

Llangwm Village News

Issue 54 Autumn/Winter 2021



Pages of Sport: Rugby resumes for Juniors, Youth and Seniors

Football, Cricket and Rowing reports

Scouting, History, Gardening, Wildlife - and much more!

Times are changing...

There's an air of change about the village, not just because we are emerging from a long period of lockdown and activities are starting up again in earnest.

Rugby, cricket, football, history and gardening groups - they are resuming as they ever were. But certain aspects of village life are changing by the day.

It will be different driving up the Kilns without the colourful sight of the Charity Plant Stall (see report on page 5). It has done so much good over the years - we wish Stuart and Liz a gentler pace of gardening in their retirement from plant sales.

The centre of the village too is due to change (see the poignant letter on page 9). We send the Methodist fellowship all good wishes for their future.

Also on the village green, there are plans to transform the old tumbledown barn that we have rather sadly grown accustomed to.

Plus there is a giant plan for the top of the village, where

the Kilns meets Deerland. Fifty-four houses represent a massive change for the village, not to mention related traffic. It is in the planning process - we shall see what change this will bring.

Another change is going to be with this newsletter! I am having to give up as editor because of family commitments. If you, or anyone you know, can spare some time (at the moment it is two issues a year) to make up the pages on Microsoft Publisher, Quark Express or any other suitable desktop publishing program, please step forward. I shall offer to help collect and collate the articles at first, contacting the contributors and passing on the content. *Please get in touch if you can help.* This is a village full of talented volunteers, I know there will be someone who will enjoy doing this. I certainly have, and I am grateful to all those writers, photographers, proofreaders, distributors and my 'technical support team' who have so generously contributed to its success.

So into the future we go. Whatever happens, we can be certain that the spirit of Llangwm will live on, uniquely and indomitably, for many years to come.

Margaret Brace m.brace@btinternet.com

Litfest returns

The **Llangwm Literary Festival** will be reborn in 2022 on **12, 13 and 14 August** with a cheeky blend of local, national and international projects.

Anyone who'd like to be involved or has any suggestions for the programme should speak to their usual contact or email llangwmlitfest@gmail.com

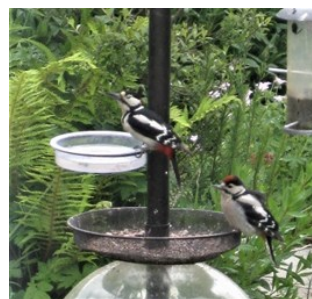
Michael Pugh



Picture shows Holi, the Indian Festival of Colour, celebrated all over the world. For full effect check out the newsletter on-line a few days after distribution of this edition of the village.

Llangwm Festival Committee

Once again, it has not been possible to hold the **Festival Fortnight and Carnival** this year.



However, we have been running a **monthly children's nature and wildlife photography competition** with all the entries showcased on our Facebook page (*Llangwm Festival Committee Events*) as well as on the *Llangwm* page.

In a step back to normality, next week we are looking forward to holding a **joint Hallowe'en party at the Rugby Club with the junior Rugby Club**. By the time you read this, I hope it went well!



And by the way, look out for **"Letters to Santa"** later in the year.

Judy Rose

Please attend

Remembrance Sunday Service

14th November 2021

The Service will be taken at **10.00am** at the memorial on Llangwm Green by Reverend Marcus of St Jerome's. Representatives from both the Baptist and Methodist congregation will be in attendance. Members from the Community Council and the History Society will lay wreaths and prayers will be read to honour the fallen of the village in both world wars, and all victims of war.



Well done, well run



"Caty Brock would like to thank everyone from the community for all the support and donations for running the London Marathon on Oct 3rd this year."

Grow your own

Another busy year on the allotments, we've been fortunate to receive a grant enabling us to start work on improving both the site and facilities, work is ongoing and hopefully will be finished for the new season.

If you are interested in an allotment please contact Kim Sandford 01437 891127



Scouts

1st Johnston

The summer term saw our much anticipated return to face to face meetings and it has been amazing to welcome back our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts along with lots of new starters.

Our meetings remain outdoors and we have had sessions covering fire lighting, cooking, putting up tents, navigation, as well as working towards the new badge on #YouShape.

In September we were fortunate to join Scouts from across Pembrokeshire at a special activity day at Picton Castle, and in October we spent time on the water with Paddlewest at Pembroke Castle.

The winter months will remain challenging with the nights drawing in and the weather, but our aim remains to deliver as many face to face meetings as we can.

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

Simon Preddy - Group Scout Leader

1stjohnston@gmail.com or 07824 504 802

Llangwm & District Gardening Club

Delighted to kick off a new season '21/'22 with our largest membership of 70 plus and hope over the coming months we'll be able to offer events, inside and out for all. October's presentation of THE FLOWERS OF PEMBROKESHIRE was well attended in the village hall and I hope people felt secure with our covid arrangements. Fabulous photos and a mine of information, John Archer Thomson gave us a memorable evening and reinforced that we live in a beautiful county.

November 1st talk will be ORGANIC SALADS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR and we're delighted to invite back Gill Lewis of St David's Perennial Garden. A fount of gardening know how, Gill will share her secrets of year-round produce.

I'm hoping to arrange a festive workshop for members at Greenway Nursery in early December, a wreath-making class with Haidee, and a social gathering to celebrate Christmas.

The New Year will see the return of the popular fun quiz event on January 10th, which is shared with the History Society and on 7th of February we welcome Paul O'Neill who has created a fabulous garden from previous farmland...THE LAST COW....MAKING LLWYNGARREG GARDEN.

A welcome return to Peter & Carole Whittaker in March 7th as they spill the beans on life at an RHS show....EXHIBITING AT AN RHS SHOW, TATTON PARK. FUN OR FOLLY??

All meetings will be held in the village hall, doors open at 7



One of the first opportunities for many months to meet up with members and friends - the Annual Plant Sale in May, held outside the village hall.

Other outdoor occasions this summer were visits to Lamphey Walled Garden and the Open Garden at Stable Cottage, Mathry. Plus an al fresco pizza night to round off the summer.

for 7.30 pm start, unless advertised otherwise. Our events are posted on Llangwm Facebook page as well as our own club page, village posters and of course, emails to members.

I'm very much hoping we manage to get through our winter programme of events without any covid interruptions but will advertise any amendments if we're forced to change or stop.

Please contact Karen Shepherd at
kashepherd1602@googlemail.com

for any further information.

A year in the life of Llangwm

The Village is a new book by Llangwm photographer David Wilson. During 2019 he photographed people at home, at work and at play, recording a year in the busy life of this village.

"It was a full-on project and an incredible privilege to photograph all of the people I encountered," said David, who lives with his family in Williamston Terrace. "I tried to capture the spirit of Llangwm and what it means to live here."

The photographs range from rugby and cricket matches, to a morning in the shop, a pub barbecue, the farms, a school day, chapel and church services and lots more in between.

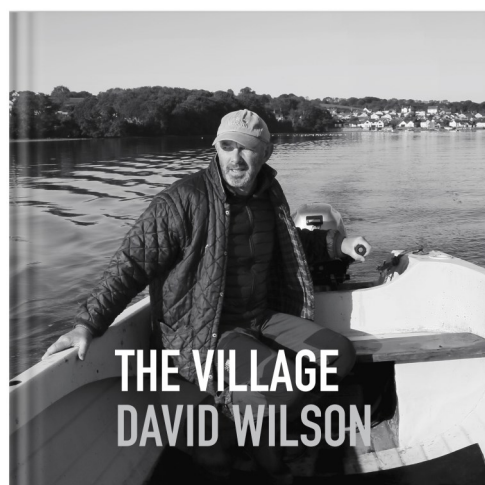
"I wanted to include as many aspects of life in the village as I possibly could," he said. "I particularly enjoyed photographing some of the well-known characters - their anecdotes to go with the images were brilliant."

The book will be published on 4th November. David will be signing copies at two events in the village:

* Llangwm Rugby Club on Thursday 11th November: 7pm - 9pm

* The Cottage Inn on Tuesday 16th November: 7pm - 9pm

Or if you like, you can arrange to collect a signed copy from his house by phoning him on 01437 890647 or emailing info@davidwilsonphotography.co.uk



A fond farewell from Llangwm's Plant Stall

In 2021 we are delighted to report that The Kilns Plant Stall generated £4,650 which was donated in September to Katie Macro from the Wales Air Ambulance.

Stuart and I have decided that as we are not getting any younger to hang up our trowels and concentrate on our own patch at home. That's not to say it's final as we may have the odd pop up day occasionally.

The plant stall became a joint effort in 2015 when friends Lynne and Steve Vincent-Davies joined forces with us. Their green fingers and expertise in taking cuttings from their own garden resulted in really colourful and excellent quality perennials. They also sold plants from their own house in Crundale this year and if they decide to continue with their cuttings then a trip to Dingle Lane will be very worthwhile next year.

