

More news will appear around the village as the time draws nigh.

FUNDING FOR HERITAGE LLANGWM ENTERS THE HOME STRAIGHT

An update on the 'Heritage Llangwm' project by Pam Hunt

In the last issue we reported that we were waiting for the Heritage Lottery Fund's trustees to decide on our application. By now everyone will have heard that they awarded the St Jerome's Renovation and Heritage Llangwm Project the sum of £340,400.

However this still left a further £70,000 to be raised before we can access their grant. We had already approached a further six possible donors. One gave us money, but after the HLF announcement two more said they'd reconsider and one, the Garfield Weston Foundation has now awarded us £10,000.

Since then we've approached another 20 potential funders, including CADW and the Welsh Government, and we're now waiting to hear their decisions. It's possibly a case of using a sledge hammer to crack a nut, but hopefully enough of them will come up with the goods to enable us to start in June or July.

The original plan had been to close the church – a centre of Christian worship for 830 years – and start work at the end of March, so that the building works would be completed and services could recommence by Christmas. The Talking Tapestry exhibition was planned to open on the 700th anniversary of the wedding of Sir David and Lady Johanna De La Roche in April 2016.

But because we don't yet have all our funding in place we are having to delay the start, currently to the end of May

but possibly as late as the end of July.

In the meantime however our researchers have made some interesting discoveries. We knew that Flemings were banished to Pembrokeshire by Henry I after 1100 and we thought there may have been a second wave of immigration, at the king's invitation, later. The *Brut y Tywysogion* (Chronicle of the Princes), written soon after 1382 refers to an 'inundation across the sea in Flanders' which had triggered a wave of immigration to Pembrokeshire.*. And working with the University of Antwerp, we've discovered there was a seaquake, or tsunami in October 1134, a year before Henry died.

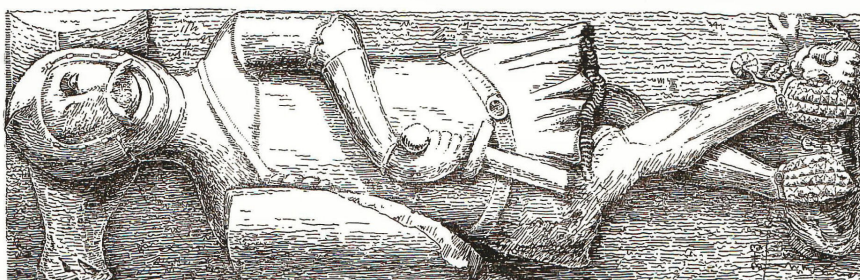
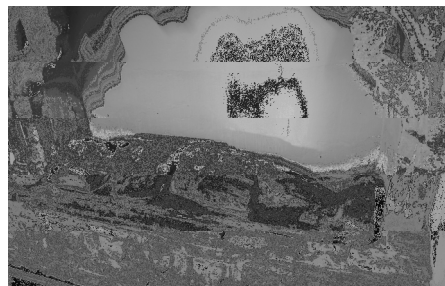
So another piece of our jigsaw is now in place.

Right: The effigy believed to be that of Sir David de la Roche c1350 as it can be seen in St Jerome's Church today.

Below: An engraving made of the effigy in 1850 shows just how much it has deteriorated over the last 150 years.

** The Seaquake in October 1134 was massive. Prior to it the Scheldt, the waterway on the north west coast of Flanders was only navigable to small boats, the seaquake opened it up and allowed shipping into Antwerp and Rotterdam and in the ensuing centuries they became major ports. The surrounding lands are known as the Flemish Wetlands and it was these that were washed away, destroying tens of villages and thousands of homes.*

Henry 1 who was half Flemish himself, his mother being Queen Mathilda, decided to invite the refugees to also settle in Pembrokeshire, joining those he had sent here from England to help the Normans keep order.



NOTE THE NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR EDWARDS PILL MUSEUM THIS SUMMER

This year the 'Little Llangwm Museum of Memorabilia' at Edwards Pill is *not* opening during Festival Week, but is open to various groups and societies, by prior arrangement, during the last week of May.

There will be an **Open Afternoon on Sunday 31st May from 2.00 - 6.00 pm** when teas and refreshments will be served by the Festival Committee, fundraising for the Llangwm Festival later in the year.

To register your group (or large family!) for a visit during the week, telephone Jeff James on 01437 890841. Hurry - the week's schedule is filling up fast.

MORE DETAILS IN THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON PAGE 3 OF THIS NEWSLETTER

LITTLE VILLAGE, BIG RESULT

The story behind the Llangwm Opera

What chance a little village in the middle of West Wales composing and producing a professional standard opera? Seemingly low, you might think.

The original idea, hatched by a small group from Llangwm Local History Society, was to organise an entertainment to mark the anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1- an evening of music hall perhaps, like the recruitment concerts of the time. And they knew just the person to write it, local composer Sue Howley, the power behind the successful local choir Village Voices.

But Sue had other ideas.

