

# **Llangwm Village News**

**Issue 55 Spring/Summer 2022**



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- \* The long wait for our new village hall**

*Hello everyone*

This is my chance to say 'thank you' to rather a lot of people, starting with my predecessor as editor, Margaret Brace, who's done the job so admirably for so many years. Margaret has been on hand for this issue with good advice on everything from contacts to what to do when contributors simply don't come up with the goods. But the mistakes will be all my own. It's no surprise that I hadn't realised how big the job is until I took it on, which seems extraordinary in a village of just 800+ people.

We have some great stories for you inside: Llangwm's inventive money-raising talents for the Ukrainian emergency, the attempts to get the old school listed, the sad closure of the Methodist chapel. We also have some good reads from Neil Martin on how technology took over Wrong Direction, Tim Cousins on the allure of allotments and Graham Stephens on growing up in 1950's Llangwm.

But of course no thanks would be complete without a mention of the team of elves who deliver this to your home, and the people who sponsor us and pay our printing bills, the Llangwm Community Council. Thanks LCC!

*Heather Payton* (heather@words-plus.co.uk)

**Fed up with tiny pictures? Had enough of grey pages?**

You can read Llangwm Village News in glorious colour on the website:

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

**Llangwm's wonderful Litfest is back**

**With a summer of love!**

Join the Llangwm Litfest 2022 for a breathtaking programme to banish the blues.

Helping us to channel our inner flower power will be Leif Bersweden, returning with his new book 'Where the Wild Flowers Grow'. Leif will also lead a wildflower walk around Llangwm.

Count Nikolay Tolstoy will be joining us to talk about facts behind the myths of Merlin, and separately the Cossacks. Nuala O'Connor is coming over from Galway to introduce us to the indomitable Nora Barnacle on this centenary of the publication of Ulysses. Nuala will also be running a workshop on creative writing.



**'They'll hear us in Ukraine'**

# Llangwm sings, runs, collects phones and more

The Ukraine crisis touched the hearts - and pockets - of Llangwm people as they rose to the occasion with events including a singalong, a sponsored half-marathon, a plan to provide mobile phones for refugees, an art auction and more to raise money. And people dipped into their pockets to support the official Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and other appeals.



*Village Voices, the Cleddau Reach school choir and Sam Howley*

Events kicked off with Sing for Ukraine, an idea which came to Liz Rawlings while watching the news. She suggested a plan to Village Voices that night, the school the next day and by the following day the posters were printed. "They'll hear us in Ukraine" commented Liz. So on Thursday March 17 the choir, the school choir and a hall full of people gathered at Cleddau Reach primary school and sang their hearts out with songs from Abba, Jesus Christ Superstar, Grease and more under the baton of choirmaster Sam Howley. Together they raised an impressive total of £1100.



*Headmaster Rhys Buckley helping with the raffle draw*

The cooperation of Cleddau Reach school and headmaster Rhys Buckley made the event possible. He writes: "We were all so proud to see the children performing to parents and members of their local community. The event was obviously a chance to raise funds and awareness for the children of Ukraine; seeing our children perform was fantastic, but also served as a reminder of how fortunate we are and the responsibility we have to give help to those who need it. This in itself was a good lesson for the children."



*Sam Howley with members of the choir*

## Phones for Ukrainians

Llangwm man Steve Richards appealed for old mobile phones that are unlocked and able to work on a pay-as-you-go sim card. As members of the Pembrokeshire Vintage and Classic Motorbike Club, he and some mates planned to drive to Poland in a van and give the phones to Ukrainian refugees. At the last minute Steve had to pull out but the phones will go. Steve is on Facebook or contact him at [stevefranrichards56@btinternet.com](mailto:stevefranrichards56@btinternet.com).

## 13 miles for Ukraine

In another initiative, the vicar of St Jerome's, the Rev Marcus Zipperlen and wife Polly Zipperlen ran the Cardiff Half Marathon last month with sponsorship donations collected by Cleddau Stores. Marcus commented:

"The run was on Mothering Sunday so it fitted well to run for mothers and children of Ukraine, given that the refugees were largely women and children with the men required to stay behind and fight". Polly is an old hand but Marcus last ran the distance 25 years ago. They did it in an extremely respectable two hours 57 seconds.