Over the past eight years the amount raised for charity totals £15,710. Without customers none of this would have been possible and we have met other gardeners not only from Llangwm but many from the surrounding villages who have generously supported the stall.

Good neighbours have helped out as well, especially Sue Davies next door who has willingly watered the plants in our absence. Another source of income in lockdown was marmalade making. Although we can't claim that we grew the Seville oranges the resulting marmalade was sold by Dave Golding at Cleddau Stores and all the money went into the pot.

Thanks to everybody for your support – it was amazing!

Liz and Stuart Beresford

Donated by the Plant Stall year by year...

2014 Macmillan £350
2015 Prostate Cymru Wales £660
2016 Paul Sartori £850
2017 Wales Air Ambulance £1000
2018 DPJ Foundation £1400
2019 Pembrokeshire Samaritans £1800
2020 Prostate Cymru Wales £5000
2021 Wales Air Ambulance £4650



Pictured at the recent presentation of the cheque for £4,650 are (L-R:) Stuart and Liz Beresford, Katie Macro of the Wales Air Ambulance charity, Lynne and Stephen Vincent Davies. (Photograph: Steve Richards)

After isolation - celebration!

Llangwm's Wedding Exhibition gives a glimpse of the past and delights young and old

One of the first events as we emerged from the worst of the pandemic was a collaboration between the Friends of St Jerome's and Llangwm Methodist Chapel with help and support from the Llangwm Local History Society. The 'Wedding Exhibition' held in the Village Hall between 13th and 15th August proved to be a great success.

Twenty dresses and many photographs were contributed by local residents to make this an event to be remembered. They ranged from an eighty-one year old, hand-made dress, worn by Mr Richard Tovey's mother, up to much more modern dresses less than a year old. The change of fashions could be clearly seen in the range of styles and fabrics and this was made even more clear by the large number of photographs that brought back many memories amidst the reminiscence, laughter and tears of the people who attended.

The desire to get back some of Llangwm's social life was seen in the popularity of the refreshments served in a marquee set up just outside the Village Hall which seemed, despite the necessity for social distancing, to be



running at capacity for the whole weekend. Hot drinks and delicious cakes were made available by donation from the locals, both individual and business. Certainly one of the



best elements of the weekend was the chat and laughter coming from the marquee as people met and enjoyed each other's company after such a long time apart.

The organisers were delighted with the response and with the generosity of the people who attended and were ultimately able to donate £165 to the Church and the Chapel. They would also like to express their thanks to all of the residents of Llangwm and locally without whom this event would not have been possible.

Llinos Martin



Prestigious award for documentary film

Report from Heritage Llangwm/ The Friends of St Jerome's

The Friends - and in particular project leader Pamela Hunt - had some unexpected exciting news during the summer.

You may remember that when the parent group, Heritage Llangwm, was first formed with the aim of raising money to pay for a much needed restoration of the church, one of the ideas was to make a film about Llangwm's historical connections with Flemish incomers.

Pam's background as an independent film maker was hugely important but the cast and crew, from the presenters to Best Boy, were also drawn from Llangwm people. The film, *The Search for Little Flanders*, was a great success and the sale of DVD copies added to the coffers and to community spirit. You can still catch it online on YouTube.

And that was that. We thought. But then out of the blue Pam received an email saying the film had been nominated as **best documentary feature** at the

West Europe International Film Festival in Brussels. All of us involved spent an anxious time watching the awards ceremony online. And when the result – **first prize** in its section – was announced, the whoop of joy was enough to send the broadband connection to Llangwm crashing.

The judges told Pam afterwards the film was nominated partly because of its strong local involvement.

You may think that nothing could equal that but despite Covid restrictions we're doing our best to continue the good work – first and foremost being the planned return of the **St Jerome's lunchtime concerts**. For those of us who would prefer not to venture out, this year we're hoping to live stream the concerts so you can watch, if you prefer, from the comfort of your home. We're currently waiting for the church authorities to give us the go-ahead. Then if all is well

we plan to launch in **January** with the likes of the ever-popular **Two Pianos with Sam Howley and Seimon Morris, Mike Chant with his didgeridoos** and the **violin virtuoso Madi Phillips**. Fingers crossed!

The **film club** has also burst back into life with Christmas specials including *The Wizard of Oz* and *Judy*, about **Judy Garland**.

And finally – if we had a **Situations Vacant** column, this would be it.

The Friends of St Jerome need a **secretary**. Your duties would be to attend meetings, take notes, write them up and send them to members of the steering committee. You may or may not be a current member of that committee but we will welcome you all the same. Your re-numeration, I'm afraid, will be limited to the grateful thanks of some very nice people. Applications to **Pam Hunt (info@heritagellangwm.org.uk)**.

Heather Payton



Violinist Madi Phillips, lined up for the new season of St Jerome's Music at Lunchtime.

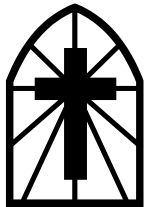
Friends of St Jerome's Christmas Coffee Morning

Thursday 2nd December
in St Jerome's at 10.30am
with scrummy cakes, Christmas music and a
chance to buy raffle tickets for the Big Raffle in
aid of St Jerome's.

All the required Covid regulations will be adhered to.

Cleddau Reach School Christmas Fayre

At time of publication
details were not available -
watch for notices from the School.



ST. JEROME'S NEWS

Hello everyone. The beautiful season of Autumn is upon us with its vibrant colours, plants rich in berries everywhere. We're always thankful for all the hard work our farming communities undertake in the gathering of bountiful harvests, to see us through the dark, stark winter months. Especially in these uncertain times with warnings of possible food shortages! We are still slowly getting used to a different way of life, overcoming problems and inconveniences this virus still poses. [May the beautiful colours that this season brings, lift our spirits with the never-ending hope of better safer times to come.](#)

It is such a good sight to see the children at school playing all together in the playground again! In Church, hymns are now being sung, which is so uplifting! Also, finally being able to visit our loved ones, whom we may not have been able to physically be with for a long time.

A brief recap of recent news and events. It was lovely to be able to hold the Annual Cleddau Reach Year 6 Leavers BBQ in July. As tradition dictates, there was the usual warm-up game of rounders, to get appetites going; with everything planned out so that social distancing rules were observed; but still, lots of fun! A very big thank you to Dave Golding, for donating and cooking the BBQ food and drinks! Also, the Church members who helped serving the delicious food to the children and adults! It was enjoyed by all.

Once again, a big thank you to Mr Groves for the use of the school for the evening, also to Mrs Woodward, Deputy Head and Year 6 Teacher and Mrs Sally Nowell, Site Manager.

On a sad note, it was to be Mr Groves' last Year 6 BBQ, as he was going to retire at the end of the term, after 20 years Headship at Llangwm and Cleddau Reach Schools. He had a very moving presentation from the whole school assembled on the playing field, in their class bubbles. They sang a very special song to him, with each class presenting him with their own designed cards and presents. A very emotional end of term!

Mr Rhys Buckley is the new Headteacher of Cleddau Reach VC Primary, who is very happy to be back in Pembrokeshire. We wish him every success in his new role.

It just remains to say stay safe everyone.

DETAILS OF SERVICES

Sunday Services

1 st Sunday	Worship Time (All age worship)	9.45am
2 nd Sunday	Eucharist	9.00am
3 rd Sunday	Eucharist	9.00am
4 th Sunday	Eucharist	9.00am
5 th Sunday	Eucharist	10.00am

(This service is on rotation between Llangwm, Freystrop or Johnston Churches.)

Midweek

Wednesday:	Eucharist on 1 st and 3 rd weeks	9.30am
Thursday:-	Morning Prayer on Zoom	9.30am (Contact Rev Marcus for details)

For Young People

Pilgrims Group meets every third Sunday at 3pm and we try to have outside activities where we can. **In November**, we will have a trip to some woods, for some woodland craft skills. **In December**, we will have an indoor afternoon cooking some Christmas foods.

All ages are welcome, but parents will need to accompany any under-eights.

Please contact Rev Marcus for full details on 01437 899548 or via email, marcuszipperlen@cinw.org.uk

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve

Family Crib Service	4pm
Midnight Eucharist	11.30pm

Christmas Day Family Eucharist will be in Freystrop Church (St Justinian's) at 10am.

Carol Service is yet to be confirmed.

As with all events please check notices on the Church Notice Board.

REMINDER:- Clocks go back one hour for GMT at 2am on Sunday, 31st October.

FORTHCOMING EVENT:-

ST JEROME'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Christmas Raffle will be drawn on Sunday 12th December.

PRIZES INCLUDE:-

Cleddau Stores Vouchers of £50, £30 & £20

The Pebidiog Trilogy coffee table book by world class photographer, Marcus Oleniuk. He documents the St David's peninsula and residents.

Christmas Hampers.....and many more prizes!

Raffle tickets are available from Cleddau Stores and any Church member.

