

# Llangwm Village News

Issue 52 Autumn/Winter 2020

## *In this issue...*

What we did in Lockdown

Filming and photography

Zoomtime

Llangwm plans for the future

Pot plants and poems

Photograph: "Rainbow" by Jenny Ambler

## Stuck in the Mud....and Making the Most of it

The last newsletter appeared just as we were forced into lockdown by the coronavirus epidemic. This newsletter appears just as we are once more going into a limited lockdown - a 'firebreak' - hoping to defeat the virus which has threatened our whole way of life.

Llangwm was not at all a bad place to be in lockdown this spring and summer, with the glorious May days and June sunshine in the gardens. We had country and shoreline walks galore, a village shop to cater for our needs - groceries, confectionery, newspapers, dairy products and fresh local produce - and willing volunteers who ventured to town for anything that was not to hand in the village. A huge thank you to all who helped.

It's times like these when we really appreciate all the facilities our village provides. Post Office, Shop, Pharmacy, Pub (when it re-opened of course). We even had a mini garden centre with the Plant Stall up at The Kilns! No one had to go short of anything. There has been some focus on

the role of a village shop on Facebook lately, and the role of its customers too. For those of you who do not follow Llangwm Facebook there's a repeat of Pam Hunt's posting later in this newsletter. Worth a few minutes' thought, and action, to support village businesses as much as possible, so that they are there when we need them.

Llangwm's church and chapels have been up against it - but necessity being the mother of invention Rev Marcus's sermons have been filmed, recorded and broadcast via St Jerome's website, thanks to a little homegrown technical expertise from Pam Hunt and Neil Martin.

This autumn is not quite so jolly for keeping ourselves to ourselves. The changeable weather has set in, and garden get-togethers are no longer possible in the chill wind. But we shall winter it out and hope that spring will see a return of the regular and special events which make Llangwm unique.

MB

## Stuck in the Mud....and Waiting for Rescue

There's no doubt about it, the river is a playful thing - until it plays you at your own game.

Several rescues have taken place, three this summer involving the lifeboat, to bring safely to shore people in small boats which have run aground on mudbanks. Easily done, so take care, take local advice and get to know the river well before venturing out on it.

Here is one such rescue - captured through the lens of Iolo Cutting.

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*Llangwm's tragic tale of Sam and Mary John, whose boat became trapped in mud, was drummed into every schoolchild for many years after it happened. The story was re-told recently, ninety years on, on Llangwm's website page "Bygone Days". Read this and many more old Llangwm tales on:*

[www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk/llangwm\\_bygonedays.html](http://www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk/llangwm_bygonedays.html)



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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.

## Hi-tech boost for Heritage Llangwm and Friends of St Jerome

Good news has been in rather short supply for all of us this year but for Heritage Llangwm/Friends of St Jerome when it finally came it contained the promise of an entirely new path to the future.

The group, which funded the restoration of the Medieval church of St Jerome five years ago, now supports the display of The Talking Tapestry of Langum in the church, which tells the story of the village's extraordinary history.

Because much of the original restoration cost came via a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund the group was eligible to apply for a new sum from that body.

And, up against formidable opposition, they got it.

The money - nearly £7,000 - will be used to buy a kit comprising six cameras and a vision mixer which can be used to stream live events or to make films which can be accessed remotely. Members of the group have in the past produced films about the restoration of the church and the locally-written opera marking the centenary of the First World War in 2014.

The group is now in the process of deciding what it will do with this new-found treasure trove. The purchases will make it possible to broadcast locally-produced events as they happen, or to film reports featuring a presenter/reporter, plus film, plus interviewees.

A small start has already been made using kit already in place to record church services with St Jerome's Rector the Rev Marcus Zipperlen for those who were unable to get out during lockdown. The services are already broadcast in audio only via the website ([www.heritagellangwm.org.uk](http://www.heritagellangwm.org.uk)) but there are plans to extend this.

For all budding film-makers, Pamela Hunt, who ran her own independent film company, will be holding training sessions. Get in touch too if you're bursting with ideas: [www.info@heritagellangwm.org.uk](mailto:www.info@heritagellangwm.org.uk).

So many thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund from Heritage Llangwm and of course to lottery players who make it all possible.

*Heather Payton*



*Tech expert Neil Martin showing one of the new cameras to budding cameramen Sonny and Malachi Zipperlen.*

## Scarecrows: the last farewell

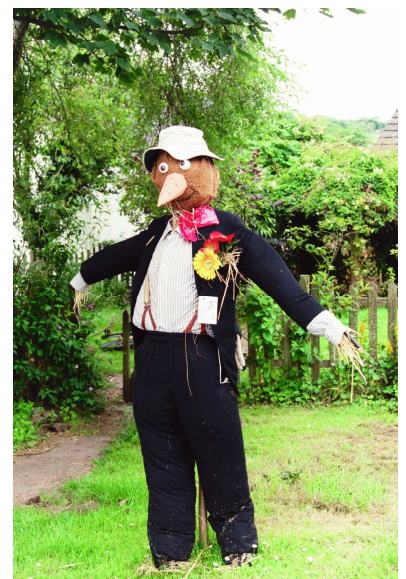
Scarecrows have been dwindling in popularity for a while - and this year they were phased out by the Festival Committee in favour of a Flower Power Festival (which understandably struggled a little with garden centres closed at a crucial time - see Winners Report elsewhere in the newsletter).

But a campaign was led by Keri Evans to make 'Key Workers' scarecrows - consequently a few doctors, nurses, binmen, postmen and colourful rainbows

popped up in unlikely places around the village. The effort raised a couple of hundred pounds for hospital charities.

Well done to them - and Goodbye, L l a n g w m Scarecrows!

You've given us lots of laughs over the years. Take a bow!



## NEWS FROM CLEDDAU STORES

### Special messages of thanks from Dave Golding

Here we are, another Newsletter and what a crazy time for all of us it has been since the last one. Cleddau Stores was at the forefront of the amazing effort made by the village to help out the community during lockdown. As well as delivering groceries, we also made daily visits to Nootts Pharmacy to collect prescriptions and delivered newspapers as far afield as Crundale, Haverfordwest, Burton, Port Lion, Hill Mountain, Rosemarket and of course Llangwm. We were also invited by Liz Rawlings to be a part of the community effort to provide support to any residents that needed it during lockdown, providing assistance to help collate the volunteer database.

So all in all it was a busy time not only supplying shopping to residents but also trying to source enough stock to keep the shop going. This provided its own challenge and resulted in me having to travel to Swansea to buy stock. It was very satisfying to see the shop so busy and even more satisfying to be able to provide a much needed service to the community.

Of course it wasn't just down to me, I wouldn't have been able to do it on my own. I want to thank Hannah, as well as working from home doing her day job she was also on hand to help out in the shop and pretty much collated all the orders and packed them ready for delivery. Matthew Evans was a saint going shopping for us pretty much every day, most of the time going to multiple shops to source what we needed for our customers. Thanks to Liz Beresford and Kim Sandford who took on new roles as paper girls delivering newspapers every day, thanks too to Sonny and Malachy Zipperlen for their paper delivering efforts. Thanks also to Konal for generally helping out in the shop and doing deliveries - and to Wales scrum half Gareth Davies who came with me to do some deliveries and brought some much needed joy to some of the residents of Llangwm - also for lending me his truck so that I could carry out deliveries.

When lockdown was over life in Cleddau Stores settled down a bit and I suppose for me it is a time of reflection - part of that for me is I have seen what potential Cleddau Stores has and the role it does play in village life. I can't thank all of the people who supported the shop during lockdown and who continue to support the shop: THANK YOU. Llangwm needs the Shop and the Post Office, Llangwm needs a Pub, we need our Rugby and Cricket teams, we need our Village Hall and our School, we need all of these things in our Community - these things alongside the other clubs and societies that run in the village are what make our village what it is, and I for one would not want to live anywhere else.

### Opening Hours

Shop		Post Office
Monday	7.30am - 1pm	9am - 1pm
Tuesday	7.30am - 1pm	9am - 1pm
Wednesday	7.30am - 1pm	9am - 1pm
Thursday	7.30am - 1pm <i>and</i> 2pm - 5.30pm	9am - 1pm
Friday	7.30am - 1pm <i>and</i> 2pm - 5.30pm	9am - 1pm
Saturday	8am - 1pm	9am - 11am
Sunday	9am - 11am	

It's time to talk Christmas...we are now taking orders for Turkeys and Turkey Breasts. Once again these will be supplied by Rob, Peter and Lydia Scale at Upper Haythog Farm. The poultry that they supply us with is of the highest quality, they also supply many local butchers and farm shops so we feel privileged that they are happy to supply us directly. Rob has told me that demand could be high this year so be sure to get your order in early. We are also in a position to supply you with all of your Christmas Meat and Poultry requirements, Chicken, Ham, Pork, Beef, Duck, Goose, Sausage Meat, Pigs in Blankets and Bacon. All of our meat is supplied by local butchers and is of the highest quality. We will also be supplying our veg boxes again this year so we take the strain out of your Christmas shopping. Let us do all the hard work for you and we will deliver to your door for free.