"I'll write you an opera" she told the stunned committee members.

To their credit they went along with what seemed to some a hare-brained scheme. Sue recruited poet and author Peter George from Newport as librettist and they got to work writing an original opera, consulting together by phone, email and in person. *WW1: a Village Opera* was born.



Sue Howley, composer and musical director (left) and Peter George (writer/librettist), photographed with Jamie Owen in the Cardiff studio of BBC Radio Wales.

The plan began to come together with a grant of £9,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the result of an application painstakingly put together by Liz Rawlings. Other funders joined in: £7,000 from the Ministry of Defence's Community Covenant as well as sums from Milford Haven Port Authority and Llangwm Community Council.

But how to give the opera a local feel? The idea was to portray a village and its people – in this case Llangwm – through the course of the war, on the battlefield and at home. Society members began their research: the local man who'd died on the first day of hostilities, the 'butter war' when feisty Llangwm women successfully resisted attempts to put up prices in the market, the two young brothers who lost their lives in the same incident on the Western Front, the chapel teas for soldiers from the nearby Hearson training camp. Peter incorporated them all in his beautifully-worded libretto, aided and abetted by Sue's music, in turns light-hearted and heart-rending.

Singers were recruited, most from Llangwm, a few from further afield, and rehearsals became a time-consuming part of all their lives. A talented director, Carol Mackintosh, came on board.

WW1 memories on show

But it wasn't just the opera. The HLF grant had also covered an exhibition of World War 1 artefacts. That meant collecting mementos and information from local people, working out how to display them, and putting together information boards telling the story of the war and Llangwm's part in it. Altogether there were 62 boards, professionally produced with the help of Mark Thomas from the county museum.

From the start the intention had been to add an audio-visual aspect to the exhibition. History Society member Pam Hunt, a former independent film producer, put together a remarkable film incorporating footage from the Imperial War Museum and the Fleet Air Arm interspersed with film of two local men Graham Stephens and Richard Palmer reading excerpts from relatives' diaries, in Graham's case his great great grandfather's diary and in Richard's his pilot uncle's flying log books.

The exhibition, in a transformed village hall, was a success. Hundreds of visitors dawdled through it in the seven days it was open and afterwards wrote their comments in the visitors' book: "a lot of hard work but a wonderful exhibition", "amazing", "fascinating", "brilliant". One teacher wrote: "I brought my class of 10 and 11 year olds – a fascinating experience for all of us – comprehensive and compelling".



One 'character' from the exhibition in particular received more than his share of publicity: Richard Palmer's uncle David Sambrook starred in several newspaper and magazine stories with his exploits in rickety WW1 flying machines over the fields of the Western Front. He, fortunately, was one of those who survived the war and returned eventually to Llangwm. But those who were never to return were also on village minds on the day the exhibition opened, with the re-dedication of the roll of honour, listing some of the 17 local men who lost their lives. It now has pride of place above the entrance to the Village Hall.

The opera takes shape

So what of the opera? Well, preparations reached fever pitch with a dress rehearsal the night before the opening performance on November 12 at Cleddau Reach VC School, with ITV's *Wales at 6* in attendance plus a comprehensive feature on the BBC's *Good Morning Wales*. Local papers had also been supportive throughout the run-up and on the morning before the first performance the *Western Mail* topped them all with a full page feature and photograph of the two young lovers at the centre of the story (in real life Louise Hales and Dave Moore). Sue and Peter featured on Radio Wales's *Jamie Owen Show*, and Sue did an extended interview (alongside two slightly more famous musical stars conductor Carlo Rizzi and tenor Adrian Thompson) on *The Arts Show*, also on Radio Wales. Reporter J P Devlin from Radio 4's *Saturday Live* spent an evening with the cast and made national stars of several members. There was

also an interview on Radio Cymru - in Welsh - with wardrobe mistress Ann Donovan.

So what with all that, it had to be good. Which brings us back to the opening question. Can a small village in West Wales really compose and produce a professional standard opera? And little Llangwm, population 800, really did, against the odds, pull it off.

Most of the performances played to full houses, with standing ovations, and the emotional intensity of Sue's music, Peter's words and the singing of a committed cast was such that anyone who'd sold Kleenex at the door would have made a killing. The five performances - at the school, Newport's Memorial Hall and the Merlin Theatre - were seen by nearly 900 people. One opera buff commented afterwards that with its 'fabulous music and great singing' the opera was 'up there with the best of them'.



The Battle of the Somme: one of the most moving scenes portrayed in the Llangwm opera - some would declare, in any opera.

So, an artistic success, but what else did little Llangwm's opera achieve? Cast members speak of the community coming together, not only in terms of the camaraderie of those involved, but in focussing the attention of the whole village on the event. For many it was a source of personal satisfaction and pride, of discovering new talents and new friends. Sue's music, said one observer, had raised musical standards, giving individuals a platform for their best performances. And Peter's libretto, the foundation of it all, had formed a "firm trellis on which many people blossomed."

