

Llangwm Village News

Issue 51 Spring Summer 2020

**See Page 3 inside for help with
the current coronavirus situation**

Photograph: Edwards Pill Reflections by Jenny Ambler

World in crisis, village in waiting

As this edition of the newsletter is being put together for printing, it is a little uncertain, to say the least, as to which future events might take place and which will go by the board, hopefully to be on hold for a later date.

Cancellations of social gatherings are already rife, as coronavirus makes its uncaring way around the country - and every country around the world.

Will there be festivals, concerts, village hall teas, church services, sports fixtures in the near future? All we can do is to carry on planning, carry on communicating - and watch out for news of last minute changes, on notices, on the website, in the shop and on the village Facebook page, hoping the plans come to fruition soon.

Since we have to isolate ourselves at home, it will be an opportunity to reflect on all that we have had up to now, and all that we have done in our little corner of the globe. Hmm, that's quite a thought. Let's hope it won't all change, at least not for long.

One thing that we *can* perhaps carry on with is the Festival Committee's inspired idea of having floral displays around the village this summer, instead of scarecrows (*see the report below*).

So don't be despondent...get cracking on the window boxes, the hanging baskets and the front garden flower beds.

Stay safe. Stay bright.

Llangwm Festival News

Festival Fortnight 2020 28 June - 11 July

The **Festival Committee** are arranging a packed programme of events for **Festival Fortnight** leading up to the **Carnival on Saturday 11th July**. We have decided to give the scarecrow competition a rest this year but I'm sure it will return in the future. In its place, we want to promote a **Llangwm in Bloom** competition - with prizes for the best **hanging basket**, best **window box** and best **front garden display**. We hope everyone will feel able to take part in at least one of the categories. For the youngsters we are planning a **biggest sunflower competition**. The theme for the carnival **fancy dress** will be "**Flower Power**" so look out your kaftans and psychedelic shirts!



The fortnight kicks off - hopefully - with an evening of **Bingo at The Cottage Inn** on Sunday 28th June. Other planned events are a **History Walk through Llangwm** with Graham Stephens, **Llangwm's Got Talent** with Claire Evans, a **walking treasure hunt**, an **open day in some gardens**, a **whist drive**, **concerts** in the village hall and the church from **Wrong Direction** and **Korason**, a **family quiz** and, of course, the **carnival** and **after party** at The Cottage. We are also hoping to organise an **art/craft and history exhibition** at the Wesleyan chapel with **teas and refreshments through the fortnight**. When we have the dates firmed up, we will publish the **Festival Programme** and put dates; times and details on the village website and Facebook,

ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN THE CURRENT SITUATION



Easter Events

There was to have been an egg-rolling competition on the Green, following the (also cancelled) Easter Egg Hunt at St Jerome's. All postponed for another time - something to look forward to again.

We hope that everyone will have a safe and happy Easter.

Help is at hand - just ask (or offer)

You will have received a leaflet through the door offering the services of community volunteers if you need any help at all during the current coronavirus situation.

COVID-19

LLANGWM COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

This group has been established to coordinate the help and support needed through the Covid-19 crisis.

ARE YOU SELF-ISOLATING?

Do you need assistance with shopping, dog-walking, collecting prescriptions, etc. or even just want to chat to someone on the phone.

If "YES"

Then either get someone to take your details to **David Golding** in the **Cleddau Stores**.
or **E-mail him** on davidsavid17@gmail.com

In an emergency ring

Matthew Evans - 07805 168632
Llinos Martin - 01437 890678
Liz Rawlings - 01437 891706

We are all facing difficult and uncertain times ahead, but we are very lucky to live in a caring and vibrant community.

You may have also seen this appeal on the Llangwm Facebook Page:

COVID -19

Llangwm Community Support Group.

CAN YOU HELP?

In order to organise support for those in self-isolation, Llangwm Community Support Group is coordinating volunteers who are prepared to help during this time of uncertainty.

If you wish to help by dog walking, shopping, collecting prescriptions, talking on the telephone etc., please leave your information in the shop. This should include name, contact details, location, type(s) of support.

We are all facing difficult and uncertain times ahead, but we are very lucky to live in such a caring and vibrant community. So please help.

See overleaf for the strategy and planning behind the Llangwm Community Support Group....

Community Support Group - The Way It Works

(continues from previous page)

Llangwm Community Support Group - March 2020

This group is established to coordinate the help and support needed through the Covid-19 crisis.

A strategy has been devised in three stages:

1. Using social media, the Llangwm website and the Llangwm Newsletter an approach has been made requesting volunteer support for those in self-isolation and who need a measure of support e.g. shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking, social chat by telephone. Potential volunteers are requested to write their details and drop them into the shop - name, contact details (telephone & email), location in the community, and type(s) of support offered.
2. An A5 leaflet has been designed with a mail drop throughout the whole village. This will include Port Lion, Hill Mountain, Deerland, Llangwm Ferry, Black Tar. This asks the question - "Are you self isolating?" Each resident will have the opportunity to ask for support by notifying Dave Golding in the shop as the central focus of the community. They will need to provide details about themselves - name, address, contact details, how they need help, preferably by email/dropping in the information in to the shop. Dave's email is davidsavid17@gmail.com
3. These responses and list of volunteers will be coordinated so that volunteers will be made aware of any individual needing support in their locality. Cards will then be provided to each volunteer to initiate contact with anyone requesting assistance.

A Gem of a Car

This 1935 Austin 7 - known as an Austin Ruby - is the latest pride and joy of the little Llangwm Museum, Jeff having exchanged his 1949 MG saloon. Does this now make Llangwm the village with the most Austin 7 owners in the county? or even the country?

Since the museum has had to cancel its Village Open Day this year (and its Open Week which was all booked up for visiting groups), Pat and Jeff thought readers might like to enter a **naming competition** for the new car, just for fun. Jeff says "She's tiny and pretty, with registration JL 2392. Any suggestions?"

Email them to curator_james@hotmail.co.uk





Tirion's Rainbow

- update on our fundraising efforts to improve the Play Park

We are happy to announce that our current total raised is now £37,272.68. We have been quiet over the winter as we have been focusing on getting grant applications completed. In February we were delighted to be awarded £10,000 from the Comic Relief Community Fund following a successful application. We have since made an application to the Pembrokeshire County Council's 'Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant'. As of yet we have not received official confirmation of our success with this grant, but (at the time of writing) an article in the *Milford Mercury* suggests that it is likely, the headline being "Llangwm's second home tax boost" and suggesting that we could be awarded £7,230.40. This would be another huge contribution toward covering the overall cost of redeveloping the play space.

