

Llangwm Village News

Issue 53 Spring/Summer 2021



Emerging from lockdown: History comes to life - Gardeners spring into action -

Music adapts on-line - Events start to resume

Photograph: "Springtime in Edwards Pill"

Is this a “Goodbye to Lockdown” edition?

A year ago we delivered the Spring 2020 edition of Llangwm News to your doors just as we were going into Lockdown for the first time.

The most recent edition of Llangwm News, in Autumn 2020, did the rounds just as we were ‘locking down’ for the second time.

Let’s hope that this Spring 2021 edition breaks the mould and will be dropped on to your doorsteps just as we emerge from Lockdown for the last time.

There is still plenty going on in the village to report on, plans afoot to return to normal as soon as possible and some exciting projects for the future as you’ll see from these pages...

There is a film being made showing Llangwm’s historic dependence on the river (with the help of Heritage Lottery funding).

There are already broadcasts from the church via their stunning new camera equipment, with other ventures in view (funded by a Covid-related grant).

The village hall committee has the go-ahead to source funding for a new hall to be built, and are busy planning for the village’s needs and aspirations to take it through the rest of the 21st century.

‘Village Voices’ choir is taking part in an ambitious rock opera project involving Pembrokeshire and South West Ireland - they certainly have the pedigree, from WW1 Opera days.

(Well, you didn’t expect Llangwm just to sit back and be quiet, did you?)

This newsletter also carries a fond farewell report from Mr Nick Groves, headteacher of Cleddau Reach School, who retires this year - and a tribute to the contribution he has made to education in the area, by Barry Childs on behalf of the School Governors. The newsletter has been grateful for all the lovely reports Mr Groves has sent in over the years, keeping Llangwm well informed of the remarkable progress of its young people.

Margaret Brace - Editor

Llangwm Allotments

It's that time of the year when most of us with plots are looking at seed catalogues, planting seeds, preparing potatoes and cleaning tools.

Only a few weeks ago the ground on site was very wet and I was beginning to think that aquatic plants may be the way forward!! However a few dry and sunny days and things are looking much better.

It's difficult to believe that this time last year we were about to go into our first lockdown.

Having an allotment during the last year has been great and difficult to imagine that only 8 years ago the site was a field. It was April 2013 that the site was handed over to us and there are still some of us that have been there since the very beginning.

I know I'm looking forward to spending more time on our plot and hoping for a repeat of the fantastic spring that we had last year.

Although we have a waiting list please feel free to contact me if you want any further information.

Kim Sandford Secretary 01437 891127



Spring colours brighten spirits

LLANGWM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Garden clubbers have been dozing rather than sleeping through these cold lockdown winter months.

Normally filled with indoor socials it's been difficult to do anything practical, gardening wise, due to the weather! Instead members have been clubbing together this year to order mulch, seeds, potatoes and bare rooted veg ready for the planting season ahead.



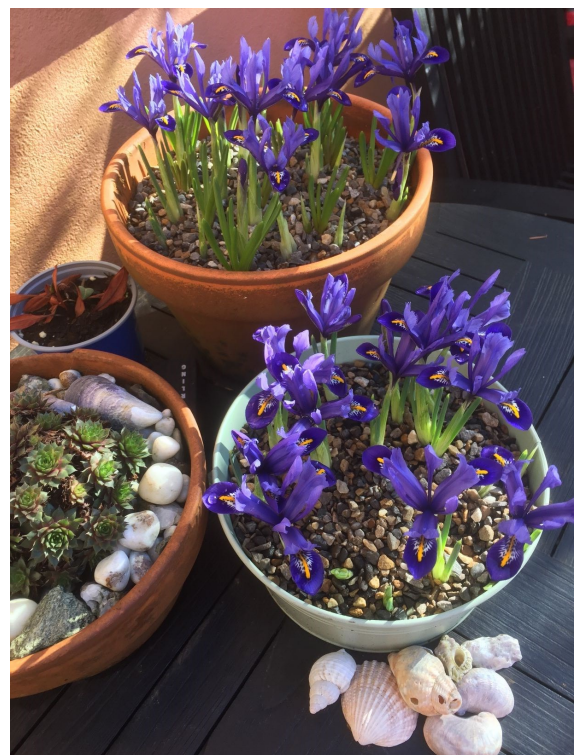
The club bulk buy has been an excellent way of just 'keeping in touch' as well as the photographic records sent in of 'the first signs of Spring!' Early daffs, snowdrops and crocus have cheered us all up!

Hoping that Gardening Club activities will start up again, probably outdoors of course, by April or May.

May time is our Annual Plant Sale and we're very much hoping that we can organise this event this year.

Look out for information on the Llangwm Facebook page or on posters in the village. My thanks to our members who have supported the Club through this rather barren year!!

Karen Shepherd



*For the full effect of these colourful spring flowers, don't forget to look at the newsletter on-line at **Llangwm's website** under the **tab Llangwm Village News** on the lower menu.*

www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk

PLANTS AND PRODUCE SUPPORT WALES AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY



With very little activity in gardens at the moment it's time for gardeners to do some planning and seed buying. In February the only plants that appear on our plant stall are hellebores and muscari, alternatively called grape hyacinths. In the very frosty days even these plants droop in sub zero temperatures but soon revive.

Since January when the bitter Seville oranges are imported from Spain we've been making lots of pots of marmalade and selling them in our local Cleddau Stores. We are very grateful to Dave for selling the marmalade which so far has raised £140.00 and to all the people who have bought it.

This year we have decided to donate all the marmalade and plant sales to the Wales Air Ambulance Charity.



Liz and Stuart Beresford



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WALES AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY



Launched on St David's Day 2001, Wales Air Ambulance provides lifesaving air cover to relieve illness and injury to people across Wales. We are the only air ambulance charity based in, and dedicated to, our county and rely entirely on donations to keep our helicopters flying. Our four aircraft are on standby 365 days a year. Our critical care consultants and practitioners have some of the most pioneering equipment and skills in the world, including the ability to give a blood transfusion and administer anaesthesia. This means that patients receive advanced A&E-standard care before they even reach the hospital. Our crew don't just fly patients to hospital – we take the A&E directly to them.

Since its inception, the service has attended over 37,000 missions. In December 2020, the people of Wales helped the charity's vision, to be a 24/7 service, become a reality. Just three months short of the Wales Air Ambulance's 20th anniversary we were proud to become a 24/7, thanks to donations from the public.

The need for an overnight Wales Air Ambulance was identified following detailed research into life or limb-threatening emergencies that took place outside the services' operational hours of 8am to 8pm. Over a 12-month period, there were approximately 990 cases of 'unmet need' and the demand was most prevalent in South-East Wales. Wales Air Ambulance is also proud to run the Children's Wales Air Ambulance – a specialist division dedicated to

Wales' youngest patients. Every year we help around 400 children and babies either on emergency 999 missions or by using our dedicated transfer helicopter. We regularly transfer patients to specialist centres across the UK including Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street and The Children's Hospital of Wales. Wales Air Ambulance also has the UK's only Helicopter Transfer Practitioners, who are experts in keeping patients safe and comfortable during transfers.

Our ability to undertake our lifesaving work is only made possible by the continued support of the Welsh people. Each year we need to raise £8 million to sustain the 24/7 service. The charity is only able to offer this lifesaving service with your support. There are many ways you can help us, from volunteering at your local shop or in the community to becoming a member of our lifesaving lottery. Our dedicated volunteers are the lifeblood of what we do. You will frequently see them fundraising at local supermarkets, county shows, challenge events or providing talks to community groups. Do you have a great fundraising idea or could spare us a couple of hours a week? We would love to hear from you.

Thanks to the people of Wales, we have been saving lives for nearly 20 years. With your support, we want to be here long into the future – serving Wales, saving lives..

**For more information, please visit
www.walesairambulance.com**

Llangwm Festival Committee News

Calling all Budding Photographers!