*Polly & Marcus,  
before and after*

## Llangwm artists to do their bit

Members of Llangwm's sizeable community of artists are being asked to take part in a silent auction of donated works over the Easter weekend.



The plan is for each person to donate up to three paintings, prints, drawings or photographs which will be auctioned and the proceeds donated to the DEC appeal.

More details on page 6.

# News from Cleddau Stores

From Dave Golding

Firstly a massive thank you to everybody who supported me over the Christmas period, it was a busy period for the shop which was welcome. Despite that trading since Christmas has proved very difficult and as we head toward the fourth anniversary of me taking over Cleddau Stores the future is looking very uncertain. With rising costs and less customers residents will need to ask themselves whether they want to see a shop continue to serve Llangwm.

Even though I have cut my hours we'll still remain open 7 days a week providing all the essentials including daily newspapers, milk, butter, eggs and fresh bakery bread twice a week and fresh meat every Friday. But I need more customers to continue to make it viable.

My opening hours are as follows:

Monday 8 am:  
1pm

Tuesday 8am:  
1pm

Wednesday 8am:  
1pm

Thursday 8am:  
1pm

Friday 8am: 1pm & 2pm to 5pm

Saturday 8am: 12.30pm

Sunday 10am: 12pm

The Post Office is open every weekday from 9am until 1pm and on a Saturday 9am until 11am.

Lastly can I thank some of my regulars who consistently support PATCH week in week out either donations of money or by putting groceries in the box I have in the shop. You may not realise but I am Chairman of the trustees of PATCH and it is an organisation that I have supported for many years, so a massive thankyou (you know who you are).

## Jubilee Celebrations

Following several enquiries from residents in the shop about how Llangwm was going to celebrate the upcoming Jubilee, I took it upon myself to call a meeting in the Village Hall to see if I could drum up support so that we could stage some events. I wanted Llangwm people to organise something for themselves. The meeting was reasonably well attended and there were some good ideas put forward as to how we could celebrate.

The following is the plan we came up with:

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June



**Dave with full-time assistant Sprocket**

Jubilee party in the park (live music, bar, food)

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June

1950's Themed afternoon tea Jubilee celebration (including fancy dress competition, children's entertainment and afternoon tea)

Other ideas included

decorating the village with bunting, possible royal themed scarecrow competition, possible comedy evening and maybe a film evening in St Jerome's showing the original Pathe newsreel of the Coronation.

I would like to say at this point these were the ideas of the people who came to the meeting and obviously we have to source some funding to enable us to carry out these events and it goes without saying that we need YOU the good folk of Llangwm to come and support them.

I have also approached the Festival committee with a view to staging the Carnival on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June but when I wrote this article I hadn't had confirmation of that.

## New moves on Llangwm's old school

Organisers of a plan to request a listing for Llangwm's former National School told a public meeting in The Cottage Inn last month that the building played an important role in the identity of the village. The building, with its name plaque of 'Langum' National School was opened in 1871 but since its closure in 2013 has stood empty and is understood to have deteriorated badly in that time.



The organisers say the building has become symbolic of Llangwm village life and education.

Listing requests to CADW are often used as attempts to prevent the demolition of a named building.

The school is situated at the top of The Gail hill, off Main Street. The organisers say that when it first



opened its doors it had 102 pupils, which by 1893 had grown to 265, making it one of the largest rural schools in Pembrokeshire. It also provided education for 75 evacuee children during WWII. Before

the opening of a village hall the school was used for celebrations and commemorative events such as the Prince of Wales' investiture in 1969 and the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. The spelling 'Langum' National School is thought to be the only visible old spelling of the village name remaining.

### Book Review

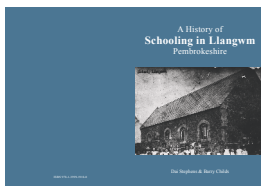
## A History of Schooling in Llangwm, Pembrokeshire

by Dai Stephens and Barry Childs

'A History of Schooling in Llangwm Pembrokeshire' provides a well-researched and entertaining account of education within the village. The co-authors have strong connections with Llangwm, both have contributed much to community life and have family links to education within the village which stretch across many generations.