Mrs J Mills Church Warden

Reverend Marcus and everyone from St. Jerome's Church would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and New Year in 2022.

Let's hope and pray 2022 is a lot better than the past 18 months, and that during these still uncertain and worrying times we all stay safe and healthy. God Bless.

Debbi Lawson-Earley

LLANGWM METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Reverend Hugh-John Wilson

Secretary: Mrs Jane Brock

Treasurer: Mrs Sue Davies

Dear friends

It seems strange that three years after retirement I once again have the privilege of the pastoral oversight of Llangwm Methodist Church albeit on a temporary basis. I am joined by Diane Hodson who, as our Lay Pastoral Assistant, will be doing most of the work on the ground. Diane can be contacted on 07585 091236 if you need a visit.

Covid has had a heavy toll on so many aspects of life and as churches we have not been immune to this. For the people at Llangwm Methodist Church it has become increasingly obvious that with a small congregation and a large building with ongoing maintenance issues something has to change. In a very emotional but grace-filled meeting the Church Council agreed unanimously that the long-term future of the Church could not be in the current building. We are now entering into a period of discernment about how the fellowship moves into the future. I need to emphasise that the decision is NOT to close the Church but it is about the building in which the Church currently meets. I do therefore ask your prayers for the good folk of Llangwm Methodist Church as together they seek a vision for the future.

I look forward to catching up with many Llangwm friends over the next twelve months.

Every blessing

Hugh-John

Rev Hugh-John Wilson

Wrong Direction – raising the roof again

After twelve months of weekly practice on Zoom when we would sing to ourselves at home along with musical director Neil Martin's on-screen score, voice and accompaniment, the Welsh Government finally relaxed the rules on small gatherings singing together and we held our first proper, live practice (socially distanced of course) in the village hall on 19 June.

What a joy it was to be back singing together in three-part harmony again after such a long enforced absence. The jokes and mickey-taking quickly resumed and it was soon like old times again! Despite the enforced solitude of singing on Zoom it did at least keep us in touch with the songs in our repertoire - we even learned a few new pieces and we appear to have come back with new confidence and vigour.

After four sessions in the village hall we moved to the Wesleyan Chapel schoolroom which, with St Jerome's not fully open, seems to have become our regular home.

What's more, with the wonders of modern technology baritone chorister Bernd Urban, currently residing in the city of Bonn in Germany, has been able to join our practices via Zoom, on Neil's laptop...amazing!



At full strength we are fourteen voices (including Bernd) plus musical director Neil.

Our repertoire is varied with an eclectic mix of songs from rousing sea shanties to a Simon and Garfunkle medley and Welsh folk songs.

We are currently working on a programme of songs for our first official 'gig' which will take place at Pisgah Chapel (Cresswell Quay) next March. This concert will be one of the events in the Chapel's year-long Bicentenary celebrations. Watch out for an informal concert/'Come-All-Ye' towards Christmas to be held in the Rugby Club (date and time t.b.c.)

Graham Brace

Memories of Knapp Farm

One of my favourite walks is across Pill Parks, down to Edwards Pill, along the shore, up past Knapp Farm, past Sprinkle and the old school and down through the village. Two of the places mentioned hold particularly fond memories: the school and Knapp farm. It's the latter I want to talk about here.

It was here that my mother did some work in the house and outside picking potatoes in the fields. Some of you who have done that work will know that it was a back breaking occupation but there was good humour, camaraderie and TEAS. Mrs. Peters would send out tea, sandwiches and cakes which Dai Davies and I were far more interested in than filling the hundred weight sacks with potatoes. At the end of the day a lorry would appear on the field from a distant place and the bags, duly weighed, would be loaded on and the load transported to who knows where.

When I was older I was able to help with this work as well as the stacking and lifting of the substantial bales of hay onto the trailer before following the

tractor into the haggard where they would be lifted onto the elevator and stored in the barn.

Knapp was always very well farmed, first, in my memory, by Mr. John Peters and then by his son, Keith. Both were extremely hard working, organised and farmers to the core. It was a dairy/arable farm of over a hundred acres which stretched down to the Cleddau offering beautiful views of woodland and the river. When a young boy one of the great Llangwm occasions was the Pembrokeshire rugby Knock Out Cup Final which we reached and were successful in on a number of occasions. It was Keith who took me in his car to those games played on neutral grounds. Without his generosity I would have missed out on what have become priceless memories.

As mentioned previously, my mother, Doreen Childs, worked at Knapp for a number of years, always finding the family to be more than employers but friends whose kindness she much appreciated. It's great that the long tradition of the Peters of Knapp is continuing with Esme, Keith's wife, living at the farm.

Barry Childs



News from the Village Shop

This will be my 4th Christmas at Cleddau Stores, and as we emerge into a sort of post Covid normality, trading throughout this year has proved difficult. I can't thank my regular customers enough for their continued support.

Once again this Christmas we will be supplying the wonderfully tasty Upper Haythog Farm Fresh Turkeys, Rob and Lydia have been kind enough to support me by supplying Cleddau Stores with their Turkeys since I took over the shop and to date everyone I have supplied has been very pleased with the taste and the price. We are also able to supply Gammons, Chickens, Pigs in Blankets, Game and also Pork or Beef joints. As I said before Rob and Lydia Scale supply me with Turkeys and Turkeys Breasts, I get most of my other meat from Mortons Butchers in Crosshands and also from Cig Lodor farm shop which is situated on the edge of the Preselis. Now in our 4th year at Cleddau Stores you can trust us with any of your meat requirements.

We will also be supplying veg boxes again this year either a random selection of seasonal vegetables or tailor made to your requirements. We can also supply Norton Farm Potatoes. Order forms can be found on the counter at Cleddau Stores. We can also supply Cream, Fresh Bread, Breadcrumbs, and Mince Pies. Once again we will be supplying our Cheese Themed hampers, There are 3 options but we can also mix and match if there is a particular cheese or cheeses that you would prefer. If the hamper is a gift for a friend or relative then we can deliver for free (5 miles radius of Llangwm). We are also happy to deliver further afield - just ask.



Option 1



Option 2



Option 3

If you want to be in with a chance of winning the "Cleddau Stores Best Dressed Christmas Tree" this year don't forget to place your order for one of our lovely REAL Christmas Trees. £35 delivered free within a 5 mile radius of Llangwm. We are happy to deliver further afield but we may ask for a small extra charge - just call in and ask me.

Cleddau Stores needs your support, I need your custom, I like to think that Cleddau Stores plays a vital role in Llangwm, I try to support lots of events in Llangwm whether it is supplying refreshments and cake for coffee mornings or raffle prizes or displaying posters for village events. Llangwm would look a whole lot different without OUR Village Shop and Post Office. I NEED YOUR CUSTOM.

Can I wish all my customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Liz Clarke winner of
Best Dressed
Christmas Tree 2020

CHRISTMAS 2021 OPENING HOURS

	<u>SHOP</u>	<u>POST OFFICE</u>
Friday 24 th December (Christmas Eve)	8am -1pm	9am-1pm
Saturday 25 th December (Christmas Day)	CLOSED	CLOSED
Sunday 26 th December (Boxing Day)	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday 27 th December	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 28 th December	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday 29 th December	9.30 - 10.30am	9.30 - 10.30am
Thursday 30 th December	9.30 - 10.30am	9.30 - 10.30am
Friday 31 st December (New Years Eve)	9.30 - 10.30am	9.30 - 10.30am
Saturday 1 st January (New Years Day)	CLOSED	CLOSED
Sunday 2 nd January	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday 3 rd January	9.30 - 10.30am	CLOSED

A refreshing start to the new season for Village Voices

The windows are open, the doors flung wide, clean fresh air is pouring through the village hall as Village Voices meet again.

Chairs (the plastic ones) are evenly spaced, sprayed with germ killer at the end of the session. A tabby cat wandered in to join us one evening, maybe we were too much competition for her/him. More layers of clothing will no doubt be added as the year progresses.

Well, plans are afoot. Sam's new opera "*The Little Things*" is on schedule for St David's Cathedral and the Wexford Opera Festival next summer. We have a gig planned for Milford Marina and a Christmas do, the form of which is yet to be determined, maybe with Will Scale's kind permission in his barn.



Members of Village Voices choir attentive at rehearsal in the Village Hall.

Meanwhile we are practising an arrangement by Martin de Lissier of "*What a Wonderful World*". Not just us though. Oh no, choirs all over the country will be singing it as a message to world leaders at the COP26 meeting, the United Nations climate change conference in Glasgow. It is claimed to be the largest musical event ever seen in the UK. It will be filmed and put on all social media channels, look out for it.

So to all you newcomers to the village, now is your chance, if you're tempted to sing, just turn up at the village hall any Thursday evening at 7.30.

No auditions. Don't worry if you can't read music. MP3s are emailed to you. Simple.