We remain very grateful to all members of the community who have and continue to support us in our fundraising, from those who have our collection pots (The Farmhouse Bakery, Hook Shop and The Cottage Inn), and to all of the individuals and groups who have undertaken their own fundraising activities. Since the last newsletter we have had 3 talented young ladies playing Christmas tunes on their clarinets outside Cleddau Stores raising £127.89, the pupils of Cleddau Reach chose to support us by donating the funds raised at their harvest service raising £396.17, and most recently Ellie Brick has started a Dance and Stretch class in Llangwm Village Hall on Tuesdays 6.30-7.30pm, with all profits being donated to our park fund.

Llangwm's Boating Club have recently contacted us with news that they would like to make a £500 donation. This is a very generous donation which will make a big contribution to our park fund, that is growing fast. A big thank you to Llangwm's Boating Club.

Our current focus is on completing the National Lottery 'People and Places' Grant Application. We hope, if successful, that this will complete our fundraising efforts and allow the park improvements to start.

Our next event* will be a pop up cafe in May which will support David Wilson's exhibition of his most recent project "The Village". We are incredibly grateful to David who has offered to donate the entry fees from his exhibition to Tirion's Rainbow.

Mike and Beth Preddy

(* Our May event is of course subject to confirmation during the current situation.)

Llangwm and District Gardening Club

- another busy year!

Members were spoilt with gardening expertise as the club hosted a Gardeners Question Time at February's meeting in The Cottage Inn. We were delighted to welcome local garden heroes Roddy Milne, Simon Richards, Kinga Mioduchowska and Gill Lewis who ably answered members queries with humour and top tips.

April and the promise of Spring will bring Gill Lewis back to the club for her talk about her Perennial Garden and Café (found near St David's). Monday 6th, 7.30 pm in The Cottage Inn.

(STOP PRESS: THIS IS NOW POSTPONED, AND ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW DURING THE CURRENT CORONAVIRUS SITUATION.)

May brings the Club's Annual Plant Fair! Sunday, May 17th 10.30-12.30 pm in THE VILLAGE HALL. Always a great place to pick up very reasonably priced plants and a fabulous tea-and-scone or coffee-and-cake.

Members will be off on a three course 'garden' extravaganza in June. Three members' gardens open for visits and serving morning coffee, afternoon tea and wine and nibbles, so a tour of the district and different garden styles on offer! Visit one or all three!

The season concludes with the AGM & BBQ held Monday 13th July at THE COTTAGE INN. It's always a fabulous way to finish a busy season thanks to Matthew's excellent BBQ fare.

Yearly membership is £5 and guest admission to talks is £2, look out for posters in the village or check out the Llangwm Facebook page for events and details. We also have our own Facebook page- just search Llangwm and District Gardening Club.

Our 2020/21 season will start September 7th at The Cottage Inn.

Karen Shepherd - Chairperson



Snowdrops! Our March 2nd talk from experts Julian and Fiona Wormald was delightful!

Llangwm Village Website

Llangwm's website, supported by Llangwm Community Council, was re-launched in January 2019 with the aim of providing villagers and visitors with information about Llangwm and everything it has to offer. In the last twelve months the site has expanded and now contains *upwards of fifty pages*, with new and/or updated information added on a regular basis. Just some of the information on the site:

- **Llangwm Community Council** pages - including a list of current councillors and how to contact them, as well as minutes and agendas from 2013 to date.
- A **weather 'widget'** - providing up-to-date weather information, including temperature, wind speed and tide times.
- A **What's On** page - listing events up to the end of the year, with upcoming events also featured on the home page.

- An **Amenities** section features information about the village hall, shop and pub, health services and mobile library dates.
- Information about **Llangwm's Music** groups and events, as well as its **Festivals** are also listed.
- Llangwm's artistic community are featured on the **Arts and Crafts** pages.
- The **Accommodation** page has proved popular with over a hundred hits in the past three months.
- The website is the home of the online **colour edition** of **Llangwm Village News**.

The Llangwm website is a community website, relying on submissions from the people of Llangwm. Are you holding an event that you would like to advertise? Do you have a business or holiday accommodation that you would like listed? Perhaps you run, or are a member of, a club or society that you think might benefit from being featured on the website? Please send any submissions to webeditor@llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk and we will endeavour to get you online as soon as possible.

Llangwm Community Council Ongoing Projects and News

Consultation is underway with Tirion's Rainbow to help support the improvements to the Pill Parks Playground. Thank you to all Tirion's Rainbow supporters for their achievements in raising funds and securing grants for the project.

Pembrokeshire County Council are advising the Community Council regarding a recent incursion onto Common Land. The incident was reported directly to PCC and is being managed by them with full support from the Community Council.

Llangwm Community Hall Committee Members and the Community Council are working together to seek a way forward to improve/upgrade the current building. Residents will be kept fully advised of any future projects and are welcome to contact either the Community Hall Committee or the Community Council with any ideas they may have to improve the current facility. Please look out for any notices on the Village Facebook or Village Notice Board for any future residents' meetings to have your input.

Dog Fouling appears to be improving. However, please be vigilant "bag and bin it" and no loose dogs on Pill Parks or the Village, thank you.

Parking in Llangwm Village can be a problem, particularly when there are large events taking place. The Community Council urge all drivers to be considerate in their parking especially on corners/bends to allow visibility for passing traffic. If you have any ideas on improving the current parking situation, we would be pleased to hear from you. This topic is raised on a continual basis at our monthly meetings which may be seen on the Llangwm Village Website Community Council page.

The Christmas tree and lights would not have been possible without the help from volunteers. We thank them very much for their time in sourcing the tree, putting it in place, putting up the lights and also for removing the tree. A live tree has been donated for Christmas 2020, we await its arrival and thank those volunteers for the kindness of their donation.

Working with Pembrokeshire County Council we are hoping to place some traffic calming and parking measures, look out for details on the minutes and or Village Website. The Festival Committee are hard at work in planning this year's Village Carnival, and we thank them for their work throughout the years to ensure the success of these wonderful events.

The Community Council are continuing to fund the opening of the Black Tar Facility from Easter to the end of September. The toilet area is being refurbished and will open for the Easter Holidays. We thank the Llangwm Rowing Club for their kind donation which helps fund the cleaning of the facility and the electricity costs.

Llangwm Longboat Rowing Club rent the Black Tar Facility "Store Room" and kindly suggested a 5% raise for the 2020/2021 financial year which the Community Council accepted. They also maintain the hedgerow surrounding the facility.

A diseased tree at Black Tar Picnic area was removed following advice from an arborist. Community Council will review any future planting of a border etc. later in the year.

As always, our grateful thanks to Margaret Brace and the team for producing such an excellent Newsletter, all volunteers, thank you!!