Once again we will be supplying Christmas Trees. We will have various sized trees but mostly 4-7 foot. If you require a slightly larger tree then please contact me straight away so that I can order it. And don't forget if you purchase a tree from Cleddau Stores you can enter our Annual Christmas Tree Competition.

### Christmas Opening Hours

	Shop	Post Office
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)	8am-2pm	9am-1pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day)	CLOSED	CLOSED
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December (Boxing Day)	CLOSED	CLOSED
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	9am-1 pm	9am-1pm
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	9am-1pm	9am-1pm
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> December (New Years Eve)	9am-1pm	9am-1pm
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January (New Years Day)	CLOSED	CLOSED
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	9am-11am	9am-11am
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	9am-11am	CLOSED

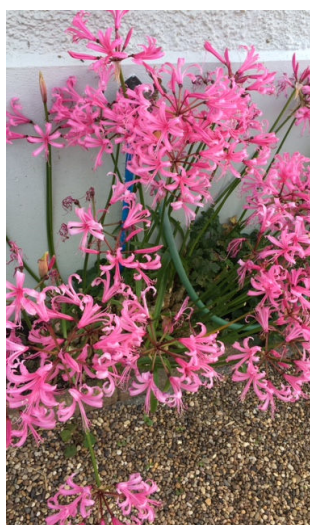
## A totally brilliant effort from the Plant Stall

Early in 2020, our 6th year of running The Kilns Plant Stall we discussed with Steve and Lynne Vincent Davies which charity we should support. Their suggestion was **Prostate Cymru Wales** which has an active local branch.

Unfortunately we then had to contend with Covid 19 and had to alter our selling procedure. Social distancing was a must but fairly easy as the stall is in the open air and our request for customers to post cash through the letter box worked well. Many customers were extremely generous and requested us to put any change towards the charity.

We worried about a reduction in through traffic but word of mouth was very effective and customers came from all the nearby villages with some from considerably further afield.

An abundance of plants came from Steve and Lynne whose green fingers had been very busy taking cuttings since the previous year. Herbaceous plants combined with vegetable plants proved very popular; in particular with nurseries closed we had many requests for tomato and courgette plants and operated a "Click and Collect"

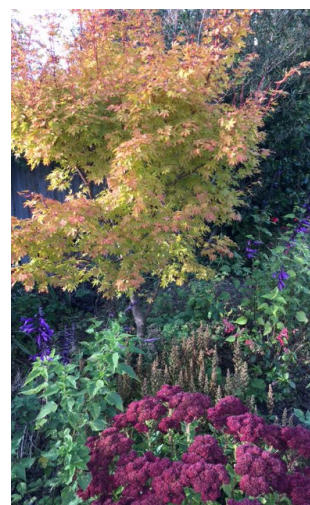


service from our garage – cash through the letterbox as usual - with many returning the plant pots which was marvellous.

Customers' excess plants were also kindly offered and gratefully received. The numerous azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons from Steve and Lynne sold like hot cakes and will surely give pleasure for many years to come. There has been a resurgence of interest in both vegetable gardening and for flowers and shrubs.

So an amazing donation of **£5000** was presented to Prostate Cymru Wales - a fantastic result which wouldn't have been possible without our loyal customers.

*Stuart and Liz Beresford*



*Presenting the £5,000 cheque to representatives of Prostate Cymru Wales are Stuart and Liz Beresford with Lynne and Stephen Vincent Davies (grouped centre) at the Plant Stall garden at The Kilns, Llangwm on Thursday 22 October.*

# Llangwm and District Gardening Club

Since lockdown took effect just after our last meeting in March the club members have been engaged in monthly garden photographic competitions and attending outdoor open garden events. Simon Richards of Lamphey Walled Garden held an Open Day through the National Garden Scheme and also recently an Autumn Plant Sale. It was good to see many members, even from a covid distance!

As indoor meeting restrictions continue we aim to keep members informed and connected by monthly emails and our own Facebook page.

Each month we have a theme for photographs to be entered, September's theme was FRUITFULNESS and as usual there were some wonderful entries. A guest judge is invited and Prosecco is awarded. It's been a fun way to involve all that wish to take part. As the year progresses with restrictions we'll probably have enough winning entries to make a calendar!

Autumn's task is seed collecting and plant dividing ready for a 'swop session' and if we're lucky with some dry bright days we may get a chance to meet up at a picnic!

If you're interested in joining the club please contact Karen Shepherd: [kashepherd1602@googlemail.com](mailto:kashepherd1602@googlemail.com)

*(right)  
A holiday  
trip to a  
stunning  
Scottish  
garden at  
Inverewe is  
shared with  
members.*



*(left)  
Amazing  
South African  
succulents in  
the dry garden  
in NW Scotland!*

## Llangwm Literary Festival 2020

### Children's Writing Competition

*by Penny Reed*

Sadly this year we weren't able to run the full festival for obvious reasons, but it was decided to press ahead with the Children's Writing Competition online. The children were asked to write a poem about Pembrokeshire based on the landscape, castles, history or its people or just about anything that was related to Pembrokeshire. Our young poets took this quite literally with almost 60 primary school age children submitting poems about topics ranging from tourists and tourism to their families, football and to lockdown. I must admit to finding the lockdown poems particularly powerful and moving.

I'd like to say a personal thank you to the teachers, parents and carers who put so much hard work into supporting the poets, and coping with getting all the poems to us by email. And of course to the children themselves for allowing their imaginations to run free and produce such pleasurable writings. As ever our grateful thanks to Victoria Bookshop for providing the prizes - let's hope the vouchers bought many happy hours of reading for the prize winners.

**First Prize** went to *Lucy Narbett*, Templeton School for her *Pembrokeshire and Puffins*

**Second Prize** went to *T J Edwards*, Milford Haven CP for *Lockdown in Pembrokeshire*.

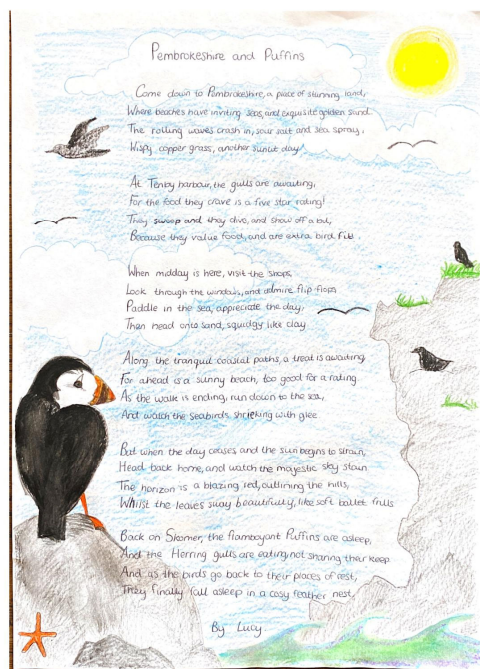
**Third Prize** went to *Ethan Hutchings*, Templeton School for his poem *My Pembrokeshire*.

*Reuben Stonhold* from Ysgol Gelli Aur was **Highly Commended** for his poem *Sir Penfro*.

Let's hope for the usual stimulating and pleasurable Literary Festival in 2021 and more high quality writings from the children who enter our competition.

*(The winning poem is printed on the opposite page)*

An attractive illustration of seabirds on the cliffs accompanied the winning poem in the Llangwm Literary Festival Children's Competition 2020, "Pembrokeshire and Puffins" by Lucy Narbett of Year 6, Templeton School.  
(Continued from column on previous page)



## Pembrokeshire and Puffins

Come down to Pembrokeshire, a place of stunning land,  
Where beaches have inviting seas, and exquisite golden sand.  
The rolling waves crash in, sour salt and sea spray,  
Wispy copper grass, another sunlit day.

At Tenby harbour, the gulls are awaiting,  
For the food they crave is a five star rating!  
They swoop and they dive, and show off a bit,  
Because they value food, and are extra bird fit!

When midday is here, visit the shops,  
Look through the windows, and admire flip-flops,  
Paddle in the sea, appreciate the day,  
Then head onto sand, squidgy like clay.

Along the tranquil coastal paths, a treat is awaiting,  
For ahead is a sunny beach, too good for a rating.  
As the walk is ending, run down to the sea,  
And watch the seabirds shrieking with glee.

But when the day ceases and the sun begins to strain,  
Head back home, and watch the majestic sky stain  
The horizon is a blazing red, outlining the hills,  
Whilst the leaves sway beautifully, like soft ballet frills.

Back on Skomer, the flamboyant Puffins are asleep,  
And the Herring gulls are eating, not sharing their keep.  
And as the birds go back to their places of rest,  
They finally fall asleep in a cosy feather nest.

## Llangwm Methodist Chapel

**Minister: Reverend Lorette Hinson**  
**Treasurer: Mrs Susan Davies**  
**Secretary: Mrs Jane Brock**

### Message from our Minister, Reverend Lorette Hinson:

"Who could have believed that the last time when life was 'normal' was way back in March and that it has taken until the autumn to return to worship in the Methodist Chapel just in time for Harvest, with Remembrance and Advent just around the corner.

"I look forward to opening the doors once again on Sunday although the chapel will look and feel very different, as the congregation will have to wear masks and sit apart from one another and not be able to sing.