How to cap that? Well in the best traditions of theatre there's now a film, put together by Pam Hunt and local cameraman Mark Evans, plus an exhausted cast the day after the final performance. It premiered in a special showing for cast and crew at the Merlin in early February - with evening dresses and bow ties much in evidence.

If you missed the opera, or just can't get Sue's tunes out of your head, the DVD is on sale for £10 at Llangwm village shop, Victoria Bookshop Haverfordwest, or from Jane Mills (tel 890147).

Report by Heather Payton

More photographic memories of the Exhibition and Opera project



Summer- and autumn-long rehearsals for cast and chorus. Bob Phillips ('British Politician') holds aloft the cane which was expertly thrown to him in each performance by wife Claire at the side of the stage - and never dropped.



Visitors came from far and wide to see Llangwm's WW1 exhibition. The family of Dr Auriel Reynolds (nee Bryant) (right of picture) of Cardiff are seen here on their weekend visit to the village. Dr Reynolds' father, James Bryant of Guildford, Llangwm, survived the War.



The candle-lit ceremony held to re-dedicate the memorial showing names of the fallen of the village in WW1. This preceded the opening of the Exhibition by Cllr Simon Hancock, an expert on Pembrokeshire during WW1.



Pam Hunt films Graham Stephens reading from his great great grandfather's diaries of Llangwm at the time of the First World War. This was a significant part of the 12-minute film used in the Exhibition "Llangwm—A Village at War".



Ill-starred lovers Tom and Mary, played by Dave Moore (tenor) and Louise Hales (soprano), against a peaceful background of the rural village of Llangwm - soon to be affected by shortage of manpower, the arrival of a 2,000-strong training camp, and the inevitable outcome of young men sent to war.



Commemorating the Christmas Truce. Many of the opera cast and crew met up just after Christmas for a minute's silence and a short game of football (Seniors v Juniors) (Juniors won) before walking together to Llangwm Ferry to the Props Masters' house and hospitality.

Llangwm Community Council News

New Notice Board

The Reverend Jane left a sum of money in her will to provide a new notice board for village use. This has now been ordered and will be placed on the village green as soon as is practicable

Black Tar Toilet

Llangwm Community Council are in negotiation with the County Council to lease the toilet at Black Tar. This then could potentially be reopened for special events at Black Tar and for the summer holidays.

Attention Dog Walkers

Two new waste bins will be sited near the bridge at Edwards' Pill and the toilets at Black Tar. Please use these bins as dog mess is a serious hazard to children.

Village Success

Llangwm Community Council were delighted to support the History Society in their World War 1 project. The Exhibition and Opera attracted much attention throughout Pembrokeshire and the Committee, Cast and Crew deserve praise for their initiative and great commitment.

Plea for help!

The Gardening Club held a meeting in February about 'Safety in the Garden.' (See their news item

earlier in this newsletter.) Advice was given on the necessity for 2 defibrillators to be placed in Llangwm – one at the Sports Field on Pill Parks Way; the second on Main Street. Unfortunately three years ago, a visiting player from Whitland died on the cricket pitch at Hook. We want to ensure that we are prepared for every eventuality in Llangwm. Each defibrillator will cost £1400, and we are at present seeking out sources of funding for these vital pieces of equipment. Thank you.

STOP PRESS!!

Just as the members of the Community Council were wondering how to fund the purchase of the defibrillators, an anonymous donation has been received, covering both.

Grateful thanks are in order, for this very generous and thoughtful gift.

There will be a defibrillator at the village shop and in the sports field in the very near future.

Llangwm Allotment Society

It's now 2 years since we finally took over the site, and it continues to go from strength to strength. Whilst we're south facing it can be very windy and a few sheds have been known to come off worst during heavy gales!!!

We have 18 plots and many of us have been there from the beginning. An allotment isn't for everyone, it does take hard work, commitment and time - a few have decided in the last 12 months that an allotment isn't for them and because of this we've been able to welcome new members.

A walk around highlights the variety of fruit and vegetables being grown and harvested and it's quite amazing that no two plots are the same.



We're a friendly lot and there is no such thing as a quick visit to the allotment as we all enjoy downing tools and having a chat far too much.

At our recent AGM we prioritised some improvements that we need to make to the site, we will be affiliating our membership to the National Allotment Society and are hoping to organise a few social events.

I'm sure it will be a busy year but one that we will enjoy.

If you are interested in an allotment and would like more information then please contact Kim Sandford on 01437 891127.

If You've Got Some Spare Time...

Some time ago this column raised the question about the relative virtues of Books v. Kindle. If you are off on holiday the latter wins hands down but in other circumstances it is impossible to beat the feel of a real book. This was brought home to me when I came across **'Germany Memories of a Nation'**. This is a magnificent book. It is written by Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum and tells the history of the country in a most interesting way. One of its many impressive features is the quality of the prints/illustrations which play no small part in bringing the book to life. This is a formidable book but it can be read surprisingly quickly. If you are interested then get the hard- back version.