Text and photograph: Fiona Cutting

Always a welcome at the Cottage Inn

Matthew and his team are back in action at the Cottage Inn after last year's lockdowns, welcoming locals and visitors alike for meals and drinks.

They are delighted to have been **nominated for the 'Pub of the Year' competition** run by the **Western Telegraph**, and at time of publication, await the outcome with interest.



After School facilities

Simply out of School

Cleddau Communities

Our after school club at Cleddau Reach is open from 3:25-5:45 Monday-Friday during term time. Our setting offers a variety of games, crafts and activities suitable for all and are supported by friendly and familiar staff. Snack is provided as part of the cost of the session and sibling discount can be offered. For more information,

<https://www.simplyoutofschool.co.uk/>

01656 372910

Welcome to Cleddau Reach

Croeso cynnes iawn to Mr Rhys Buckley, our new head teacher of Cleddau Reach school. After an exhaustive process, made much more difficult by Covid, the Governing body of the school appointed Rhys as its new head on 23rd April in readiness for taking up the post in September. Rhys will be the second head teacher of our school, succeeding Mr Nick Groves.

A 'Pembrokeshire boy', Rhys was educated at Tasker Milward school before going on to university in Exeter. After graduating he took up his first appointment in Hounslow in London and after three years moved to a school in South Gloucestershire. He

later became a deputy head before being appointed Head teacher in that Authority in 2017.

The call of Pembrokeshire was, however, strong and so when the vacancy arose at Cleddau Reach he liked what he read about the school and duly applied for the post. The rest is history.

I'm sure that you will join with me in wishing Mr Buckley and his family well in this new phase of their lives and every success in the exciting days that lie ahead.

Barry Childs - Chair of Governors

*The School report can be found
on the following page*

Photography, Fiction and Film

Let's start with photography. Local resident **David Wilson** has published a number of books, all very well received. His latest, entitled '**The Village**', documenting life in Llangwm is being published on 4th November. I'm sure that it will be of interest to those of us lucky enough to live here and those living further afield. Look out for it; there should be something of interest in it for everyone.

'**Troubled Blood**' by **Robert Galbraith** (the crime fiction alias of **JK Rowling**) at over one thousand pages looks a bit daunting but it isn't. It features a private detective, Cormorant Strike and his partner Robin Ellacott. The plot is well crafted and the characterisation strong as you might expect from an author of this quality. Very different in setting and style, '**Where The Crawdads Sing**' is **Delia Owens'** first novel. Set in the North Carolina it focuses on a dysfunctional family living in challenging circumstances. The book centres on Kya, the youngest member of the family: brave, resourceful, a survivor. This book will grab and hold your attention and surprise you. With so many books so easily available these days it's hard to find time to revisit old favourites. However, in the same genre as Galbraith, **Colin Dexter** (Inspector Morse), Neyland born **Sarah Waters** ('Fingersmith'), **Raymond Chandler** ('The Big Sleep') never disappoint.

Some years ago Stephen Fry did a series of television programmes based on his visit to each of the 50 American states starting out in New England in the state of Maine and finishing his trip many months later in Hawaii. The range of people, places, ways of living that he records is astonishing and instructive. He followed up those documentaries with a book '**Stephen Fry in America**' which I managed to get a copy of in an Oxfam shop in Stratford-upon-Avon. A film of a different sort and released recently is **The Green Knight** starring Dev Patel and partly set in North Wales. If you like things medieval then this might be for you. The story is based on a fourteenth century middle English poem, 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight', author unknown. Whilst on the subject of poetry a recent BBC 4 programme **Alexander Pope: Rediscovering a Genius** is a reminder how good this second most quoted poet in the English language was. He lived through the Age of Satire and there was nobody better at it:

*'A little learning is a dangerous thing
Drink deep or taste not the Pierian spring
There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain
And drinking largely sobers us again.'*

Reviews by Barry Childs



Cleddau Reach VC Primary School

News

Autumn Term 2021

The start of every academic year always brings with it excitement and busy workloads in equal measure and this year has been no different here at Cleddau Reach! With a new Head Teacher in post and a relaxing of the restrictions previously in place due to the pandemic, there has been plenty taking place in the first six weeks.

With regards to my arrival to the school, it has been a real pleasure getting to know the school community and I'd like to pass on my thanks to everyone who has given me such a warm welcome. I'd also like to pass on my thanks to Mr Nick Groves, the previous Head Teacher of our school, whose excellent work I am now



*Cleddau Reach's new
Headmaster, Mr Rhys
Buckley*

fortunate to be benefiting from. On a personal note, having spent all of my professional career so far working outside of Wales and having grown up in the local area, it's fantastic to be back home and to have the opportunity to work within such a close, supportive community.

As mentioned above, the roll out of the vaccine programme has meant that schools are no longer required to keep year groups separated from each other in 'bubbles' and this has allowed children of all ages to begin mixing again around the school which has been lovely to see. It has also allowed year groups to venture outside of the village on class trips. For some of our younger pupils, this is a totally new experience as these extra-curricular activities have been unable to take place over the last eighteen months due to the pandemic.



So far, our junior classes have enjoyed trips to Scolton Manor and Castell Henllys, while our Year 2 children recently enjoyed a day out to Pembroke Castle. With trips to Picton Castle and a local farm on the horizon before we break for half-term, it's fair to say that both staff and children have been making the most of the opportunity to enrich their learning with practical experiences!





We've also had a number of new initiatives taking place in school, with a new House Points trophy up for grabs each week to the house with the most points and our new attendance bear, Bryn, who spends the week with the class with the highest attendance percentage...a particularly sought-after bear I must say!

Next term will see the re-introduction of extra-curricular clubs at Cleddau Reach, another much-loved aspect of school life that



had to be paused due to the pandemic. Our staff team have come together to offer a wide range of options for children of all ages, with pupils able to enjoy art, gymnastics, sewing and rugby to name but a few!



Considering all of the above, it has been an excellent start to the new school year for us here at Cleddau Reach. As the year progresses we will be working hard to match the requirements of the new Curriculum for Wales, which comes into effect in September of next year. This



exciting development gives us the chance to create a curriculum that is both unique to our school and prepares our pupils for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Watch this space!

We'd welcome the opportunity to work with as many local community groups as we can this year and so please feel

free to get in touch if you'd like to create or strengthen

your links with your local school. We've been delighted to have Reverend Marcus back in school with us this term and, all being well, our newly elected school councillors would welcome the opportunity to show visitors around their school!



(Thanks to Head Teacher Mr Rhys Buckley for his report for Llangwm News)

A love of history brings new opportunities for Rachel

Llangwm student Rachel Hall had always been fascinated by history and was recently given the chance in Haverfordwest High Sixth Form to undertake an online course to become a Holocaust Ambassador. She tells of her experience here...

"The course allowed me to listen to the accounts of camp survivors and included a Virtual Reality "visit" to Auschwitz Concentration camp. This was a disappointment as normally students can visit Auschwitz-Birkenau in person, all the same, it did really impact me because no written record can ever represent the atmosphere or 'feel' of the camps that I experienced even through VR.

We also listened to the testimony of Eva Clarke who was, herself born in Auschwitz-Birkenau, but told the story of how the Holocaust broke her family through the perspective of her mother. More recently than this, I had the privilege to watch an interview between one of the last Auschwitz-Birkenau survivors, Lily Ebert (who has recently written a book 'Lily's Promise' with one of her 34 great-grandchildren) and Rob Rinder before it was released to YouTube. I was inspired by the hope and determination symbolised in the necklace she still owns and hid for her entire time in Auschwitz. These small personal stories show just how important it is to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and how we can all relate to it in some way.

After this course, for my assignment; I chose to reach out to younger pupils in Haverfordwest High School by creating a week of 'daily reflections' for tutor periods. As an ambassador I want to continue to spread awareness of the Holocaust and its importance today using the support of the Educational Trust.

I wanted to take part in the course largely because of the vast array of history within Llangwm, which I have grown up with - from the research into the cocklepickers at Black Tar, the mapping of the graves at the cemetery, and looking at the links with

Llangwm's Flemish roots. I was particularly touched by the World War One anniversary exhibition in the village hall which helped us feel closer to those local heroes who fought for our country. I also went to the 'old' Llangwm School until around Year 5 and remember the sense of history of all those who had passed through. These have all shaped my love of history which I continued to study through GCSEs and A Levels.

Over the recent lockdowns we have all seen, I have realised how much I value living in Llangwm. This was largely due to the course and how Covid-19 has made our community stronger. When researching the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust, I came across a Holocaust survivor called Edith Eger, who is now a Psychologist specialising in PTSD. She has drawn links between her experiences in the Holocaust and in the Covid-19 lockdowns. She argues:

'Even though we cannot change the external conditions that limit, oppress, or frighten us, we can choose our response.'