Llangwm Festival Committee are holding a monthly Children's Photography Competition this year with the intention that a selection of the winning entries will be used to make a calendar for 2022.

Children up to the age of 16 are invited to enter one photo each month on a wildlife or nature theme (no selfies or people, please) which will be judged in 3 categories; 4-7 (Reception-Year 2), 8-11 (Years 2-6) and 12-16 (Years 7-11). *The photo should be taken during the month of entry this year and by the child.* The winners will be announced at the beginning of the following month and all the entries displayed on Llangwm Festival Committee's Facebook page.

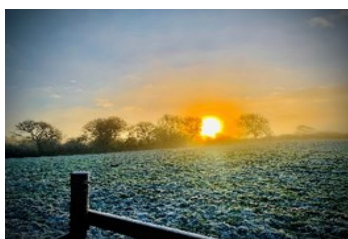


Photos should be sent by the last day of the month to llangwmfestival@gmail.com together with the name and age of the photographer.

Good luck and happy snapping!



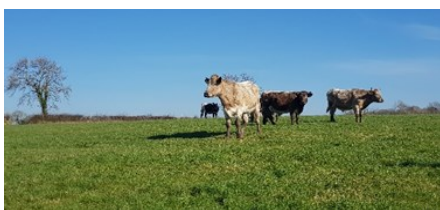
Arthur Stanmore - Age 4



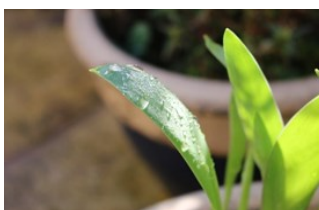
Lucas Salter - Age 10



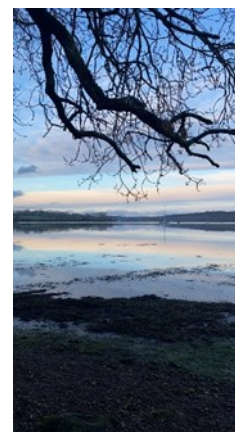
Ela-Gwennon Jones - Age 13



Arlo Davies - Age 4



Alexa Tawn Age 8



Ellie Salter - Age 13

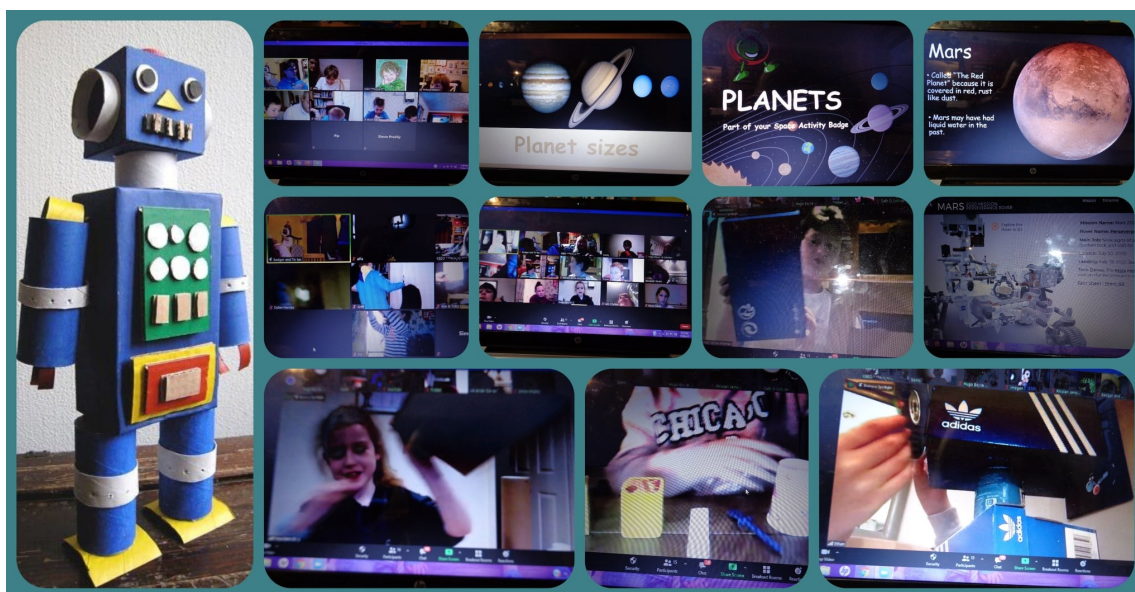


Scouts

1st Johnston

Despite the difficulties of 2020, and it being over a year since we were last able to meet face-2-face, our Group continues to grow and provide weekly online sessions for our young members. Once again we saw a further increase in our overall membership and we hope to strengthen that further once we are back to more normal meetings.

We have had a busy and varied programme over the past 6 months, including sessions with the Hogspital, British Red Cross, Welsh Mountain Zoo, Network Rail and the Met Office to name a few. There have been more virtual camps and we took part in the Virtual Cotswold Marathon with many completing over 30 miles in the week.



Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts continue to earn lots of badges, including the Chief Scout Award – the highest award you can earn in each Section. We are continually amazed at how everyone has adapted to the circumstances and that we continue to help develop #skills4life.

We also continue to support and develop our young leaders (aged 14-18) and we are delighted to say that one of our own young leaders has been appointed as the first ever Deputy Youth Commissioner (Beavers) for Pembrokeshire.

With the phased return of schools beginning the easing out of lockdown we are hopeful that it won't be too much longer before we are able to meet face-2-face again, and lots of planning continues to ensure everything is in place to ensure a safe return to meetings.

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.



To find out how you can join the Adventure, contact us *via*

Simon Preddy - Group Scout Leader

1stjohnston@gmail.com or 07824 504 802

To hire our Hall in Hill Mountain, contact us *via*

Pat Dixon - pat.dixon54@btinternet.com or 07824 748 748

Have grant, get going, well...not actually

It was with a degree of excitement that the **Heritage Llangwm** team learnt on 9th September 2020 that they were getting an emergency grant to purchase and install a seven camera video streaming kit to enable us to relay the St Jerome's lunchtime and evening concerts to a wider public. We had just got the kit together and had completed some tests when the big lockdown came into being.

We had just started recruiting volunteers for the camera crews and even ran some training sessions, when it all had to grind to a standstill. It is quite frustrating, especially now, when we are raring to go, that we've had to stop dead. Even so, we've been given plenty of time to explore what we will be able to offer both live and streaming audiences. One of the cameras purchased has an internal digital recorder, which will allow film makers among the Llangwm population to go out and create content for

But as soon as we are able, we will be picking up on the training sessions again and we have plans to re-launch the concerts with a 12 hour marathon of different performances from both our regulars and some new talent.



A willing volunteer at the Vision Mixer



A volunteer tries Camera 2

the streaming service. It doesn't have to be a music event, we are currently playing with an idea for a "Strictly" styled game show... don't worry, no dancing involved.

If you'd like to join the team and become a Camera operator or even a Vision mixer, then so much the better. As soon as we are allowed, we will starting the training sessions once again. You can contact us through our email info@heritagellangwm.org.uk We look forward to hearing from you.

STOP PRESS – 27th February 2021

We have been approached by Haver-Hub and Span Arts to ask if we could cover and stream a Jazz Festival. In return, we'll receive a payment for providing the 7 camera service. I've replied that in principle, we'd be happy to do it and let's chat, but there will be hurdles to cross before we can provide the coverage.

Pam Hunt



Set up for Audio Playback



Two FX7s



Sound Desk

It's Good News Day!

The Llangwm Village Hall Committee
is pleased to inform you that
following a period of comprehensive
consultation and debate, the
Llangwm Community Council has
generously given us their support
in building a New Village Hall.

The Committee is determined to
keep the residents of Llangwm
fully informed of all developments.

A New Village Hall website:

www.llangwmfuture.co.uk

will be up and running before the end
of April and updated on a monthly basis.

LLANGWM
NEW VILLAGE
HALL BUILDING THE FUTURE

A new website for a new village hall

We hope that you will have noticed that the Village Hall is launching its own website at the end of April, dedicated solely to information about your Village Hall - your Community Hub.