For some time now Michael Portillo has been doing a series entitled 'Great British Railway Journeys'. These are based on a book entitled **'Bradshaw's Railway Handbook'**. George Bradshaw wrote his guides in the middle of the nineteenth century and the programme retraces many of his journeys one of which took him to our part of the world. He has this to say about Haverfordwest: 'The town is built on the steep declivity of a hill, and presents a very picturesque appearance as the houses rise in terraces one above the other, the whole being crowned by the ruins of the castle. The interior of the town however, is in many respects inconvenient and disagreeable as many of the streets are so narrow and steep as almost to prevent horses and carriages from ascending them. There are three churches, a handsome guild hall, the gaol and the keep of an ancient castle.' Much has changed but the town is still recognizable from this description from almost two hundred years ago.

Whilst on the subject of television, it was good to see the BBC adapt **'Wolf Hall'** so brilliantly in the recent six part series. Hilary Mantel's book was reviewed in the Newsletter some months ago and has turned out to be one of the most successful works of historical fiction ever to have been written. This was one of the best things I have ever seen on television.

And to end. Andrea Camilleri is the author of the **Inspector Montalbano** mysteries. There are plenty to choose from. You will find them well crafted, interesting and amusing.

Enjoy whether though the paper or electronic medium.

Barry Childs

The following piece was submitted as an entry in this year's Tasker Milward School Eisteddfod. It will no doubt strike a chord with many who live in our village.

Llangwm A Riverside Village

Along the windy country roads or alongside the sublime River Cleddau, you will find yourself in the calming Pembrokeshire village of Llangwm.

Through the luscious, long, green fields you may find a stream cutting through and moving down to the Cleddau and out to sea. On a clear day you may be able to make out the Preseli mountains standing over Llangwm and the surrounding villages or on Saturdays you will be able to hear the excitement of the crowd at a rugby match in the centre of Llangwm on the playing field.

Whilst walking around Llangwm, you will see the odd friendly dog walker. Whenever you see someone in the village they will say 'hello' to you and their dogs will jump on your toes, begging for your attention.

Whenever I'm walking through the fields in Llangwm with my energy packed dog I enjoy myself and I think how lucky I am to live in such a hidden treasure of Wales. The natural beauty of the village is made up of fields with their long light grass and houses that are close together.

My favourite place to be is Llangwm and I'm proud to call it HOME.

Ben Asson

Can you solve the mystery?

Any thoughts on the use that might have been made of this item from Jeff James's 'Museum of Just About Everything'?

It's a very old wooden 'hammer', with sawn slit in both ends, then the slits copper riveted back together, then it has steel rings on each end. (Theories to 890841please.)



'Village Voices'— Llangwm's very own mixed voice choir

Did you get to see it? Did you? The opera? 'WW1- a village opera'.

If you missed it it's available on dvd from Jane Mills, Liz Rawlings or Pat Morris in the village shop. £10 only. It's a piece of village history starring mainly Llangwm inhabitants who had doggedly rehearsed it for four or five months. No doubt you will also read about it in the History Group report but it played to five packed houses and reduced some of the audience every night to tears. Not, I must add, tears of laughter or derision but good old fashioned pathos and the realisation of the horrors which war can bequeath a small village. Sue Howley's music was amazing - stirring, extremely original and soaring, especially during the Requiem, the Dies Irae and the Libera Me, sang as the boys fell at the Somme. The children in it were wonderful, the young Kaiser had his arias at the very beginning and the very end so he and the other children had a lot of time to fill in between. One of the highlights for the adult cast came in the green room at the Merlin when the children were racing around on office chairs with a foam puppet just doing what normal children do but these weren't your average children....at the same time they were singing their heads off....IN LATIN!

The starry premiere was held at the Merlin along with wannabe Golden Globe presentations for the best scream (Mary Kinder), best belter out of a song (Jasmine Cutting), best flirt (Fran Evans)....you get the drift.

You may have heard mention of the opera on Radio 4, Radio Wales, ITV Welsh News, Wales Online, Western Mail. Llangwm is now known as the cultural centre of Pembrokeshire if not the universe.

So back to *Village Voices* news. We managed to slot in a concert at the Picton Centre in aid of Kidney Wales Foundation just before Christmas along with *Cantabile* and with added performances from Izzy Jones and Angharad Howells on violin and Katina Andreou on cello. Louise Hales and Corey Bullock sang a duet, another highlight. The year finished off with carols in the village hall, donations for the Ebola Crisis Appeal raising £236.

So it was a very hardworking second half to 2014 and now we have started again. Sue will be adding to the Requiem etc which we will be performing at St Mary's Church in Haverfordwest on Good Friday along with *Tempus*, Seimon Morris's choir, and *Cantabile*. We are currently rehearsing *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Gabriel Faure, a selection of Abba songs and Bohemian Rhapsody. At last!