When reading this, it made me think of the way the village has made the best of the lockdowns. The Pebbles outside the Shop and Clapping for the NHS were perhaps the most important to involve people of all ages. We have built values such as resilience, ingenuity and hope which are similar qualities to those relied upon by Holocaust survivors. Many survivors argue that without these they would have died. Clearly, then we do not necessarily have to remember the detailed facts about the Holocaust; we can all keep it relevant today by taking deeper messages and values from the experiences of survivors.."

by Rachel Hall



Zooming in on local history - with a few forays

A report from Llangwm Local History Society

With covid restrictions still in force after Easter, like many other organisations, the History Society made the decision to take events on-line. Thanks to the technical expertise of **Neil Martin**, these proved to be a great success with several excellent talks in this new format. Our first experiment on Zoom in April was a fascinating talk by **John Ewart** giving us the story behind the amazing find of the **Pembrokeshire Burial Chariot**. Next up was a talk by **Dai Stephens** covering **Some Questions Regarding Llangwm's Medieval Past** in which he gave us the results of his in depth research into the subject. June saw the return of **Dr Rhianydd Biebrach** who gave us a wonderful insight into **Saving Treasures in Pembrokeshire**. And, finally, our great friend **Simon Hancock** gave some insights into the role of the **Belgian Refugees in Pembrokeshire during World War 1**.

With restrictions being eased a little at the beginning of autumn we were able to have our first trip for two years. On a glorious sunny day, **Terry John** took us on a walk round the outside of **Pembroke Castle and town streets** giving us the benefit of his encyclopaedic knowledge of the Civil War in the area. Fortified by tea half way



through, it was a very welcome return to a level of normality.

A second trip is in the planning for a visit to the **Library at St David's Cathedral** while talks for the autumn in the Village Hall are very much dependent on current covid restrictions. Keep an eye on the Llangwm Facebook page, emails and

posters for details of any upcoming events.

In addition, the **Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre** hosted a major RAF exhibition **"Wales in the Battle of Britain"** between 20th & 29th October. As numbers were restricted we did not put on an organized visit, but we informed as many people as possible and hoped that they took the opportunity to visit.



Lastly, our film **"Born of the Cleddau"** has finally gone live on YouTube. Filming under twin problems of weather and covid restrictions proved quite challenging but the whole team of



Graham Stephens, Sonny Zipperlen and Elagwen Jones plus **Mark Evans** (filming & editing), **John Ewart** (drone photography) and **Liz Rawlings** stepped up to the mark. We are delighted with the result, especially as the weather turned kindly in the end. So far, the film has had 940 views plus 25 for the Welsh version. Do have a look to be reminded of just what a glorious place we live in with such a fascinating history. **See flier enclosed with this newsletter** or use the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLqEf8mQDsA> The whole project was funded and supported by Heritage Lottery.

Jane Mills





County Council Report

by Cllr Michael John

Speeding and road safety continues to be a common issue in the village, and rightly of very high concern to many residents.

I am in regular dialogue with the highway team at PCC, and with the community council, and will be continue to press for positive actions.

PCC has committed:

- Lowering of speed limit at Troopers Inn to 40mph.
- Lowering of speed limit to 20mph outside the new school.
- A village wide reduction to 20mph by 2022 (St Dogmaels in currently a Welsh Government trial for this).
- Review of speed limit Llangwm to Troopers Inn.
- Review of seasonal traffic usage Llangwm to Black Tar.
- A site visit to look at parking issues.

I have suggested that a 10mph limit in Main Str. would be sensible, but have been advised this is outside Welsh Government Guidance. Also speed activated signs are an option subject to funding and suitable locations. The viability of these are being considered.

Deerland Road is also an area of concern due to speeding.

I have asked PCC to consider the provision of a footpath from the school to the cemetery, and will be looking into funding options with PCC if this is deemed a possibility.

The community speed watch team have been approached to patrol the area, and are always looking for volunteers which could lead to more local checks.

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

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

Again, I would urge anyone who witnesses any traffic incidents or any near misses to report them directly on 101

Planning application- The Kilns There has been a great deal of interest, and many queries around the consultation which has recently been announced for the proposed development at The Kilns.

Full details are available, including the proposed site layout, at the following link:

<https://www.haystonplanning.co.uk/>

The consultation is open from the 11th October until the 12th November, and is a pre-application consultation by the planning agent. The application is outline with reserved matters for housing, a proportion being affordable. Anyone with any views on the proposal should submit them, but are encouraged to also make them known once the formal planning application is submitted to PCC.

The land is included in the local development plan as being suitable for housing which was adopted in 2013 and can be viewed at the following:

https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/LDP/adopted/inserts.asp?insert_id=59

2nd Home Council Tax Pembrokeshire Council recently made the decision to raise the levy on 2nd homes from 50% to 100%, This is the only measure available to County Councils, and is intended to combat the increase in 2nd home ownership in the county, which has seen an increase since the pandemic. Pembrokeshire has the 2nd highest number of 2nd homes in Wales, and it is not limited to the holiday coastal area. Inland villages, especially around the Cleddau Estuary, have also seen a big increase. This raises the costs, and reduces the housing available to people wishing to remain in their local area.

It is hoped new legislation will be considered by Welsh Government following their review. A suggestion would be that new build properties cannot be used as 2nd or holiday homes, or that planning permission is required for change of use?

WG also have a consultation on this which is open until 17 Nov and can be found at:

[Consultation on local taxes for second homes and self-catering accommodation | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/consultation-on-local-taxes-for-second-homes-and-self-catering-accommodation)

75% of the money raised will go into building social housing in the county. The first scheme is already underway in Solva, and Llangwm is set to benefit as the second scheme is proposed for part of the land to the front of Cleddau Reach School

The County Council has committed to pass some of this land to the school, for additional parking once the scheme progresses.

The other 25% of funds raised will continue to go to the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant, which uses the funds for local and county wide projects.

Information on the grant and eligibility can be found at: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/grants/the-enhancing-pembrokeshire-grant>

The Old School building and land to the rear has been included as a candidate site in the LDP2 (local development plan), which is currently being reviewed. Approaches have been made to the Lawrenny Estate regarding their intentions for the site, but there is no update to date.

The "Langum National School 1870" Facebook group are also making approaches, and the general view is that the building itself is of great historic importance for the village. It is hoped this will be taken into account with any proposed scheme, should any development be agreed in the future.

In the meantime, incidents of damage, alarms going off and the general state of repair are a cause for concern. Please let me know of any incidents and I will pass on to the owners, or report them direct to the Lawrenny Estate.

308 Bus Service Many people have commented recently over the reduced bus service, especially with no Saturday buses. I have been told changes to the timetables can be considered in the New Year, with any potential changes from Easter onwards. It would be useful therefore if those who miss the service provide the details of which journeys/days they were previously using, and what services they would use again. PCC will then liaise further with Edwards Bros to see whether or not the timetable can be changed to better meet the needs of customers.

Please send comments to:

pubtran@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Haverfordwest High VC School The new build continues to be progressing on schedule, and will be a fantastic facility which children from our area will benefit from. Being a governor at the school, I was recently taken on a tour of the site by representatives of the main contractor and the project manager. The building and sports complex will be a huge asset for the area and is due to open in September 2022.

A video with the latest progress can be seen at: <https://www.haverfordwesthigh.pembrokeshire.sch.uk/>

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Although a little early, I would like to wish all residents a very happy Christmas and best wishes for a great New Year.

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If there are any queries or question regarding any topics, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I can be contacted on 01437 890175 or cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

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

Llangwm Village Hall Update

The Committee have been working really hard in the background in simply trying to keep the hall open given its major issues. We don't want this to be a simply 'doom and gloom' article and will be revealing some positive steps towards the end of this update. Many of you will now be aware of the major difficulties with the build, for example the degrading asbestos roof tiles and subsequent roof leaks. The roof is now too fragile to have any remedial work completed.

Given the current state of the hall, insurance is becoming extremely difficult to obtain. Without adequate insurance, the hall would need to close.

Our good news is that both Welsh Government and National Lottery funders are very interested in our project and these grants will provide a substantial amount of the money for the new build.

Outline planning permission for the new build has been granted, and we have been invited to proceed with a full planning application. Although we have had initial drawings for the new hall (see below) we do need to contact 3 local architect companies as part of the procurement process, which is underway.

In May 2021, LCC voted to obtain legal clarification of the

exact size of land leased and registered to the Village Hall. We are awaiting the final measurements of this additional land which LCC have commissioned. However there is no guarantee that even when these are confirmed, LCC will agree to the exchange of land necessary for the re-build to take place.