However, being able to worship together even in this way is vitally important for us all, remembering that even when the doors have been shut, God is still with us."

### NEW TIME FOR SUNDAY SERVICES: 11am -11.30am

Sunday 11th October: Harvest: Rev Lorette Hinson  
Sunday 18th Oct: Holy Communion: Rev Lorette Hinson  
Sunday 1st Nov: Holy Communion: Rev D. Murfin  
Sunday 8th Nov: Remembrance: Rev D Hawkes  
Sunday 22nd Nov: Morning Worship: Mr G Rich

### Further dates to be confirmed.

We wish to inform you that we have, and will continue, to follow all COVID rules to allow our services to be held safely with our chapel.

A very warm and safe welcome is extended to all who wish to join us for our Sunday services.

(Many thanks to Jane Brock for preparing this report)



## Scouts 1st Johnston

Like everyone, 2020 has been a very different year and not one that we could have planned for. Our last face-2-face meeting way back in March seems such a long time ago, but we have adapted and have continued to offer activities to our young members online. It has been a huge learning curve for Leaders as well, adapting activities to suit the new arrangements, but we have been as busy as ever even if we haven't met in person for some time.

Each of our Sections has a weekly Zoom meeting with a whole host of activities that include demonstrations, speakers, cook alongs and scavenger hunts. Our members have Hiked to the Moon and Back, taken part in our own virtual camp, joined other Groups from across the County at Pembrokeshire Online Camp, and some have joined online Scout experiences with others from across the globe. Our members have continued to earn lots of badges and awards, including the newly created Great Indoors Award and Pembrokeshire's very own Scout at Home badge.

We are in the final stages of preparing for a partial return to face-2-face meetings, ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect all our volunteers and members. The planning has been more difficult with restrictions on numbers with the Group being the largest in the Area, but with a great leadership team in place we are confident that we can overcome the challenges in the near future.

The Coronavirus pandemic has also had a direct impact on our traditional fundraising activities, but the Group have been fortunate to receive a number of grant awards that will help with new equipment. We were selected as one of the winners of the Calor Rural Community Fund, scooping £1,000, and through that process also received over £950 of public donations. More recently we were successful in obtaining an award from the Supporting Community Action Fund operated by PAVS and funded through Comic Relief. This funding will ensure that we have a safe outdoor venue to meet, especially during the winter months, along with equipment that will enable us to offer our hall for hire to third parties.

Despite the Group not meeting face-2-face we continue to have overheads and we are extremely grateful to our supportive parents and guardians and all those who supported our Crowdfunder and helped us through to the final.

Our joining and waiting lists are open for anybody aged 6 to 14 who may be interested in finding out more about what we get up to. We appreciate that Zoom isn't for everybody and waiting list places will be held open for anyone wanting to wait for our return to face-2-face.

As always we are on the look out for more adult volunteers, and with flexible volunteering there are many ways that you could help us. Whether it is teaching a new skill, talking about your job, helping to earn a specific badge, or something behind the scenes such as looking after our social media, supporting our fundraisers, or general odd jobs around the Hall, we would be delighted to hear from you. In particular we are looking for a new Group Chair and Group Secretary, and more information can be found below. If you are looking for a new challenge, what better time than now to help develop our young people and provide them with #Skills4Life.



### Chairperson

**This could be your best decision yet.**

Scouting relies on strong leadership. So if you can motivate others, keep a cool head and balance a variety of views then you would be an ideal chairperson for 1st Johnston Scouts. With experience of steering meetings to produce excellent decisions, you'll be equally willing to speak your mind as encouraging others to express their views.

You will use your strong communication skills to help a team of committed adult volunteers who make up the Executive Committee arrive at a good decision that will benefit young people. Able to work as part of a team, you will also contribute to the direction and development of the Group.

No previous experience of Scouting is necessary. What's more important is your own skills and experience as well as empathy with our mission and values. We will provide all appropriate training and ongoing support.

### Help keep us in line - join us as Group Secretary

Are you a natural organiser? Do you know what's happening, not just next week, but next month and year too? Is your electronic diary always perfectly in synch? If this sounds like you, then we'd love you to consider supporting us as Group Secretary.

A great communicator, team player and problem solver, you'll be as good a listener as you are at taking accurate minutes and reminding us of our rules.

We're only able to help young people step up, play their part and gain great skills when our groups are well managed and run. A Group Secretary is absolutely essential to this, which is why, as one of our trustees, you will be responsible, supportive and have our best interest at heart at all times. In return you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you're helping us prepare so many more young people for the future.

# A village record for all time

## Llangwm Local History Society (LLHS) and the Archiving Project

In 2018 LLHS took the lead in a new and innovative project to digitally archive all the research reports, photographs and documents in their collection. This project included four other history groups, and the Five Communities Group was born. This included Coastlands, Hook, Pembroke & Monkton and Penally History Societies. Money to support this project called 'Sharing Local History' was granted from the EU Leader project and the Heritage Lottery.

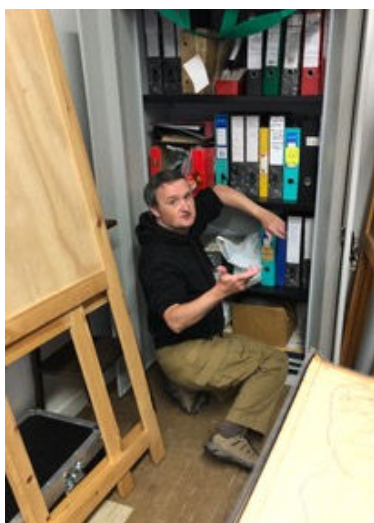
It enabled the project to fund 2 project officers for a period of 2 years to digitally archive a considerable amount of the material in all 5 collections which will be shared digitally over the next few months on the Peoples' Collection Wales website, a second website Echoes, and the Llangwm

website. This will help students, researchers and family historians around the globe to share in these collections of fascinating local stories and heritage.

This project has created great interest both locally and nationally as it was showcased at an international Digital Conference held in February 2020 at Aberystwyth University. As it has been so successful, it is hoped that funding will be acquired to enable the project to extend its support and scope to other history/heritage groups in Pembrokeshire and beyond.

*(The photographs show the project officers David Llewelyn and Angela Jones sorting through Llangwm's collection in the Village Hall.)*

*Report by Liz Rawlings*



## Llangwm 150 years ago

### **Nikki Bosworth once more delves into the Pembrokeshire Archive to tell an interesting Llangwm tale**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1870, the 'Pembrokeshire Herald' newspaper reported that William Palmer of Llangwm had been fined 5 shillings for neglecting to have his child vaccinated against smallpox.

Smallpox was an airborne disease that had a death rate of up to 35% and survivors often had extensive scarring of their skin. A serious epidemic was circulating in the UK during 1870-1872. Under the 1853 Vaccination Act, it was compulsory for infants to be vaccinated in the first 3 months of their life. Vaccination was provided by a doctor employed by the local Poor Law Guardians and a certificate was issued to the parents. The smallpox vaccine was the first vaccine to be developed against a contagious disease.

William Palmer had married Mary John at Llangwm church

in 1852 and, by 1870, were the parents of at least 8 children. The youngest was Anne, baptised at Llangwm church in 1870 and, sadly, buried there in April 1871. So this was, presumably, the child he neglected to have vaccinated.

Without access to Anne's death certificate, it is not possible to know the cause of death but infant mortality was high in the 19th century. Was Anne's poor health the reason for non-vaccination? On the 1861 census, William was employed as an Able Seaman on board HMS Asp, a paddle steamer described as a 'surveying vessel', moored off Pembroke Dockyard. At other times, he earned a living as a fisherman. Perhaps William was away from home at the relevant time.

In 1870, 5 shillings was the amount that a working man might expect to earn in 1 day and non-payment of a fine could lead to imprisonment. In 2020, 5 shillings would be approximately equivalent to £15.

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*Information available online at [newspapers.library.wales](http://newspapers.library.wales), [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk), [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) and other websites.*



## Tirion's Rainbow

### Plans continue through lockdown

The arrival and spread of Covid 19 has meant that 2020 has been a challenging and worrying year for many, and that our fundraising efforts have had to go on hold. However, as we enter Autumn and the children have returned to school, things are starting to feel a little more settled and easier, as we are able to reconnect and see each other, all be it from a safe 2 meter distance.

Having not been to the bank since lockdown started in March, I have recently counted lots of money that had been raised via our donation boxes, from fundraisers' held by friends over the Christmas period, and a very kind collection made by the Cleddau Reach School leavers of 2020. Despite us not running any fundraisers throughout this period I was surprised to find that the donations totalled £500. We would like to thank everyone who has, and who continues to support Tirion's Rainbow, and to also wish the Cleddau Reach School leavers all the very best in their transition to secondary school.

Our focus now will be on applying for a lottery grant, which we hope will complete our fundraising efforts, and allow the plans for the park improvements to start. We would love for the park to be completed in time for the children of Llangwm, and our surrounding villages, to enjoy by summer 2021. The play space is now looking very tired, with much of the

fencing down, so it really does need some investing in now.