Llangwm Community Council meet every second Tuesday of the month bar August. If you would like anything discussed at the meetings or would like to attend. please contact the Clerk, llangwmclerk@btinternet.com

All about the VILLAGE HALL

Llangwm is unbelievably lucky in having a school, pub, Sports Club, village shop, churches and a Village Hall, all of which help the community, in this wonderful village, to thrive and prosper.

In the last Llangwm News we asked the question 'What are Village Halls?' and then gave a list of some of the events that had gone on in ours in Llangwm. So it's clear that they have a very important role in bringing the whole community together. This fact was recognised by those who first got the Hall built in 1978 and the huge community effort from the Llangwm people that supported and physically built the Hall – a truly remarkable achievement at the time, which has enhanced the lives of generations of Llangwm residents.

Some members of the Hall Committee and the Community Council recently visited other village halls in the north of Pembrokeshire and were surprised and impressed by many of the new facilities that they are able to offer their communities. Now we are asking that the whole community come together again to update our Hall in line with the new challenges of the 21st century, and to catch up with those facilities provided by most other village halls in Pembrokeshire. We are lagging behind!

The piece below is an update (written by Committee Chair Liz Rawlings) of what has taken place in achieving this since the last Llangwm News:

Llangwm Community Centre Project

You might have noticed that there have been no recent developments and a considerable delay in the redevelopment of our Community Centre. This has been because a covenant on the land at Pill Parks came to light based on a grant given by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) to purchase the field in 1955. The NPFA morphed into the Fields in Trust charity who now are responsible for ensuring the land remains solely for public recreational use.

This legal issue has obviously taken a long time to resolve before any further development of the Community Centre can take place.

With the support of our Community Councillors, the Fields in Trust Officer, and Pembrokeshire's Common Land Officer, this matter will hopefully be resolved shortly. As soon as the go ahead is given, **a public meeting will be called in order for you to express your views and wishes for the future of our Community Centre.** So please, give us your support by either attending the meeting, or by giving your views/opinion to any member of the committee (contact details available from the Village Shop, tel no: 01437 890 128)

Coming together and sharing a meal is the most communal and binding thing in almost every place in the world and some recent events in Llangwm Village Hall have well and truly upheld this. Our St. David's Day Soup Lunch (which followed on from the success of the Autumn 'Winter Warmer') was well supported and great fun, with traditional Welsh fare including Leek & Potato Soup, followed by Welsh cakes and Bara Brith.



Mulled wine and mince pies were a focus for the Village Voices entertainment - 'A Not So Silent Night' - in December, a jovial evening to celebrate the onset of the Christmas season.

These and many other events have taken place in the Hall, as well as the ongoing regular classes, activities and meetings*. For details of all classes, including a new Dance Class taken by Ellie Brick, please enquire at Cleddau Stores.

For Happy Hedgehogs* contact Bronwen on: 07794576928.



The group runs from 9.30am to 11am and the cost is £2 per family (includes a snack for toddlers), and they have songs at the end! Their Facebook page is: happy hedgehogs too. Tai Chi classes* are held on Tuesday mornings. For further details contact Suzanne on 07909 821947 - or via the Shop.

Item Loans: If you wish to borrow items from the Village Hall, **the key MUST only be collected from the Shop** and a committee member must be informed so items can be checked in and out.

And finally, as always, a big THANKYOU to all those who help and contribute in any way at all to the Village Hall – without your support it just would not keep going.

***This report was compiled before the Government shutdown of massed social gatherings during the current coronavirus situation - obviously everything is "on hold" for now and it is hoped that normal service will be resumed in the Village Hall as soon as possible.**

Walking in the steps of our ancestors



Several members of Llangwm's history society recently took part in a **Field Walking** project, under the leadership of Andy Shobbrook of Dyfed Archaeology. Thanks are due to the farmers who allowed this on their land at an appropriate time in the growing season: Skyrme Lewis (North Nash), Will Scale (Great Nash) and Benton Farm, Burton.



Some **Finds Washing Sessions** were carried out in the village hall at the end of January/beginning of February. The finds will be sent off for analysis and a report prepared and shared with the society.



The project has been very successful, and will continue, funds willing, in the future.

(Field photographs courtesy of Steve Richards)

Llangwm Local History Society Events

Since the last newsletter we have had several talks and events: a talk on a **Tudor Christmas** by Terry John, our own **Christmas meal** at The Cottage Inn, the annual get together **Quiz with the Gardening Club** in the village hall and our **AGM**, followed by **2 films** - **Princess Nest**, starring Bob Phillips and John Roach, followed by a short film on the lives of **William and Matilda**, both produced by Pam Hunt.

In February we were treated to an excellent, well researched talk by Keith Johnson on **The History Of Cricket In Pembrokeshire**.

The rest of our programme for the year has been planned to be a very varied one with something for all tastes. Sadly this is now subject to alteration and postponement due to the current coronavirus crisis.

16th March Dai Stephens's talk, entitled "Some Questions Regarding Llangwm's Medieval Past" (postponed)

20th April John Ewart-a talk and film on "The Pembrokeshire Chariot Burial" (postponed)

18th May Mari James – a talk on "Suffragettes in Pembrokeshire" (postponed)

15th June Rhianydd Biebrach – a talk entitled "Beneath The Feet Of Pembrokeshire" (tbc)

22nd June Members River Trip, with commentary on local history en route given by Graham Stephens (tbc)

20th July Simon Hancock on "Belgian Refugees in Pembrokeshire during WW1" (tbc)

August summer break

9th Sept Members morning visit to Pembroke Museum followed by afternoon 'Civil War Walk' around Pembroke town centre with Terry John (hopefully happening!)

19th Oct John Evans- a talk on "Flying Boats" (ditto!)

16th Nov Andy Shobbrook - a talk on "Mesolithic Finds in Inland Pembrokeshire" (ditto!)

Dec Christmas Meal (details tbc)

As well as the above talks and walks we are hoping to hold an exhibition, during the village festival or at some time in the future, showing recent photographic acquisitions.

During the last year, two archivists, working on a job share basis, have been cataloguing and digitising Llangwm's archive, along with archives from 4 other local history societies (Coastlands, Hook, Penally, and Pembroke and Monkton). To date they have digitised over 650 items from Llangwm's collection alone and, over the next 12 months, will return to each society to complete the task. When finished it is envisaged that the archive will be available to all via a website.

Eileen Horton

A Year in the Life of Llangwm

A new photographic exhibition capturing a year in the life of Llangwm will be launched at the Village Hall on the evening of Wednesday 20th May*.

The exhibition, by photographer David Wilson, will continue until Saturday 23rd May*.