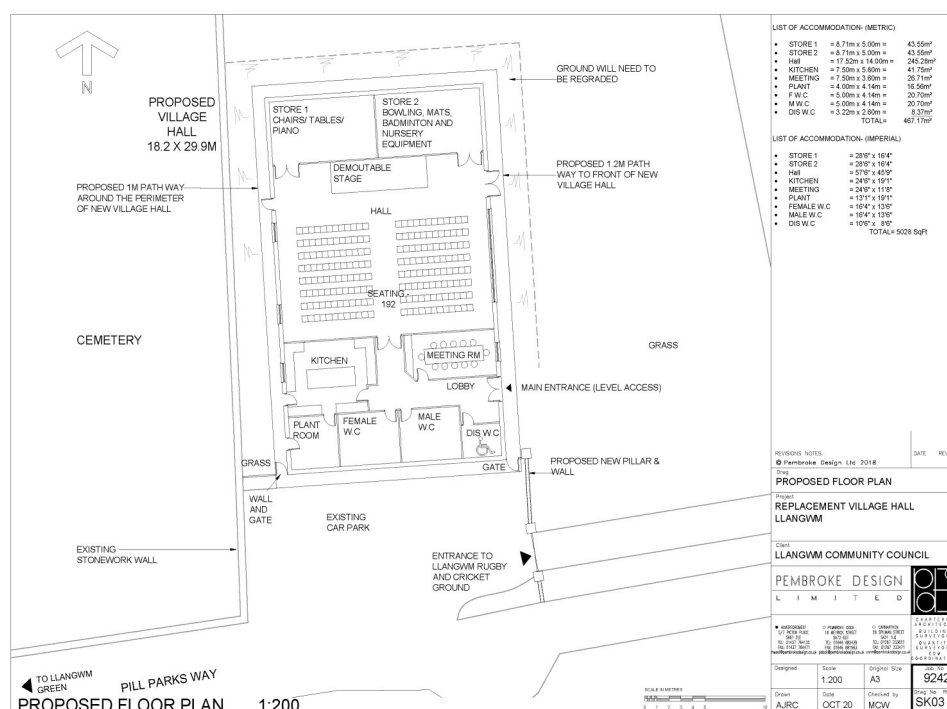
At their 10th July meeting, and reported in LCC's Minutes, it was agreed to draw up a letter of support for the construction of a new Village Hall. The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes, for the Chair to draft this letter. The contents were approved and the letter has been sent with grant applications. This would be on the current Village Hall's leasehold land.

In the interim, the hall is open for business. Various activities including Village Voices, Happy Hedgehogs, Gardening Club, Book sales, Yoga and Tai Chi classes have restarted; as well as events such as an anniversary party and more to come - three children's parties have been already booked before Christmas.

To keep up to date with all the changes that are taking place, and what is happening with events etc. please follow our website www.llangwmfuture.co.uk

Below: Suggested floor plan of the new village hall

See also some Hall fundraising memories by Bob Sherriff on p. 21



Enclosed within the Newsletter you will find a leaflet about one of our fundraising efforts. The Community Asset Fund is an easy way to support the Village Hall development.

For just a few pounds each month you have a chance to win a cash prize whilst supporting your community.

We hope that you will join up. Ann Maria can email you the forms - contact her on annmthomas@hotmail.co.uk - or you can pick them up from the shop.

Galilee Baptist Chapel

PLEASE NOTE: The **Village United Christmas Service** is being held this year in **Galilee Baptist Chapel** at **9.30am on Christmas morning, Saturday 25th December**. All are welcome to this special time of meeting together.

Before that we hold our **Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols** on **Sunday 12th December**, with **Mr Nigel**

Thomas presiding. Again, all are welcome.

Weekly services continue to be held at **10.30am on Sunday mornings**, taken by our minister **Rev Roger Hart**.

Members of Galilee were pleased to take part in the recent successful **Craft Fair and Teas**, organised in the Methodist Chapel and Schoolroom by the **three churches together in Llangwm**.

We wish everyone a happy and blessed Christmas and hope that the New Year will bring us all a bit nearer normal life and activities.

LLANGWM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ONGOING PROJECTS AND NEWS

Update on Ongoing Public Consultation for a replacement Village Community Centre

Llangwm Community Council followed Llangwm residents concerns as minuted in the December 2020 LCC meeting, that no exchange of land would take place. (Please see the Llangwm Village Website for a copy.)

No formal agreement has been made with Llangwm Village Community Centre to exchange land.

However, they have agreed that once Llangwm Community Council receive: -

Confirmation of the area of land leased to the Llangwm Village Community Centre. This is now in the hands of our solicitor and await confirmation of the exact amount of land leased in 1978.

The Community Council may then reconsider decisions made after six months, (i.e. July 2021). Following, adherence to our Standing Orders NALC 2018.

One Voice Wales have confirmed that Llangwm Community Council are following the correct procedural processes and confirm the measures we are taking satisfy both the legal and statutory requirements as a Community Council.

Llangwm residents can be assured that their Community Council has undertaken all necessary measures and their views have been taken into account in the decision process.

Llangwm Community Council fully support the Llangwm Village Community Centre in their endeavour to rebuild the Village Community Centre and look forward to continuously working with them to achieve the best outcome for Llangwm Residents. If you would like to send any comments or views on the "Ongoing Public Consultation for a replacement Village Community Centre" please contact the Clerk llangwmcclerk@btinternet.com

Hayston Developments and Planning Ltd. A major outline development of the erection of **54 dwellings**, site "Land North of the Kilns" has been received. Supporting evidence is available on line at www.haystonplanning.co.uk. If you have any queries or questions, please contact the Clerk as outlined below. The closing date is the 15th November 2021.

Dog fouling – Please would all dog owners remember to be responsible when walking your dogs, and remove and take away any mess, thank you.

Traffic Issues in Llangwm Village – Following several residents concerns we are again liaising with Pembrokeshire County Council in the month of October 2021, to try and address issues of parking, pedestrian safety, blind spots and speeding. Once again, we ask you to inform us of any problems to enable us to act. We need residents' views to support improvements, thank you.

Date and times of next Community Meetings: - These are at present being held remotely via Zoom every second Tuesday of the month (bar August) and all Llangwm Residents are welcome to attend.

9th November 2021, 14th December 2021, 11th January 2022, 8th February 2022, 8th March 2022 and 12th April 2022. Agenda available on the Llangwm Web Site or by request from the Clerk.

Community Council Elections takes place in May 2022. If you are interested in becoming a Llangwm Community Councillor or would like to have more information about the Role and Responsibilities of a Community Councillor please contact the Clerk llangwmcclerk@btinternet.com

Please let us know if we can help or advise you by contacting the Clerk, Kathy Codd on llangwmcclerk@btinternet.com or leave a message on 07866 958795. All Community Councillors contact details are available on the Llangwm Village Website www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk

Fundraising can be Fun

Llangwm's epic River Trip recalled by Bob Sherriff

I arrived in Pembrokeshire in 1975 to run Fromstock Ltd in Milford Haven docks. Fromstock operated out of the Old Sail Loft and serviced the 4 refineries, 3 Unigate factories, the Milford Docks Ship Repair Company, Kraft at Merlins Bridge, Hancock Shipbuilders, various ship supply companies and other sundry accounts.

After perusing the area I settled on Bridge House, Guildford, Llangwm and we moved in on New Years Day 1976. We were impressed with our reception when Windsor and Oynwen Davies sent Melanie and Helen over to see if we needed anything.

Milford went well and one day a giant, bearded gentleman came in looking for fasteners for a boat he was building at home. He turned out to be Val Howells, the sailor who took part in the first trans-Atlantic yacht race in 1960 which was won by Francis Chichester with Val coming in 4th out of 4 after suffering instrument damage. He became a frequent visitor and friend and visited his farm at Amroth where the construction of 2 ocean racers was taking place. Our company ended up sponsoring both of them and bearing the names of Unibrass Brython & Fromstock Filius for Val's son Philip. Unibrass was the group name of which Fromstock was a constituent part. I even did some rather lively sailing with Val when Brython was complete.

Fromstock traded well in the area and outgrew its premises at the time the old Neyland ferry building came onto the market which we purchased and modified with the help of Monty Minter, the Milford architect who designed the Torch Theatre. Again we became friends and on discovering he played in a Trad Jazz band I went along to a couple of his band's excellent concerts. At about this time I found myself to be a Llangwm parish councillor and also a member of the Llangwm Village Hall committee under the chairmanship of the indomitable Osmonde John without whom I doubt if the project would have ever got off the ground as he knew all the dark arts of local government and all the necessary

strings to pull. Things moved quickly and Tony Kiff saw that the correct materials arrived on site in a timely organised fashion. Events were organised to raise further funds to complement those secured by Mr John and so things progressed. As a relative outsider I felt I would organise some fundraising activity based on outside influences as the village was probably feeling bled dry by this point. By this time Val Howells had taken over the Cleddau Queen pleasure boat and so I asked him to provide this towards the cause and Monty Minter to bring his band of musicians. This became the Llangwm "Riverboat Stomp", all 200 odd tickets sold out within a week and many late applicants were



disappointed. The sun shone, the evening was calm and we sailed up the beautiful river from Pembroke Dock, being afloat for 4 or 5 hours. The band played throughout, the bar and snack bar were open and a good time was had by all. All funds raised then went to the infant village hall. Both Val and Monty are no longer on this earth but I will always remember them and their invaluable generosity and friendship.