The reason for this is that we have started the long journey towards a new hall.

After consultations with the village, by both the Hall Committee and the Community Council, we now have support to be able to proceed down this path without any exchange of land needing to take place.

We have chosen to keep you informed by using this website in order to:

- * be able to give regular monthly updates of ongoing progress to the inhabitants of Llangwm, hall users and supporters from the neighbouring community who don't receive the Llangwm News

- * Paper copies will be available for those people who aren't on the internet and who request a copy. This keeps down costs and reduces our carbon footprint.

We are on the start of our journey, but are looking forward to improving the facilities in Llangwm for all of us.

Llangwm Village Hall Committee

Happy Third Birthday to the Cleddau Stores!

By the time you read this article I will have been custodian of Cleddau Stores for 3 years. How quickly has that time gone.

I pride myself on trying to achieve great customer service and having that 'can do' attitude and that is what underpins my beliefs and values.

Can I once again thank all of you who have supported and continue to support Cleddau Stores. I am grateful to all of you who venture into the shop.

As we move forward into Spring our thoughts turn to Summer and with that in mind we will once again, in conjunction with the **Festival Committee**, be running our **Floral Competition** with various categories and of course the **Tallest Sunflower Competition**. Further details will be announced in due course.

Cleddau Stores opening hours are as follows:

Monday	8am - 1pm	Post Office	9am - 1pm
Tuesday	8am - 1pm	Post Office	9am - 1pm
Wednesday	8am - 1pm	Post Office	9am - 1pm
Thursday	8am-1pm, 2pm-5pm	Post Office	9am - 1pm
Friday	8am-1pm, 2pm-5pm	Post Office	9am - 1pm
Saturday	8am - 1pm	Post Office	9am - 11am
Sunday	9am - 11am		

Easter opening hours:

Good Friday 9am - 12pm
Easter Saturday 8am - 12pm
Easter Sunday - closed
Easter Monday - closed

Thank you

Dave Golding
Cleddau Stores
and Post Office
078527699

Dauidsavid17@gmail.com www.cleddaustores.co.uk



"Anyone fancy an omelette?" Award-winning shopkeeper Dave Golding takes delivery of the week's supply of farm fresh eggs.

Llangwm 150 years ago

An argument had arisen in April 1871 between Thomas Clarke of Llangwm and George Griffiths of Burton. Thomas Clarke, who worked for James Thomas at Llangwm Farm, had been out for a Saturday night beer. He was found by George Griffiths ("rather the worse for beer" or "helplessly drunk" depending on which of the men you believe) on the road near Freystrop Cross. George gave him a lift in his cart although he only knew Thomas by sight. George himself stopped for a beer at Troopers Inn whilst Thomas was asleep in the cart. Thomas later claimed that George had stolen his gaiters and removed the buttons. George replied that he had found the leggings in the bottom of the cart and had intended to return them to Thomas the next day. Farmer James Thomas stated that he had seen Thomas Clarke asleep in the cart and that he was wearing the gaiters complete with buttons but Arthur Edwards (nephew of Ann Skyrme, landlady of the Three Horseshoes Inn in Llangwm), thought that he had no gaiters on. James Birch, a tailor from Haverfordwest, had examined the gaiters and believed that the buttons had been removed by a knife or scissors and not torn off. The magistrates dismissed the case.

According to the 1871 census, George Thomas, brother of James Thomas of Llangwm Farm, was a retired shipwright living in Hill Street, Hakin. On Wednesday 3rd May, George set off from Hakin at midday in a small sailing boat, bound for Landshipping "on business". He was then seen heading home again at about 6 p.m. The next morning, the boat was found floating upside down, with the sails still set, near Pater. Launched only the previous day, George had built the boat himself. George's body was found near Benton Wood, by a Llangwm fisherman, on 22nd May and taken to his brother's farm. The Llangwm parish register records the burial of George on 24th May with a note that he "drowned in the Cleddau".

In a case relating to breach of contract on 27th May 1871, William Reynish was accused of leaving his place of employment at Llangwm Mill. He claimed that Letitia Harries, the miller's wife, had abused him, calling him a Neyland strag. Although William had been born within the parish of Llanstadwell, he had spent his childhood in the neighbourhood of Johnston and Freystop. William also claimed that the bed provided for him was not fit to lie on, being a cart with loose straw. The miller, David Harries,

maintained that servants often preferred straw beds. William said that he would return to the mill if a proper bed was available. The case was adjourned, with a recommendation that a suitable bed be provided.

In July 1871, there was a dispute over a right of way at Little Dumbledale. Philip Tombs alleged that John Philpin of Llangwm had caused damage to the grass to the value of one penny. John Philpin claimed that the route was a public path. Mrs Elizabeth Skone of Nash Mountain Farm gave evidence that her father George Gwyther had built the house occupied by Philip Tombs at Little Dumbledale, that the path had always been a public one and that her father had never turned any person back. The magistrates ruled that they had no jurisdiction to try the case. There were two men named John Philpin living in Llangwm in 1871, being father and son. At that date, John Philpin senior was resident in the area now known as the Kilns and his 26-year-old son was occupying a property then known as Nash Bottom. It is not clear which of these men was accused of trespass.

Nikki Bosworth

Information available online at newspapers.library.wales, findmypast.co.uk, ancestry.co.uk and other websites.



St Jerome's

Big Easter Raffle

Lots of prizes to be won



Hampers





Whiskey & Wine





Easter Eggs



Silver Pendant
& Earrings

And Lots, Lots
More



Tickets £1 a book
available from
Cleddau Stores



News from St Jerome's



Hello everyone! Speaking to people, I think the majority have felt this third lockdown has been the hardest one to get through; especially as it came into force 5 days before Christmas! But there is certainly new hope, with the rollout of vaccines gathering pace, we are on a much better path in dealing with Covid-19. It is also great news to see children return to school, to see and play with their classmates.

As we emerge from the dark days of Winter into Spring, with all the joys that this season brings, it certainly cheers the soul to see snowdrops bobbing their white heads, crocuses appearing from their winter sleep and the daffodils waving in the sunshine! With the mornings and evenings getting lighter, we take time for reflection during this season of Lent. We have celebrated Mothering Sunday and Easter will soon be here. It is also so lovely to enjoy the sunshine, to lift our spirits and new life as birds are busy nesting and lambing season is here. Once again, a heartfelt thank you to all our hard-working NHS staff, Frontline Workers, Teachers and Key Workers, who continue to work tirelessly for us. Stay safe everyone.

Rev Marcus has written you a message (see next column)

REMINDER:- Clocks go forward one hour for BST at 2am on Sunday 28th 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 we do indeed emerge from this pandemic feeling hopeful

Debby Lawson-Earley

Dear Friends,

As you know we haven't been able to meet in St Jerome's Church for much of the last year. Although the Welsh Assembly allowed churches to remain open when the last lockdown began in December, we took the decision to close because we didn't feel we could open safely, under the circumstances. But as the infection rate across the county is falling and the roll-out of the vaccine progresses we are planning to open again from Easter Sunday. Do please join us. We shall have to keep distanced inside which limits numbers, so if you'd like to come along please can you book a place by ringing Mrs. Elizabeth Davies on 01437 890275. It's worth mentioning that whilst the church is closed for worship it remains open for funerals.

Although the building has been shut, we've still been meeting on-line for worship, study, and social gatherings. If you'd like to be included in any of these just drop me an email and I'll add you to the list so you know what's going on. For example, some of us are undertaking a virtual pilgrimage to the COP26 UN Climate Conference in Glasgow, walking the 408 miles between St David's and Glasgow in small chunks in our local area, between now and November. Drop me a line if you'd like to take part or take a look at the St David's Diocese website. Caring for the Earth lies at the heart of Christianity, although it's fair to say the church (as with society in general) hasn't always lived that way. So, now's the time to change that.