We have included pictures of our plans drawn up by Shani Lawrence (Landscape Architect) and the play equipment plans designed by Wicksteed, to remind everyone of the amazing space we are looking to create in this little corner of Pill Parks. We have missed being able to organise any of our usual fundraisers, that always bring people together in the most positive of ways, and often involve copious amounts of cake. We hope that we will be able to connect with the community in this way again in the not too distant future.



*With much love from  
Mike, Beth and the wonderful  
Tirion's Rainbow Committee xx*



## Tirion's Rainbow

A look at possible play equipment for the playground



(continued from previous page)



Embankment Slide, Stepping Stones, Cableway and Roundabout



NB The newsletter will be posted on the website in colour soon - be sure to check it out there

## Llangwm Community Council (LCC) Autumn Report

Parking in the Village. LCC met with Pembrokeshire County Council to discuss issues of safety due to inconsiderate parking at Holloway Hill. As a result, yellow lines have been placed to avoid any possible incidents and loss of access in this area.

Parking sensibly throughout the Village would be a great help in alleviating some issues raised by residents.

Following a complaint from a resident regarding parking at Gail Rise, Dyfed Powys Police visited and responded accordingly.

The Community Council are looking at several ideas to resolve what is, a growing problem. If you have any ideas of how to alleviate the ongoing issue of lack of parking in the Village please let us know.

Our thanks to the Rugby Club and Cricket Club for taking good care of Pill Parks and the high standard of maintenance.

In our previous Newsletter Report we omitted to acknowledge the annual contribution made by the Llangwm Boating Club towards the upkeep of Black Tar toilets. We apologise for this and send our grateful thanks to the Boating Club for their continuing support. Your donation towards the maintenance of the Black Tar facility is gratefully appreciated. Thank you very much.

All Community Council monthly meetings are being conducted via Zoom. At the September meeting five residents attended as observers in the "virtual meeting". Please contact the Clerk for details on how to take part.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Dave

## Remembrance Sunday Service Armistice Day 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020



Due to the Covid19 lockdown the service will not be as we would all like. The Service will be taken at 10.00am by the Reverend Zipperlen. Representation from both the Baptist and Methodist congregation will be attendance. Members from the Community Council will lay a wreath and prayers will be read.

**\* We respectfully request that residents undertake their commemorations, in their own time during the day trying to avoid a large gathering in line with Welsh Government Guidelines. The Last Post will be played via a tape and it is hoped that the event may be streamed live, dependent on weather restrictions, for those unable to attend the service.**

Golding for taking special care of residents of Llangwm Village. He has gone over and above his duty.

The re-opening of the Cottage Inn has also been a boon to the Village. Our thanks for all the extra work involved in keeping local business open during the Covid19 pandemic.

If you have any concerns or have ideas of how we can help with village matters please contact the Community Council please email the Clerk [llangwmclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:llangwmclerk@btinternet.com) ring 01646 601655 or text 07866 958795.

We wish everyone well during the lockdown period and if you require any help or support, or know of anyone else requiring support, please let us know. There are details on the Llangwm Village Website, but for those of you not on line please call us.

**Wellbeing of all is important – stay safe.**

(see also Report on Results of Special Newsletter on page 14)

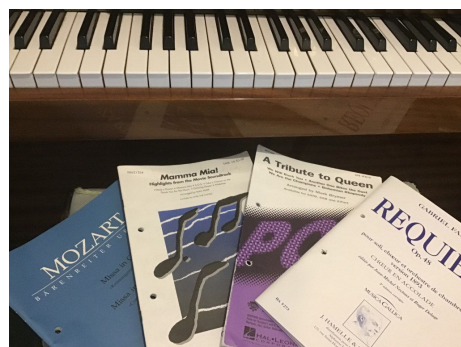
## Village Voices - latest capers

Well who knows what the future holds? Singing was one of the things we must NOT do they said, but this was proved to be wrong. We had regular Zoom meetings with a bit of singing, a bit of quizzing and a bit of chat. And twice we sat outside the village hall on the grass (took our own chairs), umbrellas at the ready and it wasn't bad on the whole - so lovely to socialise and sing together albeit 2 metres apart.

Sam has plenty of plans for us including an open air concert at Christmas, but without rehearsal?...So we will see what happens and in the meantime, if anyone knows of a big barn or shed we could use for practice, well that would be good.

But fantastic news, Sam Howley has won an international composing competition for Ada Witczyk to play his music on Baroque violin and harpsichord. Congratulations Sam!

If and when things get back to normal we too will be back to normal every Thursday at 7.30 in the village hall. Everyone will be very welcome. We will keep you posted.



*(Thanks, Fiona Cutting, for report and photograph)*

## Llangwm School (as I remember it)

For me, it was a two minute walk from my home at 2, The Gail to this first centre of learning.

When I started it was made up of a solid Victorian building, two playgrounds (one for boys and one for girls separated by a substantial wall), outside toilets and a stone built shed used for storage. The main building itself was divided into three classrooms -infants, middle years and juniors. Two of the rooms were separated by a wooden/glass partition today given the fancy title, bi-folding doors! If a bigger space was required, e.g. for concerts or election meetings (very lively affairs) then the partition would be folded back, a hairy operation at the best of times. The middle room was heated by a large coal-fired stove which literally turned red hot when on full power and around which we congregated on cold days. In pre-health and safety days there was no guard but mercifully no serious accidents. The one other room, off the central classroom, was the canteen. Dinners arrived at midday in large metal, well-sealed containers.

It wasn't until later that the school field was purchased. This exciting addition meant that a wider range of games on a friendlier surface could be played - rounders, cricket, etc.

The school was not large in terms of pupil numbers, dwindling to under 30 at the school's centenary in 1970 when the then Director of Education, Wynford Davies, used the occasion to prepare us for the probability of closure. Fortunately, that didn't happen and as the village slowly grew so did the numbers.

Teachers who came to the school tended to stay. The head teacher for many years was Tommy Harries who lived in Burton and arrived at school on his quite aged motorbike which he propped up against the wall in the 'drang' at the side of the school. On windy days it was often blown over.

He was by common consent 'old school': serious, austere somewhat forbidding to young, impressionable pupils. He ran a tight ship and was not averse to using the cane. As was the case then, he was the head and parents accepted his position and authority. He was an able man with a passion for mathematics which he spent most of his time teaching. However, he had a broad knowledge and was the first to introduce me to Shakespeare without my even knowing it, giving us his version of 'The Merchant of Venice'.

Other teachers during my time were Mair Bowen and Ashley Davies. The former taught the infants and was a kind, reassuring presence who treated us as if we were her own children. Ashley Davies was like a breath of fresh air in the school. Professional, business-like and kind, he plugged many of the gaps in our education. Many hoped that when 'Tommy' Harries retired that he would become the head teacher. However, the Education Authority had other ideas and he later moved back to Lamphey to become head there. Whist lodging in the village near the Methodist chapel he played an active part in village life and was master of the then village choir.

No school can properly function without a caretaker and cleaner. Those duties fell to my grandmother, Maggie Ann Jones and later to my mother, Doreen Childs. Both were conscientious to a fault, were proud of the school and got on exceptionally well with the head teachers and teachers with whom they worked over a long period of time. In fact, our family's connection with the school as pupils, workers at the school, member of the governing body stretches back well over a hundred years.

I'm sure that all who attended Llangwm school will have their own memories of the school at the Gail which started them off on their progress through life. It is to be hoped that that historical monument will survive in some form if and when development takes place on the site.

Much more could be written but, unfortunately, space does not permit.

*Barry Childs*

## ST. JEROME'S NEWS



Well hello everyone, it seems such a long time ago that I wrote a

little catch-up piece for the Llangwm Newsletter? I closed last time with the looming possibility of us entering self-isolation due to the COVID-19 virus! I don't think any of us thought lockdown would last as long as it did?

Just as we have started to regain a "new normal" way of life; with children finally being able to go back to school. Church services are being held, albeit in a different way, wearing of masks, socially distanced and sadly no singing of hymns! We still find ourselves worrying about the real possibilities of local lockdowns happening, as this virus seems to be showing no signs of dying out soon.

An enormous thank you goes out to all our hard-working NHS staff, Frontline Workers and Key Workers, who worked tirelessly throughout the height of the pandemic nursing, caring and keeping everyone safe and continuing to do so. Also, close to home in the village, a big thank you to Dave and his family, who provided a selfless service delivering food and medicines to those who were shielding or unable to get out to the shops.

It seems everytime I write for the Newsletter we have been battered by a storm; the latest being Storm Alex! Let's once again hope the weather starts to calm down soon as we have now entered the beautiful season of Autumn. May the beautiful colours that this season brings, lifts our spirits with the never-ending hope of better safer times to come. It just remains to say stay safe everyone.

\*\*\*\*\*

Remember to check the Church noticeboard for events, etc.