Bob Sherriff

How well do you know your website?

You can use **Llangwm's village website** to help you **navigate** to the **websites** and **Facebook pages** of many other **societies, clubs, village amenities** as well as **county council departments** and **public information**.

Just click on **www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk** and go to the relevant page where you'll find a **link** (e.g. for **Llangwm bus timetables** go to **Amenities** and at the base of the dropdown list you'll find **Public Transport Links**).

If you're using a **smart phone** or **tablet** be sure to click on the **three-line icon** (the '**burger**' as it's known) to **access the whole menu**.

Past Times - Tales of Llangwm 150 years ago

In 1871, amongst the children born within the current boundary of the parish of Llangwm, there were four boys who later became members of the **Loyal Star Lodge** of the **Independent Order of Odd Fellows**. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was a non-political, non-sectarian organisation which, for a small subscription, provided financial assistance towards medical care, funerals and travel to seek employment—a precursor of the welfare state and the National Health Service.

The first meeting of the Loyal Star Lodge was held in the schoolhouse at Llangwm on 2nd July 1892. Forty-four men were present and included members of the Brock, Palmer, Roach, Childs, Warlow, Jones, Phelps and Morris families. Dr Charles Brigstocke of Foley House in Haverfordwest was chosen as their Medical Officer. It was also proposed that members should have a daytrip by steamer to Haverfordwest later that month.

Born in 1871, Samuel Edwards was appointed as auditor to the Lodge. He lived at 6 The Green, also known as Clevedon House. Samuel worked in the dockyard at Pembroke Dock.

John Hughes, also born in 1871, of Guildford was appointed as a "sick visitor". He had been baptised at Burton church, along with his twin sister Mary Anne Ellen who, unfortunately, died aged 2 years. John worked as a skilled

labourer in the dockyard and, after his marriage, lived with his mother-in-law in Port Lion.

Another 1871 baby was John Folland, son of Henry Folland and his wife Martha (nee Havard) of Hook. John began his working life as a teamsman (moving goods with the help of horses) but later moved to Nantymoel to work as a haulier underground in a coal mine.

The fourth boy was John Morgans who lived at 20 (now number 27) Main Street as a child but moved to Parsonage (now Rectory) Road - to a property known as Leaven House - after his marriage in 1894. John had a varied career, starting as a fisherman, then a labourer in the dockyard before becoming a self-employed baker and retiring as a bus proprietor.

A fifth member of the Loyal Star Lodge also born in 1871 was James John Skone. He was born in the London Borough of Westminster to William and Eleanor Skone, both parents originally from Pembrokeshire. James began his working life as a gold-jeweller's apprentice in London but, by 1895, he had moved to Main Street in Llangwm and was earning a living as a tailor.

These men all played a part in the Loyal Star Lodge to provide a better life for themselves, their families and neighbours.

Nikki Bosworth

From documents available at Pembrokeshire Archives in the collection DSO/110, with additional research online.

Past Times - Fascinating Objects at the Museum



After almost 20 years of opening their little Museum for the village, Pat and Jeff have decided that with ageing years, they will only open for small groups in future.

The chosen charity next year will again be the Wales Air Ambulance (cancelled for the last 2 years due to Covid), and then opening around May. If you are a member of a group that you feel may be interested - get in touch with Jeff at curator james@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01437 890841.

Update from Jeff James: Recent additions - for the 'boys' - a Hornby train set, and a bucket of Meccano bits - sufficient to make a model of a Bristol single decker bus - Silcox owned one in the 1940/50s, reg no JDE 429.



Life with the Llangwm Lions

“Llangwm Lions AFC has grown substantially since the summer,” writes Mike Preddy.

“We have now introduced a new **Under-5’s training group** (below, left) and entered an **Under-7’s side** into the **Mini’s Pembrokeshire League**. So wonderful to see the young children of Llangwm and the surrounding areas enjoying playing grassroots football.

The now experienced **Under-11’s** (below, right) continue to make great progress with their football development, and we look forward to another successful season before graduating up to **Under-12’s** and their first taste of Junior competitive football.”

*Anyone wishing to learn more about Llangwm Lions AFC, please contact **Mike Preddy** 07968 360762.*



Llangwm Rowing Club

For anyone wondering who we are and what we do, the Rowing Club has four Celtic longboats, each of which can take four rowers and cox, and a Teifi skiff that takes a crew of two or three. One longboat is normally kept down in the car park at Black Tar.

The Club is affiliated to the Welsh Sea Rowing Association (WSRA), which normally coordinates a series of racing regattas through the year. No racing has taken place this year due to covid but several crews have been out practising and keeping fit. We have also used the boats for some enjoyable social outings through the summer including a picnic at Blackpool Mill, supper at the “Dog House” and exploration of some of the creeks and hidden harbours on our wonderful waterway.

With several boats off the water there has been an opportunity to get more maintenance done and ensure they are ready to hit the water again next season, when we hope to reinstate the weekly introductory sessions for new members.

Peter Rose, 15 The Kilns, Llangwm



Looking to the future - Llangwm Youth and Mini Rugby

Llangwm RFC Juniors and Minis section started back in earnest in September after a difficult period of pandemic lockdowns and restrictions. It's great to see the club busy again with lots of kids enjoying the great outdoors, the sport of rugby and meeting new friends.

We have a strong coaching team and club committee. We are currently fielding U7s, U8s, U9s, U10, U13s and U15s teams. We now also have a successful Youth team after nearly 10 years without. Our club aim is to develop happy, healthy kids through the sport of rugby, build strong successful teams and ultimately be a feedstock for future youth and senior teams. We want the club to remain at the heart of Llangwm village.

The senior committee have invested significantly in playing field safety measures, changing rooms upgrades and our clubhouse revamp. The clubhouse is slowly reopening and is very busy during senior home games and some junior home games. The junior section have also invested in new playing kit for all age groups.



Llangwm Youth jerseys

and look professional when they represent the mighty Llangwm Wasps on the playing field.

Llangwm remains a rare village rugby club side that is able to compete against the bigger teams in west Wales. On Sunday mornings you will hear the roar of 'mighty wasps' and 'no guts no glory' which sum up the attitude and heart of the young village teams.

After the impact of the pandemic, we plan to rebuild



(L-R:) Brothers Trystan and Gethin O'Loughlin looking smart in their new Llangwm strip.

the club quickly and become the side that the village is proud of. We hope to plan more social events. The club is run by volunteers under WRU guidelines. We rely on the good will and commitment of the coaches, committee and parents - some who provide home

game refreshments and make visiting teams feel very welcome at Llangwm.



Revamped clubhouse busy after Minis home game

New players are always welcome. Training is usually held at 6pm on Wednesdays with games on Sunday mornings. More information and updates are posted on our Llangwm RFC Facebook page. Stay safe.

Brendan O'Loughlin

Editor's Note: Don't forget that the newsletter will appear on the Llangwm website in full colour shortly after the paper version is distributed around the village.



Welcome back to Llangwm RFC



After 18 months without competitive rugby it has been great to welcome back players, supporters and families to the Llangwm RFC field and clubhouse. All teams have been busy throughout the summer preparing for the 2021/22 season with the senior WRU league structure starting on the 13th November with an away game to Llanybydder. The recent WRU cup games in September and October have seen some excellent local derbies played at Pill Parks and whilst we are still searching for our first win the response and support from the village has been tremendous, so thank you.

Following the Club AGM in September, James Griffiths and Dan Chesmer were nominated as Vice Chairman and Chairman for the new season with thanks going to Julian Platten and James Lewis for their hard work in steering the club through the recent challenging times. Raymond Hunt stood down as club treasurer after 36 years on the committee. Our thanks go to Raymond for his hard work and dedication. A small village club like ours relies on volunteers and Llangwm RFC is very grateful for everyone's commitment over the years.

The Senior side welcomes back Bruce Evans as Head Coach with Simon Brick joining as Forwards Coach. Captain Gethin Thomas and team Manager James 'Kiwi' Griffiths also return for the season in the engine room. Following the success of the U16s team, it is great to report that Llangwm RFC have a Youth team this season. This is a massive boost for the club and the team has started strongly winning two of their first three fixtures. The club would like to wish them and their coaching team of Dafydd Bowen, Joseph Kiff and Geoff Asson all the best for the rest of the season.



Llangwm RFC 1st XV – 2021/2022 Season

Brendan O' Loughlin has taken over from Graham Elliot as Chairman of the Mini and Junior section and we would like to welcome Brendan and thank Graham for all of his hard work as Chairman over the years whilst building a strong foundation for the mini and Junior players. A great deal of effort by the coaches and parents goes into these future generations of players and the club would again like to pass on thanks to all involved for their continued efforts.