St David's Day came early at the village hall this year with a *Village Voices* performance before the delicious Cottage Pie and puddings which were very welcome after an hour of music. Abi Price played Mozart on the flute, Lou and David did both solos and duets (David had to be called back by Lou as he'd forgotten about the second one) and Emily Nash gave her very first performance at the age of 8 of *Consider Yourself*, from *Oliver!* and Cosette's aria *Castle on a Cloud* from *Les Misérables*. She received well deserved thunderous applause for this.

The success of the opera means that more people have been inspired to join us - great support for the tenors and basses especially - but there is always room for more and it's not necessary to be able to read music as MP3s are available. Just turn up at 7.30pm on Thursdays in the village hall. It costs £5 for five weeks.

Fiona Cutting



Sopranos (left) and altos (right) sing out at the annual 'Village Voices' Christmas concert in the village hall. (Yes, there are tenors and basses too, hidden at the back.) The event raised over £200 for the Ebola Crisis Appeal.

NEWSLETTER from ST. JEROME'S Spring 2015

Here is a brief news report as we are still not certain when work will start on St. Jerome's.

Starting with a re-cap: our Breakfast with Santa event in the village hall in December was a wonderfully well attended morning. Bacon rolls were eagerly devoured and children queued patiently to visit Father Christmas in his grotto! Everyone said it was a lovely morning.

~~~~~  
On to a list of upcoming dates for St. Jerome's:-

**Friday 27 March** Chocolate Bingo Evening at the Johnston Institute, Johnston. 6.30 pm., eyes down 7 pm.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March** Palm Sunday 10 am. Walk of Witness starting at the bottom of The Gail. Everyone welcome to join in the walk through the village.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 3<sup>rd</sup> April** in Freystrop Church at 10 am.

**Easter Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April** Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Service in St Jerome's Church at 3 pm.

\* DON'T FORGET YOUR EASTER BONNETS!

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE 5<sup>th</sup> April** at St. Jerome's at 10 am.

### CRAFTY KIDS EVENTS

In Llangwm Village Hall. Always fun: with crafts and food. ALL ages welcome. Look out for posters around the village and the Post Office/Shop.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

Theme – TBA – Look out for the posters!

**Social evening on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April** in Llangwm Village Hall at 6.30 pm. It will be a Sausage and Mash Night, which is always popular.

~~~~~  
Please keep a lookout for notices on the Church Notice Board and posters around the village for any further information on any Church events and services. This will also include when work will start on St. Jerome's and what alternative arrangements for services have been organised. Please feel you can contact Reverend Victoria, any Church Warden or member of St. Jerome's if you need further information.

Sending blessings to everyone for a peaceful Easter and hopefully a fine summer.

Debbi Lawson-Earley



Three in a row!

The church and chapels of Llangwm, one above the other, photographed from part way up Butterhill.

LLANGWM METHODIST CHURCH

MINISTER: Reverend Hugh-John Wilson
SECRETARY: Mrs Jane Brock
TREASURER: Mrs Hilary Hitchings

Sunday Services: 11am every Sunday
Sunday School: 11am every Sunday
Please come and join us - Children of all
ages welcome.

We meet every Sunday morning 11am –
12noon. 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 SERVICES

Good Friday – 3rd April - service in the main
chapel 3.30pm followed by the Good Friday
tea in the Sunday School Room
commencing at 4.00pm

Easter Sunday, 5th April – 11am service

Sunday 17th May – Chapel Anniversary –
11am service

Sunday 28th June – Sunday School
Anniversary Service – Children and Choir
commencing at 6pm

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Monday 29th June – Friday 10th July
inclusive

Every day from 12noon – 6.00pm - please
join us to enjoy bacon rolls, light savouries
and sweet with a cup of tea/coffee

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

GALILEE BAPTIST CHAPEL

MINISTER: Reverend Roger Hart
SECRETARY: Mr Huw Breeze
TREASURER: Mr Peter Phillips

Morning Worship: 10.30 am every Sunday

SPECIAL SERVICES
to be led by Rev Roger Hart

Good Friday - April 3rd
service in the chapel at 9.30am
to be followed by coffee and hot cross buns
in the vestry