**(REMINDER:- Clocks go back one hour for BST at 2am on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October.)**

## A message from Rev Marcus:

*Dear Friends in Llangwm,*

*It's been heartening this last month to see children returning to school and our churches cautiously opening their doors after so long sitting empty. Taking an 'assembly' face to face with a class has been a real pleasure, as has meeting people in church on Sundays, after so long communicating almost entirely over the internet.*

*Nonetheless we are still far from being back to normal, and so both ways of meeting, face to face and on-line, will be very much part of church life for the foreseeable future. To avoid risking any spread of infection I'm not allowed to zip around all three churches on a Sunday (Llangwm, Johnston and Freystrop) but will go to each in turn. So one Sunday in three we will be in St Jeromes at 10am, and you will find a timetable on the church notice board. Because we have to keep two metres apart seats are limited so you will need to book a place (which you are very welcome to do). Do give me a ring on 01437 899548.*

*In addition to Sundays we also hold a service of morning prayer every Wednesday at 9.30am using 'Zoom', which you can either join on computer, or by phoning in. You are very welcome to join at any time, and there is no obligation to do anything more than just listen-in. If you'd like to take part do drop me a line by email (marcuszipperlen@cinw.org.uk) and I can send you all the information you need. It's very simple. And if you'd like to be on our Parish email list and receive occasional updates on what's going on when and where, do let me know and I can add you on.*

*I hope to see some of you in person or on-line sometime soon.*

*With kind regards,*

*Rev Marcus*

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Reverend Marcus and all at St. Jerome's Church would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and New Year in 2021. Let's hope 2021 is a lot better than 2020 and pray that during these still uncertain and worrying times we all stay safe and healthy. God Bless.

*Debbi Lawson-Earley*

## Greetings and Thanks (to and) from the Cottage Inn

Matthew and his team were, like everyone, up against it during the early summer months of lockdown.

In place of opening and running the village pub, Matthew busied himself doing much of the village's 'extra' shopping in town! As part of the team of volunteers in the village, a 'conveyor belt' system operated via the village shop - with no grocery order being too much for Matthew as he nipped around the

supermarkets in town, and delivered the 'out of the ordinary' groceries to people's houses in the village.

This second lockdown is another blow to the pub's usual brisk trade, and leaves everyone in limbo. Hopefully it will be a short sharp 'firebreak' and normal pub service can be resumed as soon as possible.

***Meantime Matthew would like to thank all the customers who have supported him since the pub re-opened in July. He sends good wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy Normal New Year!***

## Results from the Special Llangwm Newsletter

### Llangwm Community Council (LCC)

Thank you to all residents who voted on the three options for a new Village Hall and to those who sent their opinions and ideas. Your participation in this first stage of Llangwm Community Council's Public Consultation is greatly appreciated.

Residents have made it very clear that they are deeply interested in the Village Hall Project and we have received a great amount of ideas, questions, suggestions and criticism which we fully accept.

Time given to vote, the nature of the voting system questioned and the lack of information available to allow residents to make an informed choice. We accept the failing that all residents should have been given the opportunity to vote, not one vote per household and the lack of certain information.

With regard to the time line, LCC have been advised by the Village Hall Committee that they require an LCC decision on the three options as soon as possible, due to the current state of the Village Hall building. Copies of the interim surveyor's report are available on the Llangwm Village Website along with other supporting information provided by the Village Hall Committee. In order to facilitate the request from the Village Hall, LCC made the decision to send out as a Special Newsletter with the three agreed options, (for further information see June and July 2020 minutes, available on the Llangwm Village Website.) Llangwm Community Council is fully supportive of the Village Hall Committee and without their tireless voluntary work the Village Hall would not be the well used and popular venue for example the Literary Festival. However, this project must be supported by residents and their views counted and accommodated. In undertaking our duty to carefully scrutinise plans which will have a lasting impact on Pill Parks the Community Council has always sought to be constructive and to have the best interests of our village uppermost in our minds.

The Tirion's Rainbow Play Park Project will not be affected by a new village hall, and this will be of paramount importance when a final decision is made.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020, a meeting of Pill Parks Users was held by LCC with representatives from Tirion's Rainbow, Village Hall Committee and the Rugby Club. The Cricket Club were invited but sent their apologies.

Several issues were raised by Tirion's Rainbow who subsequently sent a letter of complaint to LCC,

- a) regarding the possible ingress of Option 3 into Pill Parks being too much and that this option would result in the loss of green space.
- b) lack of communication from the Village Hall Committee.
- c) the land swap with an area at Black Tar is not like for like. The option 3 would also, they believe have a detrimental impact on the Tirion's Rainbow Play Park Project.
- d) lack of time given for residents to make a choice.
- e) lack of information

Llangwm Community Council apologised for any upset caused to Tirion's Rainbow during this part of the Public Consultation and will ensure that every effort will be made to ensure this is not repeated.

Following October's Llangwm Community Council Meeting, (which finished after 10.30pm!) with representation from Tirion's Rainbow and the Village Hall Committee it was agreed that all parties need to step back and take time to evaluate the findings from the Special Newsletter. The LCC Chair asked all parties to come back to the Community Council with their ideas and suggestions for a positive way forward by the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

Llangwm Community Council will improve the next stage of the Public Consultation and ensure that every avenue is used to be inclusive, transparent and give all residents the opportunity to be a part of the new Village Hall Project.

The following are some of the comments received by residents: -

- \* Too short a time frame to vote
- \* One vote per household not acceptable, all residents to be able to vote
- \* Voting but not enough information.
- \* Not voting as not having enough information.
- \* What is the Fields In Trust?
- \* Could the Old School Building be used?
- \* Not voting due the possible impact on Tirion's Rainbow
- \* Parking, disabled parking and access issues.
- \* Given the current situation a Zoom Community Engagement Event would possibly cover a middle ground and give all interested parties the opportunity to dispel any concerns or conflicts.

"I seriously believe this project should be put on hold until a proper village meeting can be held. There are many issues that need to be fully ventilated and cannot be dealt with adequately in one to one meetings or online."

All the above are being considered and all questions addressed individually, it is hoped by the time you receive this newsletter that all of you would have been responded to. If not let us know, [llangwmclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:llangwmclerk@btinternet.com)

The current resident opinions are as follows: -

**Option 1 = 8   Option 2 = 36   Option 3 = 40**

Many letters and emails expressed concerns as listed above and many of you requiring an extension to the Public Consultation. Due to the amount of genuine and understandable concerns raised no decision has been reached. We will use the feedback to construct an improved and more detailed dialogue with Llangwm residents and extend the Public Consultation to ensure we have met the needs and requirements of all Llangwm residents.

Thank you, without you and your input we would not be able to make the right choices for Llangwm Village.

## Words and a little bit of Music

### Review of recent books

In the last edition of the Newsletter I made mention of Hilary Mantel's **'The Mirror and the Light'** which was then about to be published. Well, when it did arrive on the book shelves it certainly didn't disappoint. It's a brilliant recreation of the last few years of Thomas Cromwell's life before his beheading upon the orders of Henry VIII. The quality of the research and meticulous attention to detail are outstanding. It's not a book to be read quickly but lockdown offered the opportunity to do it justice. Very surprisingly it wasn't shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

Speaking of lockdown, the experience we have had and continue to have with covid, very unpleasant though it is, is nothing new. There have been many occasions throughout history of epidemics one of the most famous of which was the Black Death of 1665 which re-emerged in 1721 and threatened the whole of Europe. **Daniel Defoe**, famous as the author of 'Robinson Crusoe', in order to alert people to its great danger wrote **'Journal of the Plague Year'**. This is a graphic account of the terrible impact that the Plague had on London and its inhabitants. The book echoes across 300 years to the situation we now find ourselves in.

Moving on to something more uplifting, **'The Salt Path'** by **Raynor Winn** (her first book) is the true story of a

couple who lose everything but undertake a 630-mile trek on the West Coast Path from Minehead to Poole, living off very little. Given the financial and health problems described, the book is a testament to impressive endurance, optimism and courage.

Anyone who has had anything to do with publishers will know that patience is not one of their virtues. However, patient they had to be with **Markus Zusak**, given that **'Bridge of Clay'** took ten years to hit the press. The wait was worth it. It's the story of a remarkable family told in a challenging way always keeping the readers on their toes. There is an impressive list of memorable characters but for me the mother, Penelope Lesciuszko, a Polish immigrant to Australia, stands out.

If you like autobiography then **'The Unexpected Professor'** by **John Carey** is worth a read as is his excellent **'A Little History of Poetry'** which goes right back to beginnings in Anglo Saxon times and takes the reader through to the present day.

Reference has been made above to the uncertain times in which we live. When reading **'Bridge of Clay'** **Woody Guthrie's** great song **'Deportees'** often came to mind. The song has been covered by amongst others The Highwaymen, Paddy Reilly, Bruce Springsteen and Nancy Griffith. Certainly worth a few minutes of anybody's time.

Finally, if you want to learn/brush up your Welsh Duolingo is an excellent programme of lessons and the app is free!

*Barry Childs*

## 'Flower Power' Competition Results

As you know **Cleddau Stores** in conjunction with **Llangwm Festival Committee** sponsored a **Flower Competition**.

There were three categories for residents to enter, **Tallest Sunflower**, **Best Front Garden** and **Best Hanging Basket/Window Box**.

Unfortunately the competition didn't seem to capture people's imagination with very few entries in all categories, coupled with the fact that trying to get somebody independent to judge it proved difficult because of the restrictions.