We live in a beautiful place, and a supportive community, but nonetheless this lockdown has been pretty difficult for us all. I hope you are surviving, and if you need some support, or to talk, do please get in touch.

A peaceful Spring and blessed Easter to you all,

With kind regards,

Revd Marcus



St Jerome's Easter Children's Quiz



"Collect a **quiz sheet** from **Cleddau Stores** and take part in a **family walking quiz** round the village. Quiz sheets are available throughout **Holy Week** starting **Monday 29th March** and **Easter eggs** are available for **completed quizzes**. Enjoy!"

Jane Mills

History Society - hard at work behind the scenes

"Sharing Local History"

Llangwm History Society took the lead in this very innovative project funded by LEADER and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

This two year project ends in March 2021, and has employed two part-time archivists who have catalogued and digitally archives some/all the collections held by ourselves, Hook, Penally, Pembroke and Monkton, and Coastlands.

The photograph below shows Angela Jones and David Llewelyn, the two project officers, examining part of Llangwm's collection of photographs, documents etc.



The cataloguing system and archiving have been an incredibly successful venture and was acclaimed by the Senior Archivist at Kew for its innovation and creativity. This followed a very successful presentation at an international Digital Conference held in Aberystwyth.



As the project nears its completion, the project officers are carrying out training for each society and have produced 5 guidelines which will help this work to continue in the future. They have also been instrumental in developing blog posts and are inputting the individual catalogues on to the Echoes of the Past website hosted by PLANED.

These digital archives are also being uploaded on to the People's Collection Wales website as part of the sharing process. This project has been a wonderful success and we thank Angela Jones and David Llewelyn for their amazing contribution - they have worked consistently, albeit remotely, through the whole of the pandemic.

Within the Llangwm collection, 877 individual items and files were identified, catalogued and digitised. This included 152 pages of text and 24,000 words of information.

"Born of the Cleddau"

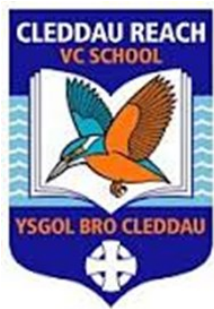
This second project is in its infancy and is being funded by the **National Heritage Lottery Fund** through a '15 Minute' Grant. It involves taking a river trip aboard the Lady Helen and recording the historical story of the river from Lawrenny to Picton Point. This will be filmed by Mark Evans, and narrated by Graham Stephens ably supported by Ela Gwenon Jones and Sonny Zipperlen. Drone photography/video footage by John Ewart will add a different dimension to the story. The completed video film will show why Llangwm came into being, and include stories of famous people such as Oliver Cromwell, smugglers and piracy, disasters on the river, and the cholera epidemic.

Liz Rawlings



This photograph shows the production team having an initial foray along the shore at Guildford.

Cleddau Reach VC Primary School News



2020-2021

Maintaining Teaching, Learning and Well-being during the Pandemic

In common with other areas of national and village life the COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on education.

Many of the established school routines have had to be adapted to the challenging and evolving circumstances that have presented themselves during the past year.



As headteacher my main priority has been to maintain the safety of all connected with the school whilst also ensuring that systems have been put in place so that teaching and learning can be maintained. Over the last year there have been two significant periods of time when most children have needed to learn from the safety of home and even when they have been in school there have been strict COVID-19 safety measures in place which have impacted both socially and educationally. Sporting events, educational visits, class assemblies and the ability of classes to mix with each other and also members of the wider local communities have all been restricted or temporarily lost.

Throughout the two extended periods where schools were closed for most children across Wales staff have provided provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable learners whilst using distanced learning to maintain the well-being and learning of the children within each of our eight classes.



Distanced learning has presented many challenges for staff, parents and children but the blended and age-appropriate learning put in place by teaching staff has allowed nearly all children to engage in a meaningful way.

(continues overleaf..)

The home learning provided for each class has followed the themes and areas of learning which the children would have covered in school but these have been adapted to a home learning situation. All teachers have developed a wide variety of age-appropriate



ways of providing feedback on the work completed by the children and supporting any families where circumstances have made it difficult to fully engage. Staff have developed pre-recorded lessons, 'live' lessons and other forms of computer-based learning whilst also being conscious of the need to provide learning tasks which take the children away from the computer screen!

Key educational organisations within Pembrokeshire, which schools would usually use to enrich the curriculum, are providing a very good range of additional live and recorded sessions for staff to use with different age ranges. These have so far included: Darwin Science, Torch Theatre Outreach and sessions from the Dyfed Powys Police Educational programme for Primary Schools.

As headteacher I have been impressed by the efforts of staff, children, school governors and parents to adapt to the changes brought over the last twelve months. Although the impact of the disruption caused by the pandemic to teaching and learning has been significant this has been reduced due to the tremendous efforts and adaptability of the groups mentioned above.



Thank You Llangwm Community

At the end of the summer term I will be retiring as headteacher of Cleddau Reach after twenty highly enjoyable years working within Llangwm village.



I will remember this time as the most rewarding part of my career. In particular, it was a privilege to be involved in the process of establishing the new school and making it a place where families across each of the former Llangwm, Rosemarket and Burton catchment areas could quickly view it as their school.



It has been an absolute joy to work with so many lovely children and their families. Being able to follow their progress both within our



school and beyond has been professionally very rewarding. I have been encouraged by how many of them remember their years in our school with genuine affection.



As a cricket enthusiast I have also enjoyed supporting the development of cricket within the school and the excitement of our school team reaching a total of fourteen mixed or girls South Wales Finals days in Cardiff.

Throughout this time the school has also been



fortunate to have support and encouragement from many of the Llangwm Cricket Club coaches and club chairman Dai Davies who has been a regular and encouraging supporter at many of the Primary school cricket festivals where Cleddau Reach have participated.

I feel that I will leave the school in a strong position with just over two hundred and fifty children attending, a spacious modern building and a strong talented staff who work so well together.



I would like to put on record my gratitude to Barry Childs our Chair of school governors and all other school governors past and present who have voluntarily given of their time to support the positive development of our local school. I feel that we have shared a common vision to provide the best possible education

for all the children attending the school and to base this on high attainment but also a rounded view of learning where success can be achieved in a wide range of ways. I feel that a sense of enjoyment and challenge are key elements within this.

(continues overleaf..)



Maintaining positive links between Cleddau Reach and the local communities within our catchment area has been extremely important. Over the years the school has benefitted from the many strong connections with local artists, sports clubs and a wide range of other individuals and societies within the village.

The local newsletter has provided an important way of sharing events that have taken place in school and the



community where the school has been represented. It has also provided staff and children with insights into many different areas of village life. I would like

to thank Llangwm Community Council and Margaret Brace for continuing to ensure that the newsletter provides a regular and entertaining record of life in Llangwm.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has presented many unexpected challenges, but I feel that Cleddau Reach

Primary and the whole Llangwm Community will remain in a strong position to embrace a return to more positive times. I wish the governing body success in appointing a new headteacher who can carry the school forward with energy and enthusiasm.

I also wish all connected with the Llangwm community health, happiness and contentment in the years to come.

From: Mr N Groves,

Head of Cleddau Reach School



A Well Deserved Retirement

It was with genuine regret that I learned from **Mr Nick Groves** of his intention to retire at the end of the Summer term. He has been an outstanding Head of first Llangwm school to which he was appointed in September 2001 and then Cleddau Reach in 2010.

Nick, a native of Somerset, graduated from Homerton College Cambridge in 1986 and his first appointment as a teacher was to a middle school in Crawley where he stayed for three years before moving on to Orpington in south east London to what was then the biggest junior school in Britain. In 1991 he made the sound decision to move to Pembrokeshire and was appointed to Manorbier school. This must have come as a great culture shock – from city to the country and from a very big school to one of only 72 pupils. The ten years spent in the south of the county, eight as deputy head, were years he looks back on with fondness. However, the pull of Llangwm was irresistible and he applied for and was appointed head of our school in 2001. It was early in my time as Chair of Governors of the school but it was clear to me that, for various reasons, we needed someone with special qualities. We found that person and had no hesitation in offering him the headship which he was pleased to accept. One of his first duties was to organise an event celebrating 130 years of formal education in our village and a grand occasion it was.