David spent 2019 creating a visual record of the place he says he is lucky to call home.

“There are so many wonderful characters in Llangwm and I wanted to capture just a few of them, as well as building up a picture of how we live our lives and the rich sense of community,” he said.



The documentary style of photography is a new direction for David, who until now has specialised mainly in landscapes.

“I’ve always been fascinated by pictures of people and everyday life and I would love to think that in the future, this collection will give others a glimpse of who we were and what we did,” he said.

*The exhibition opens with a ticketed event on the evening of Wednesday 20th May, with tickets available at £5 each from Cleddau Stores from 27th April.

All the proceeds from the opening night ticket sales will be donated to Tirion’s Rainbow, the charity set up in memory of Tirion Preddy. The charity is raising money to create a natural play-space in the village that can be accessed and enjoyed by children of all ages and abilities, and become a special place for all who knew and loved Tirion.

* Following the opening night, the exhibition will be open from 12noon to 8pm on Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd May.

Prints of the photographs displayed in the exhibition will be available to purchase directly from David.

If you have any queries about the exhibition, please feel free to drop in to see David at 11 Williamston Terrace, telephone him on 01437 890647 or email him on info@davidwilsonphotography.co.uk

*** In the current coronavirus situation, follow Llangwm Facebook, the village website and notices and news in the village shop to find out the latest about David’s exhibition dates.**



Rockall, Malin, Fastnet, Fisher, German Bight

A book can be written about anything. Nonetheless, I was surprised to find one entitled **'Attention All Shipping'**. Many of you will recognise these as the opening words of the Shipping Forecast broadcast four times a day on the radio. Its origins lie with Vice Admiral Robert Fitzroy who introduced telegraph communications as a warning service for shipping following the loss of 450 lives after the clipper 'Royal Charter' was wrecked off the coast of Anglesey in 1859. Charlie Connolly was inspired to write this unusual book by his family's connection with the sea and ships and took it upon himself to visit all those thirty one places with distant, magical names: North Utsire, Viking, Trafalgar etc. I'm grateful to Elizabeth Davies for passing the book on to me. It's entertaining, informative and funny. Connolly knows how to tell a tale and how to dig out bizarre places and unusual people.

If you like cricket then **'Around the World in 80 Pints'** by **David Lloyd** is a good choice. Lloyd, a former Lancashire and England batsman and coach now a celebrated Sky Sports commentator on the game, has strong opinions and a deep knowledge of players past and present. This book captures Bumble's (his appropriate nickname) unique approach and sense of humour. It's full of insights and inside information which will grab and hold your attention.

It's been a while since **Kate Atkinson** wrote a book featuring her well-liked central character, Jackson Brodie. So it was with some anticipation that **'Big Sky'** was recently published. As might be expected from a writer of her quality the book does not disappoint and has become the number one bestseller in the paperback fiction category. Setting, characterisation, dialogue, humour come together to present us with an outstanding book of its type.

As our Newsletter is being prepared **Hilary Mantel's 'The Mirror and the Light'** is being published. This, the last book in the **Wolf Hall Trilogy** has been eagerly awaited and if anywhere near as good as **'Wolf Hall'** and **'Bring up the Bodies'** will be a rare treat. The hardback edition was published on 5th March with the paperback version a few months down the road. It's been described by one critic as 'Bawdy, Bloody and ever so big' (875 pages). Can't wait.

Book Reviews by Barry Childs

Llangwm 150 years ago

A dispute between Llangwm fishermen and the Herne Bay Company over a contract for supplying oysters was reported in the local newspapers of February/March 1870. The information printed in the newspapers provides an interesting insight into the local fishing industry.

The fishermen in dispute were named as John Palmer, William Llewellyn, John Davies, William Davies, John Palmer, Richard Cale, John Bryant, William Davies, George Jones, James Jones, Robert Lewis, William Edwards, William Morgan and Richard Palmer. The surnames are recognisably local but the limited number of forenames in use at the time led to more than one person in the village having the same forename, surname and occupation. James Jones and George Jones lived at Black Tar. Richard Cale was an unmarried 50-year-old living with his widowed sister Elizabeth Herbert in Mill Street. Amongst Richard's neighbours were blacksmith Henry Brock, grocer Emma Trindall and Joseph Towle, an engine fettler who lived at the Mill House.

The fishermen were receiving £1 12s 6d per thousand oysters (an increase from the previous year's payment of £1 7s 6d) plus an allowance of 3s 6d for their boats. At that time, 38 boats were contracted to the Herne Bay Company. The newspapers reveal that 26 of the 38 men were "marksmen", meaning that they were unable to write their own names or read the contract for themselves and had signed the document with an "X". It was reported that "the signature of William Llewellyn was written by Mr James Thomas, farmer, in Mrs Shrubsole's house, in a private room".

The fishermen were accused of breaching their contract by not giving the whole quantity of oysters caught to the Herne Bay Company. Their defence was that "the [oyster] beds are exhausted; they are getting exhausted all over the world" so their catch was much smaller than usual. Previously, Llangwm had supplied 33,000 oysters per week but, in 1871, it was only 3,000 per week.

Nikki Bosworth

Information available online at newspapers.library.wales and findmypast.co.uk or ancestry.co.uk

Don't forget...

You can soon see this newsletter *in full colour* on Llangwm's village website (tab: 'Llangwm Village News' in the News section) - and keep up with the latest information about village amenities, events, services, societies and sports by accessing the many web pages on

www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk

The Kilns Plant Stall - getting ready for Spring and Summer

Most gardeners are just beginning to think about the coming season. The past winter with all the rain has perhaps been more suitable for growing rice. But even that hasn't germinated!

But Spring is here and evenings are drawing out; bulbs are beginning to push through and most gardens are showing some colour from daffodils, snowdrops and tulips.

Our plant stall already has a few plants and shrubs out for sale and we shall continue to sell a mixture of annuals, perennials and vegetables as they become available. Orders taken for tomato plants.

Proceeds from the stall in 2020 will be donated to Prostate Cymru Wales. More men are openly discussing if they have prostate cancer these days so we hope we can donate a substantial cheque at the end of the growing season to this very worthwhile charity.

Stuart and Liz Beresford



Matthew celebrates 10 years at the Cottage Inn



1 March 2020 was a landmark date for Matthew Evans - he has been Llangwm's publican and chef at the Cottage Inn for the past ten years.

During that time he has given stalwart service to the village, everything from serving pints and family meals to producing festival barbecues and the most sumptuous banquets, all themed, for medieval celebrations, 'big birthdays', LitFest and other special occasions.

Matthew, always ready to meet any new challenge no matter how much hard work it entails, brushes off any complimentary remarks on his achievement.