Easter Sunday 5 April - service at 10.30am

24 May at 10.30am - **Chapel Anniversary**

21 June at 10.30am - **Sunday School Anniversary**

27th September - 10.30am and 5.00pm -
Annual Services of Thanksgiving for Harvest

~~~~~  
**Women's League** meetings are held  
once per fortnight from September to May  
on Thursday afternoons in the Vestry  
2 pm - 4pm

This is a time of fellowship and friendship and ladies of  
all ages are invited to come along and join us.

### **A GALILEE WEDDING**

Galilee Chapel was pleased to welcome the  
families of Samantha Lockett and Simon  
Turnbull who celebrated their marriage there  
on Saturday 21st March.

Samantha attended Galilee as a child, with her  
great-aunt Ellen Skyrme, a faithful member of  
the chapel fondly remembered by all.

This was the first Galilee wedding service Rev  
Roger Hart had officiated at since becoming  
pastor of the chapel, and it was a time of shared  
worship and joyous celebration.

As well as their families and friends, many  
chapel-goers and villagers turned out to wish  
them well. A pretty village picture on a spring  
day, with daffodils in full bloom in the chapel  
grounds.

As I write this half yearly report we are just two months away from the start of the new season on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Despite being close towards the end of the winter the club has not been idle during this period and continues to make improvements to our ground and facilities. Thanks to the generosity of Jonathan Davies we shall start the new season with an electronic scoreboard - work has already started on improving the existing nets and we hope to start the season with a new set of boundary boards alongside the trees at the far boundary. Pill Parks cricket section is starting to 'smarten up' and look the part.

As previously reported our first eleven under Joseph Kiff comfortably won division two of the Pembroke County Cricket league and will now play in the first division this coming season. Our second eleven continued to struggle and was relegated again last season but under their new captain Mike Terry will hope to return to division four at the end of the coming season.



Janice Brick (scorer) and  
Captain Joseph Kiff



Back row – Daniel Hughes, Huw Brock, Janice Brick (scorer), Shaun Waller, James Venables, James Lewis, Chris Inward, William Beresford (W/K)  
Front row - Luke Brock, James Venables, Joseph Kiff, Richard Brock, Ollie Davies.

There are too many people to mention them all by name who help us during the year but 'en bloc' I feel I must mention all the ladies who help prepare the cricket teas, the members who sell our Sunday lunch and end of season raffle tickets, Matthew at the Cottage and both the Gow family, led by dad Ian preparing our cricket wickets for us week in and week out throughout the season, and Jeremy Brock who looks after the rest of the grassland! Our grateful thanks go out to them all.

All sport is expensive and if after reading this brief report you feel you would like to make a contribution to the club £25 will make you a Vice President, £15 a member and £10 a ball sponsor. Whether you care to contribute or not we should be delighted to see you at Pill Parks on any match day and if you need a club fixture card please ask one of our club committee members listed below.

David Davies (chairman) Martyn Inward (vice chairman) William Beresford (treasurer) Chris Inward (child welfare officer) Chris Thomas (assistant secretary) Joseph Kiff, Mike Terry, Julian Platten Paul Morgan, Huw Brock, Colin Phillips, Simon Richards.

## **LLANGWM JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB**

We start the new season in Llangwm knowing that we have three of our players training with the under 10 and one with the under 12 County squads following a successful restart to this important section of village Cricket Club in 2014.

Training starts this year on WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> March at Pill Parks and we welcome Jonathan Rowles, who will be another valuable member of our coaching team. Both Jonathan and Simon Richards are currently attending a level 2 coaching course ready for the new season and together with Colin Phillips and Derk Tjoonk make an excellent coaching team for our youngsters.





Our Club Room in the rugby stand remains our headquarters for training where we meet before and after practice and matches. We intend to use cricket DVDs on the TV more this year as part of our coaching activities. The cricket net is due to be refurbished and we have purchased some more training kit over the winter months .

This year we are entering the under 11 County League and the under 9 team will play in the u9 festivals held throughout the County. Next year we hope to have an under 13 team, so are looking for new members to make that possible.

The pictures show some of our junior members and their Coaches with the bowling machine we bought last year, a key investment for the future.

Cleddau Reach School are our partners in this new beginning and we look forward to more youngsters joining us and playing in the under 9 and under 11 teams.



**TRAINING STARTS on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm in the Club Room at Pill Parks.**

For more information contact Stuart Beresford (01437 891500 & 11 The Kilns Llangwm).

## Llangwm Longboat Rowing Club

Winters never have much to report....**no League races but the keen keep on training.** We are lucky in Llangwm to have such a benevolent estuary, there is very rarely weather enough to stop rowing although it may be chilly but even then the rowing keeps you warm and there is great satisfaction powering a craft with purely the team effort. Trophies are won in the winter and collected in the summer.

There may or may not be the **Cleddau Race** in **April**, that is when it is usually held, from Neyland to Haverfordwest but on **May 2nd** the club will definitely be holding its increasingly popular **Marathon Race** from **Dale to Haverfordwest**. Entries are now coming in from all over the UK. Last year's race was won by an outrigger from paddlesports.uk.

There will be a **Duck Race** during **Festival Week**, held on the **picnic area behind Rectory Road** and terrific fun for the whole family....cakes and tea, burgers etc....look out for details in the Festival Week programme. Also during the summer there should be the **Annual Regatta** with teams from the whole of the League taking part at **Black Tar**. Again, keep your eyes open for details. More fun for family as children play around the shore and plenty of yummy food to eat.