Ten years into his headship the Local Education Authority was in the process of, where possible, closing small schools and the suggestion was made to amalgamate Burton and Llangwm schools. This was not without its difficulties. It's never an easy matter to take away a school from a community. That having been said, the change was effected quite smoothly due in no small part to the way in which it was handled by a head who, for a few years, worked at both sites whilst the new Cleddau Reach school was being built. Bringing the pupils and staff together was managed with exceptional skill and sensitivity.

Throughout his time as Headteacher children and their well-being has always been top of Nick's agenda. He wanted them to learn to the best of their abilities but also to feel that they were in a warm and caring environment where respect for each other was of paramount importance. He also set high store by developing rounded individuals and encouraged his excellent staff to provide as many extra-curricular activities as possible. One of his great loves is cricket and he has spent hours coaching and encouraging all pupils who showed an interest. His enthusiasm played a large part in the success enjoyed by the school in reaching the finals of the National Cricket competition held at the SWALEC stadium in Cardiff on more than one occasion.

The school under his leadership has been very supportive of our local communities: church services, Remembrance Sunday, The St David's Day celebration, carnival day, the carol concert etc. In turn the communities have been supportive of him, something he has always greatly appreciated. When asked by villagers to involve the school in projects his inclination has always been to say yes. He has been a regular contributor to this publication keeping us all abreast of the rich life of the school. Though there were opportunities to move to bigger schools he has never wanted to leave the school where he has been very happy.

Having worked closely with Nick Groves for twenty years I am in a reasonable position to speak with some confidence about him. He is a man who believes passionately in the power and importance of education and to that end wants the best for the pupils under his charge. Though his responsibilities as Head have been considerable he has continued to enjoy working with children in their classrooms. He is calm, thoughtful, considerate and has an impressive grasp of detail. When I asked for information I was totally confident that what he told me was accurate. He is conscientious to a fault hardly missing a day at school during the last twenty years. The unprecedented and extraordinarily difficult challenge of Covid has been met with his customary optimism and desire to support the pupils and staff of Cleddau Reach to the utmost.

He has made my task as Chair of Governors all the easier because I have always felt that the school was in safe hands. It is difficult to envisage Cleddau Reach without his reassuring presence. I am sure that you will join me in wishing Mr Groves a long and happy retirement when the time comes. May his golf ball fly straight and true.

Barry Childs - Chair of Governors, Cleddau Reach School

LLANGWM METHODIST CHAPEL

Minister: Reverend Lorette Hinson

Treasurer: Mrs Susan Davies

Secretary: Mrs Jane Brock

Unfortunately due to COVID we have a very short message for our village and a couple of service dates. At the time of going to press we have no further dates available.

Services for April

(All COVID restrictions apply to our services, face masks to be worn, hand sanitiser to be used on entry and leaving the building, track and trace also in place. Seating 2 metres)

11.30am - Easter

Sunday: Rev Lorette
(Holy Communion)

Sunday 11th April: *No Service*

Sunday 18th April: Rev
Dave Murfin - normal
service time -

11.00am

Sunday 25th April: *No Service*



Message from our Minister, Reverend Lorette Hinson

"Mountains play a significant role throughout the bible as places where people were 'closer' to God.

Who wouldn't want to stay in the clear pure air, far from the everyday problems, bad news, sad news, injustices, unfairness that is in the world?

Who wouldn't want to linger at the top of a mountain, taking in the scenery, feeling the exertion of the climb, hearing the call of the skylarks?

However, we are not called to live on the mountain tops away from everyday life, instead, we are called to live in the valleys and use those thin places, where heaven and earth meet, away from the everyday, to get closer to God, gain perspective, evaluate where we are and where we are going.

So as the Covid restrictions lift, find your thin place, to start working out what life is now going to look like, what things you will keep doing and what things you may stop doing.

I don't know when life will get back to normal, I can't tell you where Jesus is leading us, but I can tell you it is to somewhere other than where we are now and somewhere we have not been before, but wherever it is, he's already there."

Langum National School

On the 21st Sept 1871 Langum National School opened to the children of Llangwm, ever since it has held a special place in village life until its closure.

Encouraged by initial support last autumn we began to explore how we could protect / preserve one of the most historic buildings in the community before any more damage can be incurred from the rigors of time and the elements.

A wealth of affection followed the launch of our FACEBOOK group dedicated to our sole aim.

Regrettably Covid 19 has hindered progress but

we've already begun enquires with relevant parties. Hopefully we'll have more feedback by the next Llangwm newsletter.

Currently we are restricted to our FACEBOOK group but hope this will soon change. In the meantime please do take a look and keep sharing your wonderful stories, memories and photographs.

Kind regards

Gareth and Sue



(See Facebook page: 'Langwm National School 1870'

Keeping the music alive



Even in the face of adversity Llangwm's (Old) Boy Band, Wrong Direction, still bereft of their normal Tuesday morning rehearsal sessions in St Jerome's, have been keeping the music alive and greasing the old vocal chords by meeting up weekly on Zoom.

Admittedly, they are unable to sing together because of technical constraints but, undaunted, they are managing quite well with the available resources i.e. maestro, Neil Martin, shares his screen containing the score with moving cursor and the accompaniment and sings along with one or other of the parts and the rest of us mute our machines and sing along individually. It works remarkably well using a sophisticated software package called Musescore.

Apart from practising the old songs in our repertoire we're also learning a few new ones in the hope that it won't be too long before we can resume our normal practices and plan some live performances. We already have one booking for 2022 when we have been invited to sing in a concert at Pysgah Chapel near Cresswell Quay as part of their bi-centenary celebrations.

Although a few of our members are a bit techno-shy, we generally have up to twelve of our full complement of fifteen (including musical director, Neil) participating in our Zoom sessions. Singing apart, there is also a liberal amount of ribbing as we are blessed with more than our fair share of comedians!

Graham Brace

Still in stitches

The ladies' crochet group 'Positively Loopy' is just one of the many groups of friends looking forward to meeting up when they are next permitted, at their regular get-togethers at the *Cottage Inn*.

Some of them have been continuing their hobby while at home, but all agree they have been missing working as a group in friendly surroundings.



Llangwm Community Council

Ongoing Projects and News



- Members wish to thank all those volunteers who helped place the Christmas Tree and the lights. Residents have also been hanging tokens on the tree; hearts and ribbons, what a lovely gesture. It has been suggested by residents, that a tree be planted on the green to show appreciation to Llangwm residents for their amazing community spirit during the current pandemic.
- Pembrokeshire County Council have placed the responsibility of insuring and maintaining the Pill Parks Play Park to Llangwm Community Council. Therefore, residents will see a rise in the precept.
- The Pill Parks Play Park fencing will be replaced as agreed with Pembrokeshire CC.
- Traffic concerns raised by residents – Community Councillors have liaised with both Dyfed Powys Police and Pembrokeshire CC, to help improve traffic issues, such as speeding and parking. (Gail Rise, Deerland Road)
- Placing of removal fencing at Pill Parks by Rugby Club. – Due to WRU rules the Rugby Club have been instructed to place suitable fencing in line with Coronavirus guidelines. This will be removed at the start and end of the Rugby Season.
- Land Registration of Pill Parks – This is in process and will support the ongoing Tirion's Rainbow Project.
- Public Consultation on the Community Centre. We are working in partnership with the Community Centre Committee and will keep you apprised of any updates.
- Defibrillators are checked every month by one of the Community Councillors. Costs to keep them in use e.g. batteries, pads are met by the Community Council precept.
- The Community Council wish Mr N Groves, Head of Cleddau Reach VC school, a well-deserved and healthy retirement. We thank Mr Groves for his dedication to the school and appreciate all his efforts in ensuring an excellent educational culture. Further, for his handling of the Covid19 pandemic, creating a safe environment for both pupils and staff.
- Responsible Dog Ownership. – please clean up after your canine friends and if you are aware of those not doing so, let the Community Council know, thank you.
- We would like to thank Mr Dave Golding of the Cleddau Stores who has worked tirelessly to support those residents unable to shop during this pandemic. Please support the Cleddau Stores, an old cliché, but “use it if you don't want to lose it”. The Village would not be the same without a local shop and Post Office, thank you.
- Black Tar Facility has been closed due to the Coronavirus outbreak. However, works will be undertaken to upgrade the toilet facility. Our thanks to the Llangwm Longboat Rowing Club for their continuing support.