He says: "I would like to just thank everyone for their support and custom over the years."

Undaunted by the prospect of current restrictions on the pub and restaurant trade, Matthew has responded by providing a special delivery service for Mothers Day dinners and puds - a real treat for a village in shutdown!

Life at the Llangwm Allotments

Well, after a wet autumn and an even wetter winter the site is looking a bit sorry for itself. With standing water on most plots I'm considering rice as a main crop this year.

Hopefully the weather is going to improve and the ground will dry out over the next few weeks allowing us to get on with planting.

We are currently in the process of formulating a workplan to improve the site and expect to finalize this at our April AGM. Currently we have no vacant plots, and only a short waiting list, plots do however become available so if you are interested or would like to visit the site please contact Kim Sandford (Secretary) on 01437 891127.





County Council Report

by Cllr. Michael John

The Old School building in Llangwm has been a recent topic of conversation with concerns raised over the deterioration of the building.

The building itself and car park are owned by the Lawrenny Estate. The field to the rear is owned by Pembrokeshire County Council.

I have been in contact with the Lawrenny Estate frequently over last few years to let them know about various incidents of damage, alarms going off and the general state of repair. Also, to see if any plans have been considered for the future of the building. With the agreement of Llangwm Community Council, I have extended an open invitation to the Estate to attend a meeting locally to discuss any proposals.

PCC have suggested they wish to develop the field, but this will need to be in conjunction with the Estate due to access etc.

These discussions are ongoing and I will update further once there is any progress.

The Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant is now into its 3rd year, and it's pleasing to report that the "Tirion's Rainbow" project has been a recent beneficiary, and has been awarded £7230.40 towards the scheme to redevelop and enhance the play area in Llangwm.

The grant uses funds from the community element of the second home council tax scheme and it is fantastic to see funds coming to our area.

Funds which are not allocated revert to the general county wide pot, so if there are any other local organisations seeking funding, further information on the grant and eligibility can be found at: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/grants/the-enhancing-pembrokeshire-grant>

Speeding throughout the area continues to be a topic raised regularly, and of high concern to many people.

It is a shame that some drivers continue to use the roads around the village with little apparent consideration for other road users. Again, I would urge anyone who witness such behaviour or who sees any near misses to report on directly on 101.

If there are any residents interested in the Community Speed watch group, details can be found at:

<https://www.dyfed-powys.police.uk/en/your-area/pembrokeshire/haverfordwest-rural/>

Police and crime panel puts focus on rural crime. Members of the panel have raised the issue of rural crime as one of its key areas of scrutiny, and took the opportunity to question the Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd

Llywelyn about his efforts to address the matter at its most recent meeting. They were told about the emphasis being placed on preventing and detecting rural crime, as well as the efforts to engage with the rural community and accurately record crimes.

Dyfed-Powys Police's strategy for rural crime focuses policing in a number of areas – farm and agricultural crime, heritage crime, wildlife crime, business and food crime, protecting vulnerable people, rural isolation, tourism, road safety, and serious and organised crime. The commissioner's full report to the panel can be found online at www.dppoliceandcrimepanel.wales

Waste and re-cycling services. Since the changes came into force last November, provisional new figures have indicated that Pembrokeshire's recycling performance is the highest in the country. The provisional figures show that recent waste and recycling changes have resulted in Pembrokeshire's recycling figures increasing to 70.3% for the year to date (April to end of December 2019) – compared to 60.6% at the same time the previous year. Even higher are the provisional figures for October to December 2019 – the period when major changes to kerbside collections were introduced. During these months, Pembrokeshire recycled 72% of its waste, compared to 60% during the same period the previous year. Other waste and recycling changes include intervention policies at Waste and Recycling Centres and the introduction of the Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collections.

Cabinet member Chris Tomos said the provisional figures were an 'amazing achievement'. "Based on these figures, Pembrokeshire has the highest recycling performance in the whole of Wales, which in itself has the third best recycling level in the world," he said. "Huge thanks must go to all concerned including our residents for embracing the changes, which we fully acknowledge did cause some difficulties and challenges for many".

Council declares war on Fly-Tippers

Pembrokeshire County Council is waging war on fly-tippers.

The Authority is trying to encourage people to come forward with information leading to successful enforcement action against individuals by offering a £100 reward.

From Monday, 2nd March a dedicated email address has been set up by the Council to enable members of the public to report incidents of fly tipping 24 hours a day.

The email address is:

fly.tipping@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

A phone number is also available to ring during office hours.

The number is: 01437 775253.

Fly-tipping has been a long-term problem for many local authorities and PCC are looking to the general public for help and encouraging them not only to report incidents of fly-tipping but to pass on any details they can about the perpetrators.

PCC has formed a special team in-house to deal with the fly-tipping. They have the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to those who transgress which carry a penalty of £350 - reduced to £180 if paid within ten days.

This is only for small scale issues and major problems will still be dealt with through the courts

PCC are also using covert CCTV cameras located at specific fly-tipping hotspots which have been identified within the county.

Householders should be aware that they have a duty of care for their waste, and that simply handing it onto another person to dispose of does not absolve them of their responsibility. Registered waste carriers should be used to ensure they are disposing of waste legitimately.

Haverfordwest High VC School is moving forward with the old Prendergast buildings (Sir Thomas Picton Site), due to be demolished during 2020 in readiness for the new £49 million project to build the new school.

This is of great interest locally being the catchment secondary school for the children from Cleddau Reach School, and is welcome news after what seems to have been an eternity to get to this stage.

If there are any queries or question regarding this or any other topic, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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I can be contacted on 01437 890175 or cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

If you do have any issues or queries you can also contact PCC direct on 01437 764551 or - <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/resident>

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ST. JEROME'S NEWS

Well the Winter storms certainly gave everything a battering; first Storm Ciara closely followed by Storm Dennis and then finally Storm Jorge! Let's hope the weather starts to calm down as Spring is fast approaching? It certainly cheers the soul to see snowdrops bobbing their white heads, crocuses appearing from their winter sleep and daffodils waving in the sunshine! With the mornings and evenings getting lighter, we take time for reflection during this season of Lent. Mothering Sunday and Easter will soon be here. So lovely to enjoy the sunshine, to lift our spirits, despite this worrying time of possible self-isolation due to the COVID19 virus. Stay safe everyone.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please check on the St. Jerome's Church Notice Board for any changes to times and venues of Church Services and Events, especially if gatherings have to be cancelled during this current period of uncertainty.

Final 'Music at Lunchtime' of 2020 **The Vagrants Crew** Sunday 22nd March at 1pm. Playing folk and ballads.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place at St Jerome's on **Easter Saturday, 11th April at 3.00pm.**

Posters will be up around the village, in the shop and on Llangwm Facebook page.