**Novice training** should start as soon as the nights get lighter. If you want to have a go, get in touch at **llangwm.longboats@gmail.com** The first three **taster sessions** are **free**.

**Membership costs the same as last year.**

|                                                                                          |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Family rowing</b>                                                                     | <b>£85</b> |
| <i>(up to 2 adults and/or children 18 or under at 30/09/2014 living at same address)</i> |            |
| <b>Individual rowing</b>                                                                 | <b>£55</b> |
| <b>Student/Unemployed</b>                                                                | <b>£28</b> |
| <b>Junior</b>                                                                            | <b>£20</b> |
| <i>(18 years and under on 30/09/2014)</i>                                                |            |

**Subscription includes WRSA insurance levy, affiliation, equipment insurance, general maintenance of boats and trailers, shed rental and access to 4 boats through the year.**

All for about **£1 a week** even if you only go out once a week but once you get the bug you will want more.

***It's a fantastic way to keep fit, see the river in all its glory and watch wildlife. Just give it a try.***

**Fiona Cutting**



# Report from Llangwm Rugby Club

by Steve Poole



We are now well into the rugby season. The return to more local fixtures, following the restructuring of the SWALEC leagues has been commented on positively. It is fantastic to welcome St Davids back into our league and some splendid performances by the coaching staff and players have meant that Llangwm are currently 8<sup>th</sup> in the table with a tough fixture at home against the Quins to solidify our league position. Those spectators who witnessed the hard fought draw against Pembroke at home on 24<sup>th</sup> January saw exactly what the local leagues meant to players and staff. No-one will forget that game in a hurry.



As promised by the WRU, there will be a review of the new league structure, and those who will represent Llangwm – Mr Gordon Eynon, representing District H of the WRU and Mr John Purser of Pembroke representing the West B leagues are fully aware of, and support, the majority view that local rugby must remain to help



all clubs, both on and off the field. Indeed the wish to keep this structure is one that is held by all Pembrokeshire club representatives.

As part of the league review, the club was asked what, if any, changes should be made, and it has been reported back to Cardiff, that not only do we wish the current format to remain, but we would welcome a larger league, albeit involving a little more travel than this season, to increase the number of fixtures. This would ensure that more rugby would be played at Pill Parks for you, the supporters, to enjoy. It would also mean a little more consistency for the squad who currently have had to go through long periods within the season when there is no competitive rugby – most notably during the Autumn International Series and the period covered by the Six Nations. Additional fixtures would create valuable income for the club.

The new WRU Chairman, ex Welsh International Mr Gareth Davies has already publicly stated that he sees his focus at the level of the Welsh Premiership and below, and many will have seen his recent open letter in the Western Mail.

The Music Nights held monthly in the clubhouse continue to be well supported and the club thanks not only those whose hard work allows these to continue, but also those of you who attend and provide support to the club.

Meetings can be tedious and time consuming, however it is most important that members make every effort to attend the Annual General Meeting



*Scrum and line-out at the memorable Llangwm v Pembroke home game on 24th January, which resulted in a draw.*



which this year will be held in the Club on Monday 27 July at 20:00. Please make a note NOW. 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. It is important that all views are heard, especially during a season with possible changes to the league structure.

More work has been carried out improving facilities at Pill Parks and the committee thanks all those involved, and looks forward to the continuation of the modernisation program. Work is also scheduled to take place in the clubhouse with an application to the WRU for assistance in repairing, or replacing the flat roof above the pool table.

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:-

*Pembroke Dock Harlequins on 28/03/15 and  
Laugharne on 11/04/15.  
Both games kick off at 14:30.*

There are still numbers available in the 100 draw and, thanks to the efforts of Mr Raymond Hunt, joining and paying for your ticket is extremely easy. Direct Debit forms are available through Raymond to allow the ease of paying £72.00 for entry into all 12 monthly draws, with your bank transferring money to the club annually, or monthly at a cost to you of £6.00. The £500.00 summer draw top prize

along with the £1000.00 top prize for the Christmas draw still remain, along with smaller monthly prizes. We continue to have 3 prizes available each month and please contact the club or Raymond for further information.

The annual Vice President's meal has been set for 28 March 2015, to coincide with the inauguration of the new Captains board detailing LRFC captains from the Millennium back to WWII. This board will be placed alongside the existing board with captains from the Millennium to the present day and we urge that all ex captains, former players and VP's to attend the event which will include a hot sit-down meal contact either Mr Owen John on 01437 890370 or Mr Mike Hardwick on 01437 890007 or via e-mail using the e-mail address [mikehardwick679@btinternet.com](mailto:mikehardwick679@btinternet.com).

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.

*Llangwm RFC would like to extend their sincere thanks to all its sponsors for their kind support which helps to maintain rugby in the village.*

## JUNIOR WASPS

**This has been another good season for Llangwm juniors.** We have had some mixed results but we have continued to play and train every week.

At the beginning of the season we were disappointed to lose our under 14s team but are pleased to note that a number of those players are playing elsewhere in the county. **We currently have 6 junior sides playing from Under 7s to under 12s.** We train and play most weeks. Since the end of February all teams have been training outside at the rugby ground. We have been fortunate this year and despite some poor weather forecasts **no home games have been cancelled due to the weather.**