The **Sunflower Competition** proved the most popular and the easiest to judge, the winner being the tallest. It was won by **Lucy Nash** of Mill Street. Well done Lucy, 'Da Iawn'. If you call into Cleddau Stores you can collect your prize.

It was decided that because there were only limited entries for the other categories and the difficulty in judging we would share the prize money

between all the entrants. So if you entered your Front Garden, or Hanging Basket/Window Box your prize is waiting for you at Cleddau Stores. Thank you to everyone who took the time to enter. We will be running it again next year.

## Christmas Tree Competition

We will be running our **Best Dressed Christmas Tree competition** again this year.

It will be running in a slightly different format this time. To enter you have to purchase a **Christmas Tree** from **Cleddau Stores**, once you have decorated your tree and you want to enter just send a photograph to **cleddaustoresandpostoffice@gmail.com**

A panel will select the top ten trees and these will be posted on Cleddau Stores Facebook Page for everyone to vote on. The winner will receive a **£25 voucher** to spend in **Cleddau Stores**.

# Check out the Llangwm Village Website

## [www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk](http://www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk)

Llangwm Village Website, supported by Llangwm Community Council, was relaunched three years ago and, since then, has been providing residents and visitors alike with information about the village and everything it has to offer. The website continues to expand and regularly receives over 200 hits per month.

In the past six months three new pages have been added to the site:

- \* **Llangwm Community Support Group** was set up to assist residents who may be experiencing difficulties as a result of restrictions put in place as a consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic. Though restrictions have now been eased considerably it has been recognised that they could be reapplied at some point in the future if necessary so, with this in mind, the LCSG page has been retained so that information about the group, and what support they can offer, **can** be accessed at a future date if need be.
- \* In the Spring of this year a new **Bygone Days** page was added to the site. This page contains articles by Llangwm historians, both past and present, on a range of people and events from Llangwm's varied history.
- \* A more recent addition has been the **Our New Village Hall** page, the purpose of which is to keep residents up to date with the ongoing project to provide the village with a new eco-friendly village hall.

Amongst the other information on the site, you will find:

- \* The **Llangwm Community Council** pages, which include a directory of current councillors, as well as minutes and agendas for council meetings from 2013 to date.
- \* The **What's On** page has understandably not had any updates recently, but this is where one would usually find listings for the wide range of events that would normally take place in the village. Maybe next year!
- \* Llangwm's artistic community is represented on the **Arts and Crafts** page, containing artists, photographers and craftsmen.
- \* Llangwm's choirs and details of concerts are to be found on the **Music** page.
- \* The **Accommodation** page has proved popular of late, as the rush for holiday accommodation got underway after lockdown restrictions were lifted.
- \* The **Amenities** section contains information about the shop and pub, health services, and the village hall. Also to be found under this section are pages on *Public Transport* and *Library* services – which are currently being updated as and when applicable according to revised guidelines.
- \* The site also hosts the online colour edition of **Llangwm Village News**.

The Llangwm Village Website is a community website, relying on submissions from the people of Llangwm. Could the website be of use to you? Do you have a trade, business or accommodation within the village that you would like listed? Are you a member of a club or society that you think might benefit from a presence on the website? Do you need to update your society or team page that already exists on the website?

Please send any submissions to [webeditor@llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk](mailto:webeditor@llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk)

## Llangwm Village Hall - Building the Future

**Life in Llangwm has been quite bizarre without all the activities and events usually held in the village hall.** For example since March and lockdown there have been no Gardening Club, History Society meetings; Village Voices, Ta'i Chi or Happy Hedgehogs. Also no fundraising activities - Night Out performances, lunches, jumble sales, coffee mornings. Alas no cream teas with fantastic cakes from the church ladies, comedy nights or entertainment from the Festival Committee or Literary Festival. And no parties - children or otherwise.

**So what next?** The committee managed to acquire a grant to buy some **specialist equipment** and are in the process of carrying out a **COVID deep clean** using the newly acquired steamer and fogging machine. Once we have the go ahead, the 'library' will be open throughout the winter for book lovers. Any spare books that you might have can be donated and stored for 72 hours before appearing on the shelves. Books cost 50p and this money will go to help to pay on-going costs for the hall. Yoga classes and Ta'i Chi will hopefully soon be allowed to restart together with a band practice. With current social distancing regulations only 16 people can meet together in the hall, but it is hoped that there will be the opportunity for other small groups to meet up in the future.

**News of the re-building project.** Over the last couple of years the committee has worked tirelessly to keep the hall open, though the 3 recent surveys carried out - asbestos, electrical and structural - have demonstrated the need for providing a new hall to replace this one which has served the community well for nearly 50 years. A few years prior to the surveys, we were faced with the 'appearance' of a Covenant which was placed on the land in the 1950s and we thought at one point that our building was potentially illegal. This thankfully was not the case, but it took a year of research to prove it. Then of course we all have had to face up to COVID and all the restrictions and delays that this has brought. But now we feel we are almost at the brink of being able to apply for funding, so watch this space! The hall will continue to function while we go through the process and we will continue to consult with people in the village as with the information leaflet and the four Question and Answer sessions we held in August.

Obviously there is never any guarantee when applying to funding bodies, but we will do our utmost to get funding for the very best eco-friendly hall for the village. As soon as we have news, we will let you know. In the meantime, many thanks for all your support.

*Llangwm Village Hall Committee*

## Llangwm Allotments thrive in Lockdown

It's definitely been a different spring and summer for the allotment site. The exceptional weather in April and May meant an early start on the plots and for some who were furloughed or had holidays cancelled a chance to spend far more time working on site. Unfortunately for others who were "shielding", had carer responsibilities or because of work it has not been such a good year.



A huge benefit of having an allotment this year for those who were able to work on their plots was the great community spirit. It was easy to socially distance, enjoy the fantastic weather but still have contact with people.

It has also meant that we have seen a rise in the amount of people interested in having a plot so if you are interested please feel free to contact me.

Kim Sandford (Secretary)

01437 891127





**County Council Report**  
by  
**Cllr Michael John**

**COVID 19** – Who would have imagined the events we have seen since the last newsletter in March!

The last eight months have seen unprecedented events in our lifetimes, and seen huge changes to society, which I'm sure we never thought we would see. As things started to get back to some sort of normality after the Summer, events took a turn for the worse with further restrictions and lock downs put in place.

We have been relatively lucky in Pembrokeshire, but that doesn't mean we should be complacent given the way things can change so quickly. What has been apparent though this year, is the tremendous support available in the communities we are fortunate to live in. It was fantastic earlier in the year to see support groups quickly spring up in all three villages in the area, and fantastic to see the number of volunteers willing to offer help and support across the Llangwm, Hook and Freystrop areas.

I'm sure we would all pass on thanks to those many volunteers who have come forward to offer their services so readily at this time of need.

We are also extremely fortunate to have such fantastic local shops and businesses who have adapted their services to ensure those needing supplies have been able to have them delivered to their doors. They have been exceptional in their efforts, providing home deliveries for many across the area, and are providing an essential service at this time of need.

The effective and co-ordinated mobilisation of volunteers across the county, has been overseen by the Community Hub set up by the County Council. They co-ordinated lists of voluntary groups across the county, and also worked closely with voluntary

and community sector partners.

The Community Hub can be accessed at:  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-community-information/community-hub>

Some other useful links:  
[www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)  
<https://phw.nhs.wales/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

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**The Waste and Recycling Centres moved to winter opening hours** from October 5<sup>th</sup> Reduced opening hours are also in place at some sites and the booking system has been updated to reflect these changes. The Winter hours can be seen at:

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling-centres/site-opening-times-and-directions>

The centres cannot be accessed without a pre-booked slot and those wishing to visit are reminded that restrictions remain in place and bookings are essential. More than 92,000 slots have been booked for the WRCs since the introduction of the appointment only system in May, with over 90 per cent of bookings made online. The booking system was put in place to ensure the facilities remained safe for customers and staff, including social distancing measures, when the WRCs re-opened after lockdown. The booking form and further information on visiting the WRCs can be found online at: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/waste-bookings>

**Haverfordwest High VC School** This is the catchment secondary school for our area and it is fantastic news that, at last, construction works have started on the £48 million new build school on the site of the old Thomas Picton school site. The demolition of the old buildings have been completed, and a new entrance constructed off the A40 trunk road near the Scotchwell roundabout. A further £4.6m has been committed by PCC for a new sports centre on the site, available for school use, with all works planned completion by Autumn 2022.

**Pembrokeshire's school attendance highest in Wales.** Pupils in Pembrokeshire's schools have benefitted from the highest level of school attendance in Wales since the start of the new academic year, according to statistics published Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October by Welsh Government. The statistics show that for the recent period 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September, Pembrokeshire's average daily school attendance was 90.4 % - the highest of all Wales's 22 local authority areas. The average for Wales was 81.1%. Cardiff had the lowest attendance at 70.1 %.