LENT BIBLE STUDY

This year's Lent Study Group - Tuesdays in St. Jerome's at 10.30am. We follow a course called '**Planetwise**', which explores our Christian calling to care for God's Earth. Each session starts with coffee and then runs for approximately an hour.

Session 1: Tuesday 3rd March Session 2: Tuesday 10th March Session 3: Tuesday 17th March Session 4: Tuesday 24th March Session 5: Tuesday 07th April

SERVICES

NB - on hold for now during the current situation

Worship Time (an informal all age service) is normally held on the first Sunday of every month at 10am.

Our regular Sunday Services start at 9.00am.

Our Sunday School is held during our regular Sunday morning services.

LENT/EASTER SERVICES (now cancelled)

Mothering Sunday on 22nd March.

Palm Sunday Service on 05th April at 10.00am. Same date as next Worship Time Service.

Wednesday Eucharist on 09th April at 9.30am. With prayer for healing.

Good Friday Holy Hour Service on 10th April at 10.00am in St Justinian's, Freystrop.

Easter Day Eucharist on Sunday 12th April at 9.00am in St Jerome's.

Usually, if there is a 5th Sunday in the month, there is a Joint Parish Service at 10am, held either in Llangwm, Johnston or Freystrop. The next Joint Parish Service is due to be Sunday 31st May and Sunday 30th August.

Details of venues are posted on the Church Notice Board.

ST. JEROME'S COFFEE MORNINGS

These are held every **third** Wednesday in St. Jerome's at 10.30am. Future dates for your diary - **if allowed** - are:

Wednesday 20th May

Wednesday 17th June

Wednesday 15th July

FUTURE EVENTS - ALL TO BE CONFIRMED

Father's Day Lunch – Sunday 21st June in Hook Sports and Social Club. Come and enjoy a buffet lunch. Time TBC.

As with all events please check notices either on the Church Notice Board or on posters around the village.

REMINDER:- Clocks go forward one hour for BST at 1am on Sunday 29th March.

Reverend Marcus and everyone from St. Jerome's Church would like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter and Summer. Let's hope and pray that during this uncertain and worrying time we all stay safe and healthy.

From the Chapels...



Services at Galilee Baptist Chapel and the Methodist Chapel have, as at St Jerome's Church, been curtailed by the current government halt on religious gatherings.



Normal services and events will resume as soon as possible.

Down Memory Lane... remembering Johnny Palmer's Shop

Mrs Elma Griffiths (nee Lewis) of Houghton (formerly of Lawrenny), now approaching her 90th birthday, vividly remembers the day her family moved to Llangwm. She was nine years old and they first took the 'ferry service' (a rowing boat) which regularly crossed between Lawrenny and Rhose Ferry. Elma recalls that there was a bell near the shore which was rung to summon the ferryman in the mornings, principally by two young ladies who travelled up river to their in-service work at Lawrenny Castle.

The family made their home at Burnham Cottage, on Nash Farm. As soon as Elma was old enough she got herself a job at Johnny Palmer's shop - many readers will remember this shop with great affection. It was part of Cleddau House, the imposing white house at the start of Rectory Road, built in the early 1900s by Edwin Palmer.

Elma served in the shop for a number of years post-War, and got to know many people in Llangwm, making lasting friendships. During that time she remembers 'old money' (the heavy pennies and half-crowns), ration books (buff for adults, green for children) and turning the wheel of the manual bacon slicer. She married her husband Melbourne (Mel) Griffiths in 1953 and a couple of years later left work to bring up her family.

By that time the large front room had plate glass windows -

not so ideal when they blew out during a two-day storm in the early 1960s.

There have been memories of "Johnny's Shop" on Facebook: Graham Stephens remembers the red bacon slicer on the counter and the chewing gum and cigarette machines on the outside wall.

Gareth Jones recalls getting his first cigarette, a Woodbine, from that machine. It might have been his first, but it was his one and only!

Sue Edwards says "There was nothing better than buying clove sweets from Johnny Palmer's on the way home from school - happy memories."



The original Cleddau House.

*Do you have fond memories of Johnny Palmer's shop?
Send them in - there will be many more in our next edition.*

Cleddau Stores

I cannot believe that by the time the Newsletter is published we would have been in business for two years. The time has gone so quickly.

A massive thank you to all of the people who support us, I may be biased but it is such an important asset to the village and during these troubled times an even more vital lifeline for lots of people in the village.

We continue to try and source as many local products as we can, and we now have a bigger selection of the wonderful cards illustrated by the amazingly talented Fran Evans.

We now have a website, the address is Cleddaustores.co.uk

Take a look - it's under constant development and will be an easier way for us to communicate our range of goods, opening hours, special offers and any other news that we want to get across to our customers.

Dave Golding

Cleddau Stores & Post Office

Email: davidsavid17@gmail.com

Telephone: 01437 890128

Mobile: 07852 769 952

You can also access the Shop Website and other details via the village's own website, under the Amenities tab:

www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk

Currently our opening hours are as follows. I am constantly looking at our opening hours so that they can be adjusted to suit our customers' needs.

Shop

Monday 7.30am until 1pm

Tuesday 7.30am until 1pm

Wednesday 7.30am until 1pm

Thursday 7.30am until 1 pm 2 pm until 5.30 pm

Friday 7.30am until 1pm 2pm until 5.30 pm

Saturday 8am until 1pm

Sunday 8am until 11am

Post Office

9am until 1pm

9am until 1pm

9am until 1pm

9am until 1pm

9am until 1pm

9am until 11am

More great movies lined up for the Film Club@St. Jerome's

On Friday 18th September, the Film Club @ St. Jerome's will be entering its fourth season. Over the years, we have striven to present great classic movies of the last 90 years, whether produced in 1933 or 2013, we provide movies that have moved their audiences and are still well worth watching. In our most recent season we have screened Powell and Pressburger's 1946 classic "A Matter of Life and Death" and in April we'll be showing the 1988 film "Cinema Paradiso". Our aim is to introduce to you examples of great film making.

It costs just £12 to be a member and you will be offered 12 great films and among next season's selection will be "Lawrence Of Arabia" (1962) and "Proud Valley" (1940), featuring Paul Robeson who had to leave America having been accused of being a communist and who came to the Welsh valleys.

Membership forms are available at Llangwm's shop and at St. Jerome's Church. Annual membership runs from September 2020 until April 2021.