As always the junior section is supported by a small team of **coaches, committee members and volunteers** without whom the juniors

could not exist. We ask parents to help by ensuring their children arrive at training and matches on time and with the correct clothing. We also ask that each parent helps out at least once a season with cooking sausage and chips and bacon rolls. **Natalie at the club house has made the juniors very welcome** ensuring there is a ready supply of health nutritious snacks and drinks available for these young athletes (chocolates, sweets and cans of coke)

**Home Matches take place in Llangwm at 11am on Sunday mornings** and on most occasions teas, coffees and much needed bacon rolls are available. As always our teams are well supported and depending on the condition of the field it sometimes results in a significant number of vehicles parked in the village. **We would like to thank everyone for their support and patience** on Sunday mornings when this is the case.

**Our junior Facebook page** is a mine of information and is generally the best source of the most up to date details. Probably the **most popular reviews come from Hamish** who must surely be a nomination for the next 'Poet Laureate'!!

**The Junior Presentation Evening** will be held on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April** with all players receiving **medals**, and **trophies available** for 'Top Try Scorer', 'Most Improved Player' and 'Player of the Year'.

With the help and support of all those involved this has been a very successful season for Llangwm juniors, and the **behaviour and enthusiasm of the players in our junior section has been a credit** to coaches and parents alike. We are often complimented by other clubs regarding our children's behaviour both on and off the pitch and on the welcome they receive at Llangwm club. **We welcome enquiries and look forward to your support next season.**

*Suzanne Bartlett*

## The Wildlife Page

It has been a relatively mild and dry winter with no prolonged frosts. However, the normal heralds of spring in our garden (crocuses, celandines, primroses and daffodils) have been later emerging this year than previously.

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March was a particularly fine and sunny day with temperatures in double figures and suddenly spring began to make itself evident. Honey bees were busy gathering pollen on the crocuses in our lawn and a peacock butterfly flew optimistically through our garden.

From an ornithological point of view the winter has been pretty uneventful in the Pill with nothing unusual being seen or reported. The initial large flock of redshank (60+) in late autumn dwindled to an average of around 30 birds and the teal population remained at about 40% lower than usual with around 60 individuals.

Lapwing and dunlin were generally present in quite large numbers and on one occasion I counted approximately 300 lapwings and 160 dunlin together along the water's edge at Llangwm Ferry.

Also, kingfishers have been regularly spotted in Llangwm Pill, at Black Tar and Port Lion.

One species making a comeback after their numbers were decimated by the very hard winter we had in 2011 is the **little egret** (*Egretta garzetta*). This bright, pure white, elegant member of the heron family attracts much attention locally and is always spectacular to look at as it patrols, often in a frenzied fashion, the gullies and tide-line catching small fish and crustaceans. Sometimes its long neck is withdrawn, sometimes extended. It is sharp-eyed and sharp of beak! There is almost always one present in the Pill or along the adjacent shore, sometimes two or three. More recently they have been frequenting the fields behind Wellhead, north of the rugby field and in the fields south of Main Street and Llangwm Farm, usually in the company of cattle. It appears that the cattle disturb the soft



*The little egret - once a threatened species, now again thriving on our estuaries.*

ground providing the egrets with easy pickings of worms and other invertebrates.

They are present all the year round but numbers increase in the autumn and winter when Continental birds arrive.

Originally birds of southern Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa and Asia, they have significantly extended their range northwards over the last 30 years or so. Apparently, little egrets were once present in Great Britain but a combination of over-hunting (for food and its plumes) and climatic change to colder conditions rendered it extinct in late medieval times. *At the banquet to celebrate the enthronement of George Neville as Archbishop of York in 1465, it is alleged that 1000 egrets constituted part of the feast!* Further decline throughout Europe continued up to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century due to them being slaughtered in vast numbers for their plumes which were in great demand for decorations in hat making.

It first reappeared in significant numbers in 1989 on the south coast of England and bred on Brownsea Island in Dorset in 1996. According to the RSPB Rare Breeding Birds List in 2010 there were 2 pairs of little egrets nesting at one site in Pembrokeshire.

The location is a closely guarded secret. The current UK breeding population (mainly in southern England) is around 750 pairs and it is estimated that around 4500 individuals are present in the UK over the winter. The little egret is now a fairly common sight on estuaries and inland waterways mainly in southern England, Wales and southern Ireland.

During the breeding season they display long delicate plumes on their crests. In flight their distinct yellow feet can be clearly seen at the end of long black legs. They have all the appearance at having accidentally stepped in a tray of yellow paint! Flight is quite leisurely and, although generally silent, they occasionally utter a hoarse, undignified croak which is certainly not becoming of their elegant and delicate appearance.

I recall as a young birdwatcher in the early sixties the great excitement caused on the very, very rare occasions that a little egret turned up in Pembrokeshire...a real 'twitcher' occasion! Consequently, to this day, I still feel a surge of exhilaration and privilege whenever I see one.

Please contact me with any unusual bird or wildlife sightings by email at [grahambrace@btinternet.com](mailto:grahambrace@btinternet.com) or by phone on 891580.

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