**The Duke of Edinburgh's Award** is still running in all local secondary schools this autumn. The award requires participants to complete four sections – skills, volunteering, physical and expedition – in their spare time. There are three levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold. September saw more than 120 young people from Pembrokeshire secondary schools take part in Bronze practice expeditions along the county's coastline. Any child is in Year 9 or Year 10 in a Pembrokeshire school, can start the Bronze award by sending an e-mail to request an enrolment form from: [david.sommerville@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:david.sommerville@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

**A new 'Kickstart' scheme** for new work opportunities is available for unemployed people in Pembrokeshire aged 16 to 24. The UK government scheme provides funding to employers to create new six-month job placements for young people at risk of long-term unemployment. PCC has announced that it will support local businesses who want to participate in the scheme. To find out more about how to gain a work placement through Kickstart or how PCC can support your business to participate in the scheme, please visit the website at: [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/business-advice-and-support/kickstart-scheme](https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/business-advice-and-support/kickstart-scheme) and complete the online expression of interest form or contact: [employability@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:employability@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

Finally, **congratulations** must go to both Llangwm and Hook Cricket clubs who managed to play some cricket

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this Summer, culminating in the Colin Lloyd Memorial Match played on September 5<sup>th</sup>. It has been a difficult time for local grass roots sport and it is great to see the return of cricket after the enforced lay-off. Llangwm won the cup this year but well done to both teams, and also to all organisers of the fantastic charity raffle which raised

over £2.6k for ward 10 at Withybush Hospital, thanks in part to a kind donation from Valero.

Well done also to the Hook Ormond Cup Youth team on reaching their cup final. The team consisted boys from Hook and Llangwm crickets clubs and it's great to see the local boys getting to a final.

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If you do have any issues or queries, I can be contacted on 01437 890175 or [cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

You can also contact PCC direct on 01437 764551 or - <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/resident>

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### ***A post-script to Cllr Michael John's report...***

## **FLY-TIPPER CAUGHT BY COUNCIL INVESTIGATION**

A Milford Haven man must pay more than £2,250 after admitting dumping household waste in a Pembrokeshire lay-by.

Brian Sandow of Ash Grove, Mount Estate, Milford Haven pleaded guilty to a charge of depositing controlled waste on land at Nash lay-by near Llangwm when he appeared before Haverfordwest Magistrates Court.

The case was brought by Pembrokeshire County Council on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Sandow, aged 39, dumped the waste, including soiled nappies and pet waste, between May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The court was told that Pembrokeshire County Council investigated a report of fly-tipping at Nash and discovered a mattress, household furniture, children's toys and a number of black bags.

The total waste dumped weighed 300kg and had to be recovered and disposed of at cost to taxpayers.

A closer examination of the waste discovered correspondence for a local family.

The family was contacted and it was established that the defendant had been paid £100 to remove the items and dispose of the waste.

Communications showed that the fee agreed took into consideration the defendant incurring charges for taking the items to the 'tip'.

The family confirmed Sandow and another man had collected the waste

in a large van on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sandow had not provided an explanation under caution, having twice failed to attend scheduled interviews.

Magistrates ordered the defendant to pay a fine of £320, full costs of £1902.52 and a victim surcharge of £32, making a total of £2254.52.

Cllr Cris Tomos, Pembrokeshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment said the Authority was determined to tackle fly-tipping and had set up a special team for the purpose.

Cllr Tomos added: "There is no excuse for fly-tipping. It not only blights the countryside but is a danger to the public, our wildlife and the wider environment and is costly to clear-up. As a Council we will always look to prosecute those who deliberately flout the rules. This case should act as a warning to anyone considering dumping waste in Pembrokeshire that we will investigate and take you to court wherever possible.

"The case is also a timely reminder to members of the public that they have a duty of care for their waste and must use only registered waste carriers.

Failing to meet the duty of care means that people could be held responsible if their waste is fly-tipped or otherwise illegally disposed of and fined up to £300.

Residents wanting to dispose of waste and scrap are asked to consider the following before engaging any removal service.

For scrap, ensure the collector is licensed by the Council by checking:

<https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/waste-carriers-brokers-and-dealers-public-register/?lang=en>

For waste removal, ensure the collector has an upper tier waste carrier's licence from Natural Resources Wales.

<https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/check-for-a-permit-licence-or-exemption/?lang=en>

For both waste and scrap removal:

- \* ask where the rubbish will end up
- \* don't pay cash and insist on a receipt
- \* record the details (make, colour, registration number) of the vehicle used to take the rubbish away.

Cllr Tomos added: "If a removal service does not have the relevant licences you should not use them. You should also check where the operator you engage intends to take the waste to ensure it is disposed of legally, otherwise it could be dumped on the side of a road or burned and you could also face a criminal charge.

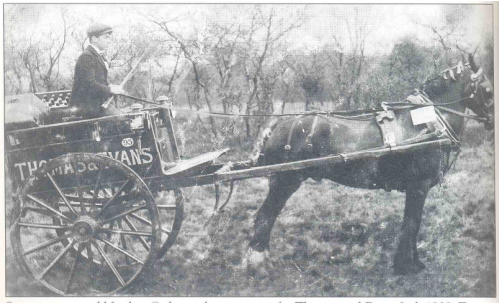
"We all have a duty to help prevent fly-tipping in Pembrokeshire."

For more information on preventing fly-tipping in Pembrokeshire, including details of a £100 reward for information leading to a fixed penalty notice or successful prosecution, see: [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/fly-tipping](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/fly-tipping)

# The (other) "Corona" Story

## Happier times - down at the Museum

WILLIAM EVANS, the enterprising hero of this tale, was born in the *Gwaun Valley* (in 1864) and left school to serve an apprenticeship with JAMES REES, a grocer at *Haverfordwest*. His next job was with WILLIAM THOMAS, a general stores at *Aberbeeg* in the *Rhymney valley*, before becoming manager (aged 19) at PEGLERS stores in *Porth* in the *Rhondda valley*.



When he was only 21 years of age, he was loaned £238 by WILLIAM THOMAS and started his own business in Porth - named THOMAS & EVANS. The rest is history as they say - he soon had four stores and a five-storey building in Porth where he made bread.

As the business expanded, he began producing various blends of 'pop' (lemonade) and in 1920 decided to

shorten the company name, inviting his staff to suggest one, with a lady employee coming up with the name "Corona" – hence CORONA lemonade was born, and by 1939 he was using 400 motor vehicles, together with over 150 horse-drawn wagons to deliver his 'pop' all over the area.

He died at the age of 70, although his memory lives on with a statue in the 200-acre Bronwydd Park in Porth, which he had previously donated to the people of the Rhondda.



Corona pop delivery van, Pentre, c. 1937.



There are several 'bits' of the Corona story in Llangwm's little museum, including an enamelled Corona sign (donated locally), the many types of Corona bottles over the years, Corona bottle openers together with a model of a Cardiff Corporation double-decker bus with the Thomas & Evans advertisement on the side.



Anyone who can remember Corona lemonade from their childhood will also remember such flavours as:

Orange, Raspberryade, Limeade, Ginger Beer, and Dandelion-and-Burdock!



(Thanks to Jeff James of Llangwm's Little Museum for this interesting tale. Hopefully you will be able to visit the Museum next year (usually open at the end of May) to see these and other treasures and curiosities for yourself.)



## LLANGWM ROWING CLUB

### All quiet on the Eastern Cleddau

Longboat rowing has proven somewhat impractical this year but the Rowing Club also has a smaller boat designed for two rowers and a cox - but easily manageable with just two. The "Teifi Skiff" is a little over 18 feet long and has two pairs of oars. Of course, with a crew of two or three it is ideal for a single household to use. Judy and I have been out a number of times and found that it was tricky to maintain a straight course with both rowing and no cox. However it is light and easily driven and performs well with just one rower and the other coxing.

We had a memorable trip one morning in September, leaving Black Tar at eight thirty in beautiful calm, sunny conditions and rowing with the tide up the Eastern Cleddau. We saw very few other boaters but passed a flock of curlews as we rounded the point at Landshipping. We passed Slebech Park and continued on to Blackpool Mill arriving at around ten on the top of the tide. We rowed a short way beyond the bridge at the mill but the river narrowed rapidly and with the tide beginning to ebb we had to turn back. We had a leisurely row back stopping for coffee and Welsh cakes in the wider section just upstream of Slebech Park.

The morning was so calm that the trees in the estate were perfectly reflected in the still waters, only broken here and



there by a lazily swimming grey mullet. On the way back, passing Minwear brook we heard a commotion and spotted a pair of herons disturbed from their tree by a passing buzzard and mobbing it - not something I have ever seen before. We reached Black Tar without further incident and home for lunch.

*Peter Rose, The Kilns, Llangwm*

## Your part to play in village success

*Some weeks ago Pam Hunt posted on Llangwm's Facebook page words which should have pricked the conscience of everyone who lives in the village. Here's the post again for those who didn't see it.*

"Hello Everyone, there is something that is worrying me and I want to share it with you.

I have been rather disappointed to witness how quiet things are at the Cleddau Stores since the Lockdown eased up a bit. I think we have forgotten how far Dave Golding and his team went to ensure that our papers were delivered and how he coordinated the shopping from town to reach the right household. It seems to me that we have forgotten what Dave and his team did for us over the last six months and now with Phase Two of Covid emerging, what we might expect of him again.