Let us know if we can help or advise you by contacting the Clerk, Kathy Codd on llangwmclerk@btinternet.com or leave a message on 07866 958795.

The Local and the Further Afield

There aren't many good things to say about lockdown but there is one: the chance to meet people you meet whilst out exercising. One of these is Alan Rees who will keep you entertained and educated about the place in which he grew up – Black Tar and beyond. We were in Llangwm school together being roughly of the same age. On one of our encounters he told me of **'Poems From The Heart'** by **Phil Stodds** and with typical generosity loaned me his copy. Though the verse may be uneven it is never uninteresting. It's got an honest, authentic, local voice ranging over subjects as diverse as Welsh identity, Withybush hospital, rugby team mates. Of particular interest is 'Llangwm Way'. You'll certainly recognise the characters on whom it is based.

Travelling much further afield, if you like horses and more particularly horse racing you can't fail to like **'Seabiscuit'** by **Laura Hillenbrand**. Its subject is an unlikely champion race horse running during the Great Depression and into the 1940s. His career started badly: he liked nothing more than sleeping and eating and was difficult to motivate. However, under the expert guidance of trainer Tom Smith along with Red Pollard his jockey (blind in one eye) the horse became a national icon of hope in very difficult times. His speed and achievements are legendary. It's not all about this remarkable horse though. It's also about the people involved with it and the good and not so good aspects

of racing during that period. This is a very well written book which has the voice of an excited, breathless commentator when races are being described.

And back home again. The Archive building is not operating at the moment but when lockdown ends it's worth spending a few hours there browsing, for example, **the logs of Llangwm school**. I've managed to spend time reading copies of those logs over the past few weeks covering the period from 1894 up until 1913. Fascinating. Formal, free education was in its infancy and wasn't necessarily considered the most important consideration when in competition with practicalities. So absences from school were frequent and for a range of reasons: illness real or imagined, 'gardening operations', 'digging out potatoes', 'mushroom picking', 'the mackerel season', 'gathering cockles', 'blackberry picking', 'following the hounds' and the list goes on. It's a window into a very different but engrossing age.

As a footnote, a couple of interesting films have been released recently. **'The Dig'** is about one of the greatest archaeological finds in the UK, the Sutton Hoo Anglo Saxon ship burial in which amazing treasures, now in the British Museum, were found. Another is **'The Trial of the Chicago 7'**. This focuses on the politically inspired court case of defendants following anti Vietnam war protests in 1968 at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. It makes for fascinating watching.

I hope that you enjoy some of the above and that we can look forward to a more normal Summer.

Barry Childs

Longing for a pint?



Matthew and his team look forward to welcoming you back to the *Cottage Inn* just as soon as they receive the go ahead! *Cheers!*





County Council Report March '21

should be thanked, but it is a shame that some do feel it acceptable to put at risk not just their safety, but that of other road users.

The community speed watch team are very supportive in tackling the issue, and they are looking

rise. This was defeated by 34-22 votes. The increase of 3.75% was then carried by 37-18 votes.

3.75% represents £43 per annum for a band D property.

CENSUS 2021 is in progress This takes place every 10 years and provides an opportunity to build a detailed and comprehensive picture of the nation, and of the population. These statistics are vital to the country - nationally, locally and within communities. Everyone has the chance to provide the information that can help to ensure their communities are well served.

For local authorities, the census underpins both planning and provision of public services. Getting the best possible response rates for the census will make sure that decisions are based on accurate, high-quality data. All residents are encouraged to fill in and return the census papers.

Elections. There are elections coming up on May 6th for the Welsh Government and the Police & Crime Commissioner. This is the first time 16-17 years olds are eligible to vote in Wales. Residents are encouraged to ensure they are registered to take part in any elections.

Haverfordwest High VC School new build is moving forward and scheduled to open September 2022. Works are ongoing and on schedule to be completed on time. This will be a fantastic facility for the children from our area, who will benefit from this new £49 million school in the years to come.

New laws introduced by WG From March 1st more places in Wales are smoke-free. The laws build on the smoking ban introduced in 2007 and will protect more people from the harms of second-hand smoke. It will mean that school grounds and public playgrounds, as well as the outdoor areas of children's day-care, childminding settings and hospital grounds will be smoke-free. Anyone found breaking the law could face a £100 fine. Wales is the first part of the UK to outlaw smoking in these areas.

(Cllr Michael John's report continues on next page..)

COVID 19 – The news, and all aspects of life continue to be dominated with the covid pandemic at present, and we await guidance from Welsh Government over any easing to the current level 4 lock-down restrictions.

The vaccination programme is well under way, and there is light at the end of the tunnel given the reports on how successful it is at preventing infection, and from passing it on.

In our areas, we continue to have the fantastic support from our local shops and businesses who have certainly gone above and beyond throughout the pandemic. I hope the support they have shown to their communities is reciprocated once we get some sort of normality back.

The Community Hub, set up by PCC, continues to support and co-ordinate efforts across the county to get help to those who need it.

There are regular bulletins from PCC, and Public Health Wales who issue a daily dashboard of facts and figures online.

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

<https://phw.nhs.wales/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

Speeding in our villages is always of concern and there isn't a week goes by when I'm not contacted regarding issues somewhere in the Llangwm ward.

I would stress that most drivers do adhere to the speed limits and they

for new, acceptable places to patrol once they are able to resume their work.

If there are any residents interested in joining the Community Speed watch group, there are some details at:

<https://gosafe.org/community-speed-watch/>

The issue has also been highlighted to the "Go Safe" team at Dyfed-Powys police to seek any assistance.

The possibility of vehicle activated signs and traffic calming is often raised.

Any traffic calming measures would need funding by PCC, and requests are prioritised to ensure that cases are dealt with fairly, and that the available resources are targeted.

Bids for funding by PCC go to the Welsh Government who look at accident and injury figures.

It is therefore very important that all accidents/ incidents are reported to the Police on 101. This would then provide an evidence base for any future considerations.

The village of Burton has recently installed 2 vehicle activated signs, and they have provided the following, very helpful fact sheet on their experiences:

indd.adobe.com/view/f039e509-777c-4c87-acd0-158d8c8994bd

PCC's budget for 2021/22 was set at the on-line council meeting on March 4th. The cabinet proposed an increase of 3.75%. This was following public consultations, input from councillors at meetings/seminars, and a better than expected settlement from Welsh Government.

PCC has a funding gap of £11.9 million to cover this year, and increased council tax will partly help to make it up along with savings and efficiencies. There was a long debate and views put forward for a lower increase of a 3%

Report from Pembrokeshire County Councillor

Michael John

(..continued from previous page)

The Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant is still in operation and money is available for projects in this area. Take up in our area has been relatively low and anyone interested is encouraged to contact the team for advice.

The grant uses funds from the community element of the second home council tax scheme.

Funds which are not allocated revert to the general county wide pot, so if there are any 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>

Surface dressing programme

The following roads are in this year's programme of works in the Llangwm Ward:

C30 13	LLANGWM 30 MPH - END 30 MPH HOOK	LLANGWM
C30 41	LOWER QUAY ROAD - END 30 MPH HOOK	HOOK
U60 62	KNAPP FARM LANE	LLANGWM
U60 62	SPRINKLE LANE	LLANGWM
U60 65	FREYSTROP - LITTLE MILFORD	FREYSTROP

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

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

Galilee Baptist Chapel

Galilee Chapel is looking resplendent after its redecoration in recent months and right now has a colourful show of daffodils on its well-kept lawn.