Pam Hunt

**We very much
regret that the
2020
Llangwm Literary Festival
has had to be cancelled in
the light of the ongoing
coronavirus
situation**



The rugby squad from Beernem, Flanders, were poised to come and do battle with Llangwm First XV on Easter Sunday...alas, no longer possible. With Beernem Rugby Club all of 5 years old and Llangwm established for well over 130 years it was to have been a David versus Goliath encounter. We send greetings to the Belgian club in advance of some future opportunity to meet up, in more optimistic times.

Llangwm Village Voices - the latest from the choir

You will be pleased to hear that this will be a shorter report than usual.

We said goodbye to the lovely Bill Hirst by singing Faure's *Le Cantique de Jean Racine* at his funeral...it is always a moving piece of music and far more so as we all miss him greatly.

To finish the year after a few hiccups we held our by-now-annual *Christmas Carols concert* interrupted by readings and a Joyce Grenfell type skit. As usual there was plenty of free food afterwards and a bucket collection was made for the Wales Air Ambulance.

And again as usual, we sang to the customers at the *Cleddau Reach School Christmas Fayre* and *Around the Christmas Tree* on the Village Green.

That's all. More to come in the new term included a major concert at *St Mary's in Pembroke* on 8 May (but this has cancelled due to the virus). We're currently rehearsing the whole of Vivaldi's *Gloria* and polishing up Mozart's

Coronation Mass, Herbert Howell's *Like as the Hart* and Sam's *Sanctus*. We were also to have been part of a massed choir concert in Haverfordwest on 10 May in a special celebration of VE Day 75 years on. Sadly also on hold.

To newcomers...this may all sound quite serious but we DO sing light stuff too. Come and join us, when coronavirus once more allows, on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. No auditions are held and MP3 recordings are available.

Fiona Cutting



In merrier times...Llangwm Village Voices in full dress rehearsal just before their Christmas extravaganza in the village hall - "A Not So Silent Night"

Wrong Direction - still going strong

After three successful concerts in the village over the winter months (the Rugby Club in November, St Jerome's in December and launching the popular series of Sunday lunchtime concerts in St Jerome's in January) "The Boys" were looking forward to some early summer performances at Tiers Cross URC chapel in May and the Village Hall during Llangwm Festival Fortnight (these have been postponed).

Until Covid-19 brought a halt to our Tuesday morning

rehearsals, Wrong Direction had been hard at it rehearsing a batch of new songs to refresh their repertoire. These were mostly sea shanties in addition to a few traditional folk songs, all arranged in three parts by WD's maestro, Neil Martin.

We are continuing to rehearse at home with our MP3s and Neil is taking us through our paces on-line with a digital music theory course - well, he said it would be fun!

We are all missing the banter, ribbing and the fun of singing together and look forward to getting back in harmony when life returns to normal. Let's hope it's not too long.

Graham Brace



The Christmas concert thoroughly entertained the full audience - and raised funds for "Give the Boys a Lift"

All ashore for Llangwm Longboat Rowing Club

This is normally the time of year when we invite newcomers to join us at Black Tar for rowing on the beautiful Cleddau estuary. At the moment it seems likely that the government will advise us to avoid participation in team sports.

The Rowing Club is following advice by the sports governing body but we hope this will be kept under review and look forward to a time when restrictions will be relaxed and we can get out once more. If and when this happens we will let people know through the Rowing Club Facebook page and the village Facebook page.

Peter Rose for LLRC



*Llangwm rowers enjoying the sunset on a calm evening at Hook Quay
Photograph: Agata Hall*

Gold Award at the Palace for Toby

Congratulations to Toby Asson on having achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. In order to achieve this Toby undertook voluntary work and completed a week long residential in the Brecon Beacons learning skills such as orienteering, mountaineering and cave exploration.

Two challenging expeditions followed. The first was a 50-mile trek in Scotland from Kinlochleven along the West Highland Way, down the 'Devil's Staircase', across Rannoch Moor before returning to the starting point. Toby reckoned that on the journey he came across plenty of wild deer, even a bagpiper, swarms of midges but no mythical haggis!

The second expedition took him from west to east across Wales from Borth on the Ceredigion coast to Anchor in Shropshire (54 miles) through rugged but spectacular scenery. The weather, typically Welsh, was not kind offering torrential rain on the second day. It's called character building!

A much drier Toby is shown in the picture alongside, taken at St James's Palace in London after being presented with his award by Prince Edward.



(written by Ben Asson)



Report from Llangwm Rugby Club



The Wasps season has continued with mixed results. While wins have been hard to come by, the team continues to develop under coaches Bruce Evans and Matthew (Snowy) John. It is fair to say the weather has been against all sport in Pembrokeshire this winter season but it is a credit to the players for staying committed and getting the games played when the conditions have allowed.

Following on from the close defeat in Neyland the Wasps welcomed Llanybydder to Pill Parks, it was the first time the sides had met in a number of years. A few soft tries cost the Wasps and the visitors went onto win 25-3, Llangwm's points coming from the boot of Louis Murphy.

Next up was the big one, St David's home. While this game is always a highlight of the season, it took on an extra special significance this year as a new trophy was on the line. In memory of club stalwart Johnny James, the trophy will be played for over the two games these sides play in the league season with the highest aggregate score claiming the trophy. As always with games against St David's there was very little between the sides. Tries to James Lewis, Yale Grice and Phil Llewellyn and 7 points from the boot of Luke Hayman ensured Llangwm took the win 22-10 and a 12 point lead into the second leg. A great night was enjoyed by all in the club afterwards with Scrivs and Porky on fine form with the mic in hand.

The side welcomed a strong Aberaeron team next up and at times held them well but Aberaeron were too clinical and ran out 31-0 winners. The following week the Wasps were away to St Clears in another tough match. The weather played its part on this day but conditions were still heavy under foot. A single try to second row John O'Boyle was all the Wasps could manage and they went down 46-5.

A trip to Cardigan the following week held much promise after beating them in the first game of the season. It was a game both sides struggled to get a grip of in very tough conditions but ultimately Cardigan were too strong on the day and went on to win 17-0. Another trip away to Laugharne was up next and the side struggled for numbers having had so many away games on the bounce. In what can only be described as a mud bath it was Laugharne who controlled the game well and went onto win comfortably 46-6, Llangwm's points coming from the

boot of Luke Hayman.

The annual Boxing Day clash was next which was held at Pill Parks this season. The game was played in heavy conditions to say the least and while Llangwm battled hard at times Haverfordwest were the much stronger side on the day and went onto win 38-0. An enjoyable evening was had in the club afterwards with players old and new from both clubs enjoying the atmosphere.

The New Year was welcomed with a trip over the bridge to play the Quins. The Christmas hangover was obvious on this day but with a bare 15 players the fixture was fulfilled and not surprisingly the Quins went on to win 43-0. A week later the Wasps welcomed Tregaron to Pill Parks in a game that had been targeted since the start of the season. An epic battle followed with neither side giving an inch. Unfortunately, the visitors got the win 7-3, Llangwm's points from the boot of Luke Hayman.