Llangwm RFC Youth XV – 2021/2022 Season

The committee and volunteers have been busy during the time away from competitive rugby and have invested in improvements to help benefit the club in the future. These include:

- * Upgrades to the shower facilities in the stand to meet current demand
- * Refurbishment of the pitch and spectator areas to meet WRU regulations
- * New flooring and decoration of the clubhouse as part of an ongoing refurbishment to update the clubhouse for future generations.
- * Investment in a new floodlight scheme for the lower rugby field to improve training facilities

The rugby club hope to continue to show some international matches on the "Big Screen", which has been very well received and supported by members. We also plan to open for some of the Friday night regional rugby games. When we know the schedules for these matches, we will advertise them and look forward to being able to once again welcome you to the club to enjoy the whole rugby experience.

To ensure that our goals and aims make progress the club needs a large and supportive membership and volunteer base. All new members, players and supporters are welcome to the club. We must also say a massive thank you to our sponsors who play an essential part in ensuring that we can progress as a club.

There are limited numbers available for the 100 club with the Christmas £1000 draw certainly worth a flutter. Please contact the club or Gavin Jones (f.scarlet68@gmail.com) for details if you wish to join this monthly draw. Club news and events are advertised on the club web-site and on social media (<https://llangwm.rfc.wales>).

Finally, a big thank you from all at the club for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you to enjoy the rugby at Llangwm RFC.

Dan Chesmer – Llangwm RFC Chairman

Llangwm Cricket Club is home ground for top league umpiring

Simon Richards, well known to all in sporting circles in Llangwm, has for some years been a cricket umpire at local, county and national levels. Here he outlines for readers of *Llangwm Village News* the development of his work in this capacity...

"I started to umpire in 2016, covering the Ladies Final in Hook in my first year. Two cup finals followed – the Ken Morris and the Duggie Morris cups, in 2018.

Unfortunately the 2020 season was cancelled, so I only managed friendlies in my first season as a South Wales umpire.

A full league season started in May 2021, which took me all over South Wales. This was a totally new experience with umpires being marked on performance by team captains, plus there was the huge leap in standard in play.

I then took the Level 2 exam towards my accreditation, which led to me being assessed by the Wales ACO (Association of Cricket Officials) Development Officer.

I am currently awaiting dates for Level 3 which will enable me to umpire the Premier League.

I also had the honour of umpiring the MCC v South Wales at Pontarddulais

standing with ex-professional umpire **Jeff Evans** who passed on top tips to me on how to manage a game. He also assessed my performance which must have been OK, as my last game of the season (29.8.21) led to me umpiring the SWCA Senior League Cup between Swansea and Llangennech, a huge honour in my first season since joining SWCA.



*SWCA Cup Final presentation:
(left) Colin Spain, (centre) Chairman Neil Hobbs, with Simon on the right.*

Incidentally I'm one of three coming from Llangwm Cricket Club who are currently umpiring in South Wales - fellow Glan Hafan boy **Ian Phillips** plus previous First Team Captain **Jon Twigg**.



*Umpires from the Llangwm CC stable:
(L-R) Simon Richards, Ian Phillips*

Jon and I are awaiting Level 3 accreditation to join Premier League, Ian has been umpiring Premier for three years.

Ian Gow has also started on the umpiring course. He started a few games in Pembrokeshire this year."

by Simon Richards



Simon Richards and Jeff Evans



The Harrison Allen Final 2019 Presentation: Simon is shown on the right, with Hugh Harrison Allen (left) and David Bonner.

Llangwm Cricket Club 2021



A season of two tales for Llangwm Cricket Club, the 1st team gaining promotion as unbeaten champions to the Pembrokeshire County First Division. However, unfortunately our 2nd XI got relegated to the fourth division.

For such a small village and little support from the community, it was truly an outstanding season for the 1st XI, having won every game this year in the League. There were some outstanding performances with the ball from new signing **Steven Mills** and youngster **Joe Phillips** blowing teams away.

We are very fortunate that we have some very dedicated individuals within the club, that really keep this unique club going, year in, year out.

The cricket committee would like to thank **Dai and Sue Davies** for their continued support and efforts off the field. A special thank you to our groundsman **Ian Gow**, who puts in all the unseen hours to allow games week in, week out. Along with our scorer **Janice Brick**, again, without a scorer, we would be lost. And a big thank you to **all our sponsors** this year, we have been unfortunate not to have received any grant money/Covid relief funding - money received from our sponsors this year has kept us going.

We are always looking for more sponsors and support from everyone within the village, to which, we would love to see you on a Saturday. Everyone is welcome to come and watch, have a beer and enjoy yourself in the sun.



Joseph Kiff



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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.

Llangwm's Sensational Swans

A special wildlife report by Graham Brace

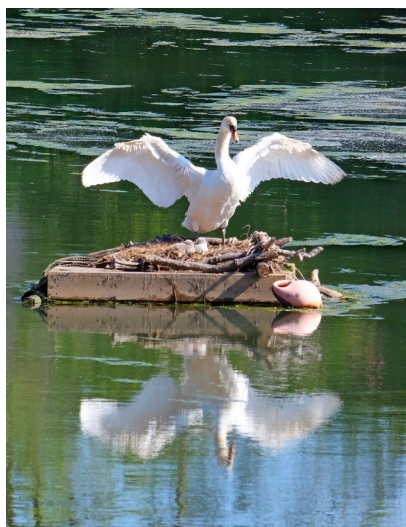
Without doubt the wildlife event which riveted the entire village over the summer has been the successful rearing of two cygnets by our pair of mute swans in Guildford Pill.

These swans have resided in the Pill and adjacent shores for ten years or more, and every spring they build as many as four or five nests in various locations between the stepping stones and Ferry Bay, lay eggs, only to have the nest and eggs swamped and washed away at the next high tide, or have the eggs taken by foxes. It has been pitiful to watch this catastrophe year after year.

After three failed attempts by this hapless pair at nest-building and egg-laying from late March to mid-April this year, it was decided that it was time for a bit of human intervention. Following much discussion as to the best way forward, Dave Walters of Williamston Terrace took it upon himself to build a sturdy, pallet-style raft with added buoyancy provided by John Colnett in the form of empty sealed plastic containers. John also attached a marine ply base to the raft.

It was then manhandled down to the Pill and Dave secured it to an old mooring in the centre. It was embellished with hay and other vegetation and an anxious wait began. Lo and behold, the following day the female swan – the 'pen' – was aboard the raft fashioning a nest and a day or so later, on 18 April, two eggs were laid.

In the weeks that followed she doggedly sat on those eggs throughout a mixed bag of weather and tidal conditions. By now all eyes were on the raft – until two tiny balls of fluff emerged on 6th June causing much jubilation from all the local shore-dwellers who had kept an avid watch on proceedings (Needless to say Llangwm Facebook erupted).



However we now entered an anxious period, hoping for the survival of these two very vulnerable cygnets. Folks on both sides of the Pill kept a wary eye on them and together with the heroic actions of the male swan (cob) all efforts by foxes and other potential predators were rendered futile. On one occasion, when both

cygnets slipped between some slats in the raft and became trapped in its interior, a rescue squad in canoes and rowing boats, led by Andy Woolmer, kept the parents at bay (no small feat) while Andy released the cygnets from the raft's innards and remedial work was quickly undertaken to prevent it happening again. (At the same time a piece of

carpet and a ramp were added for extra ease of movement for the cygnets!)

The cygnets very soon took to the water, being escorted round the Pill by the proud parents and being fed titbits by the locals on both sides of the water, in addition to feeding from natural sources.

As I write (on 12 October) those two balls of fluff are now as big as their parents, but still wearing the 'grubby' plumage of adolescent swans. They will remain a family group until their parents get the urge to breed again next spring, when the youngsters will be driven away to make their own way in the world.



Meanwhile the raft will undergo some minor refurbishment over the winter in the hope that, buoyed by their success this year, our swans will endeavour to repeat the exercise in Spring 2022...next time perhaps producing a full brood of up to eight young. Watch this space.

As usual there was little bird activity in the Pill during April, May and June once the teal and redshanks had departed to breeding areas, apart from a small group of non-breeding mallard which was joined by a mallard duck and her eight ducklings in July. The first redshanks returned on midsummer's day and were joined by a pair of greenshanks in early July. The first flock of Canada geese of the autumn turned up on 31st July and have been present in various numbers periodically since. There appeared to be more swallows, house martins and swifts around this summer having been blessed with more favourable weather conditions than last year on their spring migration.

Notable sightings during the summer included two wood warblers (two heard and one seen by me) in Benton Wood on 25th April and a turtle dove spotted by Pippa De Mengel in Benton Wood on 9th May.

In recent days I've noticed some interesting behaviour by the grey squirrels in our garden. They have a liking for the windfallen crab apples. They carry the apple aloft and, clutching it in both hands, carefully remove and reject the peel with their teeth before eating it the flesh. Strange that I've never noticed this before.

Keep me informed of any interesting wildlife sightings by emailing me at grahambrace@btinternet.com

(Thanks to Gareth Jones for the Raft photograph)