There are no immediate plans to resume services but the deacons look forward to welcoming back their congregation when there is more certainty of restrictions being lifted.

During periods of lockdown Galilee members have had frequent telephone contact with one another and regular phone calls and messages from minister Rev Roger Hart, keeping spirits buoyant.



"Easter blessings to All, from Galilee"

A Big Thank You to Llangwm's litter champion

We will all have seen her out in all weathers, with her bag in hand picking up litter from around the village and beyond. Her name is NIKKI BOSWORTH and she collects the litter voluntarily.

Did you know Nikki has collected 26 BAGS OF LITTER since January 1st 2021?!!!

26 BLACK BIN SIZED BAGS OF LITTER that has been discarded in and around our lovely village.

So when we next see Nikki out and about collecting litter we should say thank you to her for keeping our village litter-free.

And to those of you who discard your litter in places where you shouldn't, shame on you.

"THANK YOU NIKKI"

From Dave Golding and Others



Llangwm RFC Report Spring 2021



It is hard to believe but it has now been over 12 months since the last match was played by the club at Pill Parks - the longest break in club rugby since the war! At the time of writing, there is no fixed date for the return of any grass roots rugby, with any resumption in play to be determined by Welsh Government guidelines, along with any subsequent directives from the Welsh Rugby Union.

This has been a very testing time for all clubs and Llangwm is no exception. From the youngest players just starting out on their rugby experiences, to the other end of the spectrum with some players just hoping for one more run out - from junior coaches to older committee members and supporters old and new - the suspension of rugby has been well and truly missed.

Let's hope that with the increasing vaccination programme we see the return of club rugby from the juniors through to the senior team next season.

At least we have seen some international rugby being played, with Wales raising the country's spirits and a fine Triple Crown already secured with two games to play (at the time of writing). We may know by then the intentions for the British & Irish Lions planned tour to South Africa in the Summer, with rumours of games being played in the UK.

With very little to report on the

It appears that controversy and Llangwm often walked hand in hand. In November a Neyland forward was criticised in the local press for challenging to fight a young outside half, Victor Palmer. The newspaper added with disbelief that the forward was at least four stone heavier than Palmer!

In March, Neyland and Llangwm were at it again. Llangwm complained that after a match which incidentally Neyland won 11-3, the Llangwm players had to bath in cold water, had nowhere to hang their clothes in the changing room and had to share two chairs between fifteen men.

This season Llangwm reached the second round of the Knock-Out Cup before bowing out 13-3 in a game in which Victor Palmer was injured leaving his side to play with fourteen men.

It was also in 1921-1922 that Llangwm, who were fielding a seconds side this year, first wore Black and Amber. The match was against Tenby. Prior to this they wore Black and Blue and before that of course, plain red. So it was in 1921-22 that Llangwm first became called "The Wasps".

An interesting note from the 1920 Western Telegraph refers to the villagers efforts to purchase Pill Parks from Lt. Col. Lort-Phillips for use as a recreation ground. Commending such a small village on its progressive spirit the newspaper correspondent wrote, "The villagers - population 600 - are to be congratulated. For the past 35 years rugby football is the only outdoor sport indulged in by the young men of the village."

"For the past 35 years..." - gives further support to the date of birth of Llangwm rugby as being 1885.

In the early 20's the team was obviously getting better and better and the school was turning out a more than useful side and beat Coronation School, Pembroke Dock. Mentioned as Primary School rugby players who caught the eye, S. Brock, S. Jones, C. John, R. Palmer, T.J. Palmer, S. Morgans and D. John.

One incident which found its way into folklore was a game in 1923 - a Knock-Out Cup game - between the Wasps and the All Blacks of Neyland.

So confident of victory were Neyland that Press reports say how their supporters arrived at the ground with a black wreath complete with a memorial card. Sadly for them Llangwm won 3 points to nil thanks to a try by Wynford Palmer. The same year the club took Tenby's ground record and lost the K.O. Cup semi-final after a replay against the Pembroke Dock 'Quins.



local rugby front, I thought it may be of interest to look back into the history club. The articles alongside are taken from the book "Llangwm RFC - 100 Years of Rugby" which was written in 1985 to commemorate the club's centenary season. (Articles reproduced with kind permission of the author Richard Howells).

The reports are from around 100 years ago, with a

photograph of the team in the 1920-21 season (which is very timely as it is 100 years ago this season). I wonder about the result of that team and today's counterparts if a match was played! The letters referred to are published in full in the book, and if anyone wishes to borrow a copy for a read, please let me know.

Michael John

President, Llangwm RFC

(see also archive item on next page)

(Photograph and text relate to Rugby report on previous page)



RUNNERS-UP WEST OF LLANELLY JUNIOR LEAGUE 1919 - 20
Scored 256 points - against 57 points

In 1919/20 Llangwm - playing at Pill Parks - were taking on and beating teams such as Narberth and Tenby.

Stars of the day - or at least men who continually caught the eye of local reporters included W. Morgan, W.J. Palmer, V. Palmer, W.G. Morgan and a Hadden John.

In February of the 1920 season Llangwm failed to play all their fixtures and fell foul of the West of Llanelli League. The league ruled that unless the Wasps fulfilled matches against Pembroke Dock Quins and Kilgetty they could not enter the cup. The reason for the failure to play all their fixtures was that there was a large number of redundancies at the Dockyard and several players had to leave the county to find employment.

Naturally, Llangwm protested and there followed a solid, uncompromising attack on the administrators by a gentleman whose nom-de-plume was 'Sportsman'.

Llangwm, however, did manage to get into the Cup only to have another storm of protest directed at the Club.

A game against the Quins was won 9 points to 3 points but after a protest the league administrators ordered a replay which Llangwm won 6 points to 3.

The semi-final against Kilgetty was a classic.

Four all at full time, both clubs agreed to play ten minutes each way as extra time and Llangwm even agreed to allow Kilgetty to play another man for one of the injured.

But Llangwm won 7 points to 4 and there followed a huge row which occupied columns in the local press. I include two letters for the record - one from each side - but both well worth reading.

ROCK OPERA - "The Little Things"

Village Voices Spectacular News!

Following on from the success of the **WW1 opera**, the **Village Voices** production team have received funding from **Valero** and the **Celtic Connections** grant to carry out the development phase of a brand new **Rock Opera** entitled "**The Little Things**".

Sam Howley, Peter George, Carol MacIntosh and **Liz Rawlings** are going to create a **series of three videos** as a prequel to **staged performances** in **2022**. The fifth and new member of the team is **Iestyn Griffiths** who is responsible for the amazing videos on **YouTube** of the **Welsh in the West End**.

Links have been established with a similar team in **Wexford** and their performances will take place in **Wexford's National Opera House**.

Our pan-Pembrokeshire project will perform in **St David's Cathedral** which is quite apt as the three main soloists are the saints **Non, David** and **Aidan** though set about 100 years in the future. Watch for more details later!

Liz Rawlings

If you know of any young singers in the village and beyond, or anyone who might enjoy this experience, please put them in touch with Sam Howley or Liz Rawlings. It promises to be a very exciting and rewarding project.

(more from Village Voices on page 27 overleaf)

The village website has something for everyone

www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk

Llangwm Village Website, supported by Llangwm Community Council, was relaunched in January 2019 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.

Just some of the information featured on the website ...

In the Spring of last 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. After a brief hiatus, more articles will be added soon – look out for the links on the Llangwm Facebook page.



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.

Needless to say, the **What's On** page has been very quiet over the past twelve months but, with better times ahead, hopefully it will gradually begin to fill.

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 had, inevitably, little interest over the past few months, but in normal times has proved a valuable resource for those looking for a place to stay in the village.