Barry Childs and Dai Stephens began their research for this publication in the early part of 2020 and were inspired by a desire to provide a detailed and accurate record of education within the village. This work remembers the efforts of past generations, is of interest to the present community and provides a valuable resource for future generations. Although some areas of research were more challenging during the pandemic they have completed a wonderful publication which is based on an extensive use of historical resources such as the school log books, local newspaper reports, their own memories and those of others linked with education in the village.

The result is a fascinating narrative which stretches from the first record of a Welsh Trust School established in Llangwm for ten pupils in 1674 through to the present village school, Cleddau Reach, which was opened in 2013 and provides education for approximately 250 learners. The publication is especially strong in recording many of the characters and events linked to the 142 year history of the old school on Gail Hill.



The challenges faced by Mr Henry Simlett, the first headteacher of the school, are clearly conveyed as are the differing expectations on both staff and pupils over many generations. Legendary personalities such as Tommy Harries (Headteacher 1919-1955) emerge again from the pages of this publication. It is interesting to learn that only three headteachers led Llangwm School during the first eighty four years and that the number of children registered for the school could range from 241 in 1895 to only 30 in 1970. No wonder Victorian inspectors found that behaviour and the standard of learning achieved could vary greatly if all 241 registered pupils attended the old school building!

Barry and Dai completed their research in the autumn of 2021, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Llangwm National School opening.

All profits raised from the purchase of this outstanding publication will be donated by the authors to Cleddau Reach VC School to support the learning of our current generation of school children.

**Nick Groves, former headteacher Llangwm VC Primary & Cleddau Reach VC Primary**

*A History of Schooling in Llangwm Pembrokeshire is priced at £10 and is available from Cleddau Stores, from Cleddau Reach School and from the authors.*

Spring is here!

# Llangwm & District Gardening Club



*Christmas Wreath workshop at Greenway back in December*

Hopefully like the bulbs given to all Gardening Club members back in September, we are coming back to full bloom.

Sadly the club's fun quiz event was cancelled in January due to the increase in the Omicron variant but in February and March we were delighted to welcome Carole Whittaker of Glyn Bach Gardens and Paul & Liz O'Neill of Llwyngarreg Gardens. Club visits to see these two wonderful gardens and other local gems will be held in the summer months.

In April we'll welcome Judy, the owner of Cold Comfort Plants near Wolfscastle. Judy specialises in perennials that thrive in Pembrokeshire.

May 8th will be our annual plant sale held at the Village Hall, hopefully outside on the Sunday afternoon. Always

popular with cream scones and tea/coffee available.

On June 6th we'll welcome Lance Jepson of Greenway Nursery who is going to guide us through the benefits of peat free compost.

Our 2021/22 season ends in July with the AGM. The event is still being arranged at time of press but all details of the club's events can be found on posters in the village, on the club's own Facebook page or on the Llangwm Facebook page.

You can always contact the club chairperson Karen Shepherd at [kashepherd1602@googlemail.com](mailto:kashepherd1602@googlemail.com).

Karen Shepherd



*Last Year's plant sale*

## Llangwm's Silent Art Auction Village Hall, Easter Weekend



Llangwm is blessed with a remarkable community of artists and photographers and now they're given the chance to do their bit to help alleviate the suffering of those forced by the fighting to leave Ukraine. They're being asked to donate up to three of their works which will be sold in a silent auction over the Easter weekend.

**All proceeds will go to the DEC Ukrainian appeal.**

Those participating will not get a commission but they have the option of putting a reserved price on their artwork, which will be delivered on Thursday 14 April to the Village Hall.

**The auction:**

**Good Friday, 11am to 3pm**

**Easter Saturday, 11am to 3pm**

**Easter Sunday, 10am to 1pm**

There'll also be a Prosecco bar.

In the afternoon the bids will be reviewed, highest bidders for each work identified and arrangements made for payment and collection.

**Among the artists taking part is Llangwm-born Maurice Sheppard, a past president of the Royal Watercolour Society and a regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, who's donated three works.**

## 'A final goodbye'

Dear friends

We as a fellowship were so touched by the support that the village showed us at our final service on 13<sup>th</sup> February and by the care shown to us since. Whilst we leave behind the building, we do not leave behind our faith or stop our journeys with Christ. In the immediate future, pastoral care for our members and friends is being taken over by the wider community of Albany Church in Haverfordwest and Diane Hodson, our Pastoral Worker, and I will still be in regular touch with the community here.