A trip away to table toppers Lampeter was always going to be a tough assignment and this proved the case. While the home side went on to win 32-0 the Wasps played some great rugby at times and certainly gained dominance in the scrum as the game went on, marching the Lampeter pack backwards at a rate of knots on numerous occasions!

The Six Nations was upon us and the players had a few weeks off to recover. The club welcomed great crowds to the first two games, enjoyed on the big screen. A special thank you to Sarah for the hotdogs at half time and the volunteers for giving up their time to help behind the bar.

The second leg of the Johnny James cup away to St Davids was next, in a game that held much hope of a rare win and the day did not disappoint. Llangwm went onto win 13-5. Tries to Daniel "Porky" Morgan and Jo Kiff led the way with Luke Hayman landing a penalty in very difficult conditions. A great night was enjoyed by all and I'm sure there were a few sore heads on the Sunday!

As things stood before coronavirus restrictions clamped down on all sports, the Wasps had 4 games left to play in the league and a friendly against a travelling Belgium side on Easter Sunday. Sadly these have had to be cancelled. The club would like to thank all who have sponsored this season, your continued support is vital in keeping this great club running.

James "Kiwi" Griffiths



Llangwm Cricket Club will soon start another season of cricket, with a 1st & 2nd XI playing this year. The 1st XI will compete in division 1 of the Pembroke County Cricket Club Cricket League, and the 2nd XI competing once again in division 3. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new committee members and players to the club. Here at Llangwm Cricket Club, we rely on people from around the village to support the club. Over the past years, we have seen numbers fall, both players and members. This also goes for the support received from around the village. We are calling out to all, the club is struggling and hopes that this year we can receive the support from the local committee to keep this long-running club going.

This year's first team captain is Mathew Kiff and the second team captain in Shaun Waller.

The club is also looking to put together an U9 and U11s team this year. If your child is looking to start cricket, or

maybe already plays and would like to try cricket in Llangwm, then please contact us via email. Training will be arranged closer to the season, we would like to get more numbers before deciding a day that suits all.

The grandstand is open every Saturday, with cold and hot drinks being served, and open till late. Each game on a Saturday starts at 1.30pm and normally finishes around 7pm.

Once again the club is looking for members to join, along with sponsors and match sponsors. If you would like to sponsor or become a member, please visit us on a Saturday, or drop us an email.

Club Membership – is available to players, supporters alike and the subscriptions received are an important lifeline to keeping the club going as village cricketing facilities do have a cost.

Club Membership Categories (annual)
Vice President £35 Club Member £25
Senior Player £25 Youth Player £5

Club Sponsorship Opportunities
(annually and Saturdays)
Advertisement Board & Fixture Book
Sponsor - £200 annual
Match Sponsor £25
Umpire Sponsor £15
Tea Sponsor £15
Match Ball Sponsor £10
Chicken Dinner Raffle £15
Club Ties £13

We look forward to the upcoming season and hopefully having great support from the community.

Email - jontwigg67@btinternet.com or
josephkiff@googlemail.com

Report by Joseph Kiff

Please Note: all fixtures and events are subject to postponement and/or cancellation in accordance with government guidelines for sport.



Bird Notes

Winter 2019/20

It has been a relatively uneventful winter as far as birdlife in and around the Pill is concerned. All the usual over-wintering species of waders, ducks and geese have been present in varying numbers at various times.

Waders have included redshank, greenshank, dunlin, black-tailed godwit, snipe, oystercatchers and curlew. There were occasional sightings of common sandpipers (not as common as their name suggests). Also, on 24 February, three knots were seen feeding along the tideline at Llangwm Ferry in the company of a large group of 53 blacktailed godwits. Although knots are present in the lower reaches of the waterway (Angle Bay and the Gann) it is very unusual for them to be seen this far upstream. Lapwings were ever present from mid-October until the end of February when they departed for their breeding grounds.



The knot - an unusual sighting on the upper reaches at Llangwm.

The ducks were represented by teal, mallard and shelduck with two dozen of the latter being present in December and January. Teal numbers peaked at around 40, their numbers appearing to decline over the last five years, before which it was not unusual to count well over 100 in the Pill.

Canada geese were also very much in evidence at various times, occasionally with a couple of greylags keeping them company. Great crested grebes and little grebes were regularly seen off the Cunnigar and Llangwm Ferry. Finally, little egrets stalked the gullies daily along with the occasional grey heron.

Our resident pair of mute swans have, of late, been seen resuming their fruitless attempts to build a nest on the spartina grass at Llangwm Ferry only to be swamped by the high tide. Will they never learn?

On 17 November a blackcap was observed in one of our apple trees and on 5 February the unmistakable call of the chiffchaff was heard in the garden. Both these warblers are usually spring/summer visitors but they are known to occasionally overwinter in areas where the weather conditions are less harsh.



Goldfinches are to be seen in abundance at the moment around garden feeders. Niger seeds seem to be their favourite food...whereas the tits prefer peanuts.

Not long ago at this time of year the raucous calls of rooks would reverberate around the village with the huge rookery down at the Mill and a thriving, smaller community at the Old Rectory. We once had a dozen nests in the ash trees around our garden. No longer, I'm afraid. These rookeries have ceased to be and the rook population seems to be in decline. Although I have not as yet read any firm scientific evidence, it has been suggested that the hugely successful re-introduction of the red kite may well have contributed to the rook's decline (as well as other species) as the young and eggs in the rookery are relatively easy pickings for these superb birds of prey...as they are to the growing population of master thieves and scavengers – the magpie.

Please keep me informed of any unusual or interesting sightings by email at grahambrace@btinternet.com or telephone 891580.

LLANGWM BOATING CLUB

Mooring holders will soon be receiving the renewal forms for the 2020 season. All fees need to be paid by the end of March otherwise mooring holders will have to re-apply. Due to increased charges from the Crown Estates this year's fee is £75 which includes membership of Llangwm Boating Club.

Anyone requiring a mooring should in the first instance email the Mooring Officer at llangwm.boat.club@gmail.com. Complaints have been raised concerning vessels being left in Guildford and Edwards Pills without proper ropes, security etc. LBC has no responsibility here but owners need to address these issues otherwise action could be taken by Port Authority, National Park, Crown Estates or local authorities.

Owen John

LLANGWM NEWS IS SPONSORED BY LLANGWM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Printed by Cleddau Press Ltd, Haverfordwest. Edited by Margaret Brace, email: m.brace@btinternet.com

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.