The Cleddau Stores is an incredible asset to this village. We are so lucky that we can pick up a pint of milk or something else that Dave has to offer. But Dave needs to keep his head above water too. He cannot afford to keep the shop going unless we support him. He once told me that ideally he needs each and every household in the village to spend £7 a week to keep him in business. Folks, at the moment we are nowhere near that. I value tremendously what that shop does for me. I would miss it, big time.

Once it is gone, it will never open again. So please find a way to support Dave and his team. It's not just buying the

daily paper or a packet of cigarettes. Why not just stop ordering your bread and butter from Tesco and buy it from Dave? The old saying comes to my mind, "Use it or Lose it". There are those in this village who support the shop, but there are many more who don't. So please, think hard. Spending £12 a week at our shop will keep it going and allow Dave to invest for its future, and what about the children? No Cleddau Stores, no longer able to get their weekly supply of sweets. They won't be too happy about that. Seriously, the Cleddau Stores is an asset that so many villages in Wales simply do not have, do we really want to lose it?

*There was a great response from readers, and overwhelming support for Pam's words.*

- If all those who just buy their daily paper were to buy a little something extra I'm sure it would help Dave a lot. Even if it's a packet of biscuits or pint of milk.
- I still go to town, but I deliberately don't purchase certain things there, knowing that Dave stocks it.
- Come on Llangwms, keep our village as it is, we are lucky to have a Shop. Post Office. Pub. And Club.
- We are so lucky to have a village shop. Yes it may cost a bit more for some items but how much does it cost to drive to town to shop.
- I should go up more than I do. I agree, as customers we should do more. Will make sure I do.
- You'd be amazed at the things you can do there, saving many an otherwise unnecessary trip into town.
- Having read Pam Hunt's post the other day about the fact that if we don't support the local shop more, we will lose it, I have started buying more from there. The wine prices are on a par with Tesco and both bottles I bought were lovely. The bacon was pricier but much nicer and the eggs lovely and fresh. Also the chats with the staff are priceless!

## Nature during Lockdown

### Spring/Summer/Autumn 2020

During the early days of lockdown we were allowed, indeed encouraged, to take an hour's exercise each day. It was during this time that many Llangwm residents discovered and took advantage of the wealth of lovely countryside and shoreline walks in the vicinity of the village. In no time at all vague tracks in the grass along public rights-of-way over fields became bare, well-trodden paths....such was the increase in footfall. Furthermore the prolonged spell of lovely weather was a real bonus.

While taking these walks many got to appreciate the glories of the local flora and fauna for the first time. The volume of birdsong was noted and remarked upon, undoubtedly enhanced by the huge reduction in road and air traffic noise.

A walk through Benton Woods was accompanied by a cacophony of birdsong from chiffchaffs, wrens, blackbirds, song thrushes and willow warblers. This, of course, was the season when male birds were singing to attract mates. On occasions the volume was almost deafening!

From early April to the end of June there was, as usual at this time of year, little bird activity in the Pill. The first group of 11 redshanks returned from their breeding grounds in the uplands on mid-summer's day, 21<sup>st</sup> June. Over the next few weeks their numbers rose to over 70. Also since the end of June three greenshanks have taken up residence in the vicinity of the Pill. The first teal (all females) arrived back in the first week of September and their numbers will steadily grow up to the end of October when they will be joined by the males. Small groups of whimbrels passed through in late April and there were several sightings of common sandpiper. As autumn draws on bar tailed godwits (large wading birds) are to be seen feeding along the tideline. Little egrets and grey herons are present pretty much daily.

Undoubtedly, the avian highlight of the summer was a turtle dove that visited Peter and Judy Rose's garden at The Kilns over a few days from 12<sup>th</sup> May. These lovely birds were once fairly common but have declined in numbers rapidly over the last 25 years so that they are now very rarely seen in Pembrokeshire.

Due to severely inclement weather conditions in the Sahara countless numbers of swallows and other hirondines perished on their spring migration which resulted in a much later arrival in the UK than usual and in noticeably fewer numbers. I didn't see my first swallow of the spring until 1<sup>st</sup> May. House martins seemed to be around in their usual numbers as were swifts. During summer evenings there were often a dozen or more screaming through the air high above the village.

Large mixed gull roosts have been present on occasions consisting mainly of black headed, lesser black backed and herring gulls. Why they should choose to gather on the mud and offshore in such large numbers is unknown to me.

Canada geese have been around sporadically in variable numbers since 2<sup>nd</sup> August. During the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> August there were around 300 congregated at Llangwm Ferry and in the Pill. We all see these geese as harbingers of autumn and love to hear their noisy in-flight conversations as they fly in and out of the Pill.



More recently, during the second week of October, most days saw large flocks of up to 300 on the Pill. Two greylag geese were in this vocal throng. A small group, upwards of 20 greylag geese approached the Pill on 13<sup>th</sup> October but overflowed in a northerly direction.

Finally, a few words about butterflies. What began as a very

promising season with a warm and sunny spring which brought out in our garden an array of species including orange tips, speckled woods, small tortoiseshells, ringlets, green-veined whites, a few early peacocks and holly blues, ultimately turned into a disappointing late summer. Rain and a couple of unseasonable gales in August greatly reduced the numbers of red admirals, peacocks and small tortoiseshells on our buddleia. I saw no painted ladies and only on one occasion did I see a pair of commas in the hedgerow behind our house in early September. As usual, however, that scourge of the brassicas, cabbage whites, were much in evidence!

*Should you have any unusual or interesting sightings please email the details to me at [grahambrace@btinternet.com](mailto:grahambrace@btinternet.com) or phone me on 891580.*



## Llangwm Rugby Club Autumn Report



With it being the middle of October, we would normally be well into the rugby season, with cup and league fixtures well underway. We do however, find ourselves in uncertain and unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with all local rugby currently on hold. It is not known when any grass roots rugby will start in Wales this season, and as a club we are unable to make any firm preparations.

***This doesn't mean that nothing is happening at the club though.***

The senior team have resumed limited training adhering to WRU Covid guidelines. The coaching team led by Bruce Evans, along with team manager James "Kiwi" Griffiths, and Gethin Thomas, who captains the team for a 3<sup>rd</sup> successive season, have kept in contact with the players and all at the club look forward to the re-introduction of a more formal approach, and hopefully some actual matches in the not too distant future.

We are fortunate to have a very strong junior section at the club, and anyone who has the time to visit on a Sunday morning will I'm sure, be impressed by the set up and quality of rugby on display. Although like the senior team they cannot play matches at present, there is safe and structured training on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings for the young players. A great deal of effort goes into these future generations of players by the coaches and parents, and the club would again like to pass on thanks to all involved for their continued efforts.

One aim at the club is to see a Youth Team re-introduced and representing the village. Let's hope some of these younger players come through in the next year or so to fulfil that aim.

Both pitches are in excellent condition and ready for the return of rugby, having been kept to the highest standard by our groundsman Jeremy Brock. Jeremy spends a great deal of time at the field and the club sincerely thanks him for all his efforts in ensuring we have a first-class playing surface.

Although we cannot plan for competitive rugby itself at present, the committee has a programme of improvements planned at the club, including:

- \* investment in a new floodlight scheme for the lower rugby field;
- \* refurbishment of the showers in the stand which are struggling to meet the current demand;

- \* enhanced safety barriers around the field;
- \* to decorate, and possibly refurbish the clubhouse to ensure it meets the current requirements of our young players;
- \* improvements to the kitchen at the clubhouse to ensure we can continue to provide hot meals for the players. Thanks must of course go to our fantastic ladies who provide such marvellous food for the players on match days.

The club has recently started to show international matches on the "Big Screen", which has been very well received by members, with large crowds attending to watch. It is hoped the club can open for this Autumn's international matches, of course this will depend on whether any further lockdowns are imposed by Welsh Government.

The club does need a large and supportive membership base to ensure all our goals and aims can be met and progressed, and all new members, either players or supporters, are always welcomed at the club.

There are some limited numbers available for the 100 club with the Christmas £1000 draw certainly worth a flutter. Please contact the club for details if you wish to join this monthly draw.

Club news and events are advertised on the club website which can be found at:

<https://llangwm.rfc.wales>

To finish on a sadder note, I would mention Owen John who very recently, sadly, passed away after a short illness. Since retiring to the village, Owen served in several positions at the club, and most recently was membership secretary ensuring the base of members was kept growing. The thoughts and sincere condolences are extended from the club to the families of all members who have sadly passed away over the last year. We would normally remember them at the club's AGM, but unfortunately this has not been able to be held this year due to the restrictions.

Finally, a big thank you from myself and all at the club, for your continued support. We look forward to being able to welcome you back to the club to enjoy rugby, hopefully in the not too distant future!

**Michael John    President - Llangwm RFC**

## Some 'Llangwm Lockdown' scenes from photographer David Wilson

Last year David took photographs of the village in full swing (you will remember the busy dairy, festival night in the pub, rugby training, school zebra crossing). This year he has photographed the village on a well-distanced go-slow!



**Top of page:** A socially distanced queue.

**Centre left:** One of many Cleddau Stores deliveries.

**Centre right:** A family get-together.

**Bottom of page:** Applauding the NHS.