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 regularly updated to reflect the current guidelines.

The site also hosts the online colour edition of **Llangwm Village News**, available to view/download several days after the paper edition has been distributed. Past editions are also available to view.

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? webeditor@llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk

How will you remember Lockdown?

The village's **History Society** is currently collating the **experiences of people in Llangwm** in relation to the past year's **Covid restrictions** and **periods of Lockdown**.

What did you **think** of it all? What were your **feelings** about being 'kept in'? How did Covid affect **your job?** **your schooling?** your **family get-togethers** and **relationships?** the **village** in general?

If you can **spare a few moments** to **jot down your thoughts** (maybe you even kept a Lockdown diary you can refer to) **please email them to:**

butterhill10@btinternet.com or **m.brace@btinternet.com**

They will be kept on file for future generations to look into this unique period in our village history.

Time for recollection at the Museum

It has been a strange time at Llangwm's little museum, unable to open for its usual 'guest week' in May last year. Over the years so many local groups, clubs and societies have wandered in wonderment among its fascinating objects and displays!

Jeff and Pat (and all of us) look forward to such times in future but for now, and for this May, the museum remains closed in the face of the persistent Coronavirus restrictions.

And if you were there on "Super Saturday" a few years ago, you'll remember the crush in the outdoor tearoom - and you'll know why!



Most of you will have watched the recent BBC programme about Professor Mike Parker Pearson's amazing discovery of a long-lost 'Welsh Stonehenge' at Waun Mawr on the Preseli Hills.

It brought to Jeff's mind the Millennium project to try to re-create the journey locally, dragging a giant stone overland and by sea (where it met a watery grave in the Bristol Channel) (later moved to the National Botanic Garden of Wales.)

In the heyday of the Scarecrow Festival 2000 Jeff at the Museum had his own take on the story ...see pic.

Village Voices - never lost for words (or music)

Wellwe kept going, albeit through zoom and sessions at Will Scale's barn at Great Nash (thank you Will!!)

The brave were well wrapped up for the latter and the acoustics were really good. And the Zoom meetings? Well who can tell? Everyone was muted except for Sam and just as well because with so little practice Village Voices could become Rusty Voices.

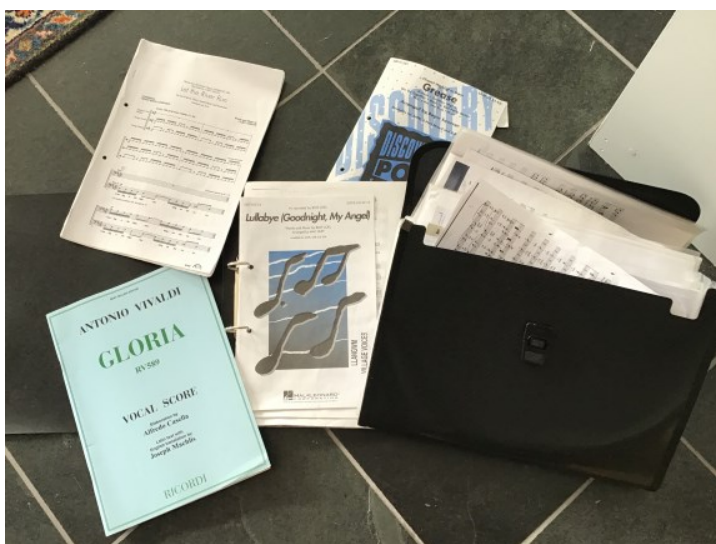
Sam kept busy though, composing 'Yellow', for baroque violin and harpsichord.

However optimism, Pfizer and Astra Zeneca prevail so normal practices are on the horizon...soon, soon, soon.

So much music, so little time, but on the other hand, our gardens have had more attention.

All being well, when there is more normality,

practices will resume on Thursdays at 7pm in the Village Hall. All welcome, no audition necessary! *Fiona Cutting*



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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.

Birds Count

The current lockdown and associated travel restrictions have rather curtailed our birding exploits in recent months. Consequently, myself and fellow village birders, Graham Stephens and Mervyn Hopkins, decided it would be an interesting exercise to count the number of different bird species that we've seen locally during this lockdown period from the beginning of December. We have recorded a grand total of **71 different species** and this does not include one or two relatively common birds e.g. the nuthatch, siskin and peregrine falcon. It does include a Tawny Owl which has been heard at night but not seen. There have also been reliable reports of a goshawk seen at Sprinkle Pill and Landshipping.

During the second week of February, the NFU in conjunction with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust instigated The Big Farmland Bird Count and Graham Stephens and I undertook to do this at the request of Will Scale at Great Nash and Gus Stott at East Hook Farm. We were meant to count the numbers of all the different birds species seen in a 30 minute period. Considering the area we had to cover at each location we felt that this was impractical and extended the count period to an hour. Each farm had distinctive differences in habitat. Great Nash is mostly arable with woodland and scrub margins and a pond. East Hook Farm is all grassland with areas of old woodland, scrub and marshy patches, being surrounded on three sides by shore. Both locations yielded 21 species most of which were common to each with a couple of exceptions. Unfortunately, the very severe cold and windy weather experienced at East Hook kept a lot of smaller birds under cover. Each location count started positively with red kites being first on the list. We plan to go back to both farms in more favourable weather conditions to do a more thorough and widespread audit of the species present.

Reporting these counts on Llangwm Facebook has generated a fair amount of interest with several people expressing a wish to increase their knowledge of birds. Consequently, when restrictions allow Graham, Mervyn and I intend to organise a few local walks to encourage an interest in birds and help with bird identification. We'll give advance notice on Llangwm Facebook.

On 30th and 31st January, the annual RSPB Garden Birdwatch took place. Sod's Law, many of our usual garden visitors got wind of this and duly stayed away and so my count was pretty modest. Derek John, however, in his Glanhafan garden was inundated and actually counted 15 goldfinches around his feeders at one time in addition to 7 other common species during a 30 minute watch.

The last few days has seen no less than 3 red kites circling the village and surrounding area.

These winter months have seen the usual ducks and waders present in the Pills and adjacent shores (teal, mallard,

shelduck, redshank, greenshank, dunlin, curlew and occasional black tailed godwits). Solitary common sandpipers have been seen regularly at Ferry Bay, Edwards Pill and at the top end of Llangwm Pill. Little grebes and great crested grebes have also been regulars, diving for fish in the Pill and offshore (Jo Marson at The Point in Llangwm Ferry had a grandstand view of these lovely birds fishing on 15th December). During October and November there were large flocks of Canada geese, sometimes numbering 300+ in and around the Pill and in the fields beyond Knapp Wood overlooking Fowborough. A large flock of around 125 greylag geese have also been feeding in the same fields. Huge numbers of several thousand golden plover and lapwings have been present at Fowborough. On 17th January I reckoned that there were close on 2000 golden plover and several hundred lapwing in the field above the shore at Coedcanlas.

Cath Morgan reported a black redstart in her garden over several days at the end of October. Coincidentally, there were a number of other black redstart sightings around the county at the same time.

On 23rd October I watched a female grey seal for an hour in Edwards Pill taking great pleasure in scratching its hide on the hull of a moored boat and playing with a fender/mooring buoy. It eventually swam out into the mainstream and disappeared.

There was a spate of otter sightings in mid-December. Richard Tovey saw one being mobbed by crows near Ferry Bay on 11th and Bob Chesmer and John Cutting saw one in the Pill on 15th and 16th respectively. During this period there was evidence of fresh spraint at two locations in the Pill. Mervyn and Sue Hopkins saw one swimming mid-stream in Beggars Reach heading to Coedcanlas.

As I write this on 25th February, Spring is around the corner and the daffodils, snowdrops, crocuses and primroses are beginning to transform the garden and everything is starting to look more optimistic.

Please email me with any interesting reports at grahambrace@btinternet.com



Greater Spotted Woodpecker - a daily visitor at our garden feeder