Some of our members are already worshipping in other places, both in the village and further afield, and I thank the receiving churches for their welcome. Whilst the building may now be closed, the life and witness that happened from it will now continue in other places and in new ways.

Thanks again for your love and support.

Hugh-John

Rev Hugh-John Wilson, Supernumerary Minister

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### From Jane Brock, Church Secretary

On behalf of the Methodist Church I would like to express our deepest thanks to those who have joined and supported us over many, many years for our Sunday services and for the special services including Good Friday, Easter, Chapel Anniversary, Sunday School Anniversary, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas.

Also those who regularly attended our Women's Fellowship and their special day trips and luncheons and to all the children over the years who have joined our Sunday School and the special Sunday School outings. The Bazaars, Autumn/Spring Fayres, Concerts, Father's Day Luncheons, Autumn Suppers, Afternoon Teas, Pop Up Cafes, a Flower Festival, Memorabilia events, a Royal visit, Festival Fortnights, taking part on Carnival Day, Literary Festivals (apologies in advance if any event has been omitted).

We also think of all the happy occasions of wedding ceremonies and Christenings that have taken place and left beautiful memories within our hearts. We thank everyone who has given donations in gifts and monetary contributions to help the church in the past.

Writing this message to the village we must remember all our members past and present and all the hard work, support and dedication they have given to our Church since the doors first opened until they closed.

It is very sad that this will be our final piece in the village newsletter as we have provided news in every edition since the newsletter began.

### The end of an era - Barry Childs



As long as I can remember (and a long time before that) the Methodist Chapel, more often referred to as the Wesleyan by locals for obvious reasons, has stood majestically tall in the centre of our village.

Solid, timeless and reassuring, constructed of stone and the yellow brick surrounds of the windows and doors, it is iconic in the fullest sense of the word. When you see a picture of it you think immediately of Llangwm.

Regrettably, as a place of worship it is no more and its loss will be acutely felt by those who have worked so hard, against the odds, to keep it going. The last service which those of us from the Baptist Chapel, St Jerome's and further afield were privileged to attend on the 13<sup>th</sup> February was a sad but at the same time a celebratory occasion; celebration of the time, effort and sacrifice that had gone into establishing the Chapel at the heart of the village by people whose dedication it is difficult to comprehend and impossible to overstate.

As a village we should pay tribute to the small but committed group who have endeavoured to keep the Chapel going over recent years as costs have increased and congregations diminished. They did as much as they possibly could have and should feel a sense of enormous pride.

Though it will no longer echo to the sound of hymn singing as a building it will need to remain as a reminder of what has gone before and the rich heritage it represents.

## Days out and a sought-after bear

The start of every academic year always brings with it excitement and 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.



*Girls' football, Llanelli*

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 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!



*Year 1, Book at Bedtime*

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.



*Year 4, St David's Day*

(continued from previous page)

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!

**Mr Rhys Buckley, Head of Cleddau Reach School**

*Year 6, World Book Day*



## Tirion's Rainbow

We are pleased to confirm that work is due to start on the Playpark as early as the end of March this year. This first phase of work will include the refurbishment of some of the existing equipment and the addition of some new play equipment, most notably a slide and roundabout.

Please note, the Playpark will be fenced off and out of bounds while under construction. We respectfully ask that the area is avoided until the point of completion, which we expect to be 3/4 weeks from commencement.

We are excited to start delivering this project we started 4 years ago and can't wait to see children of the village enjoying the new space over the Spring and Summer months. Updates will be provided via our Facebook & Instagram pages as we progress.

Mike Preddy

## The Film Club @ St. Jerome's

Ever since winter 2017, The Film Club @ St Jerome's has screened movies, nominated and voted on by its membership. Our latest season has just ended with a screening of "Fly Away Home". The films are shown monthly on the big screen in the Nave and you can enjoy the viewing in the comfortable chairs now in the church.

Thanks to Covid, membership has shrunk and we will be deciding whether or not we will continue next Autumn. Sufficient support would guarantee another season. If you are interested in joining us, please email [pamela-hunt@btconnect.com](mailto:pamela-hunt@btconnect.com)

Pamela Hunt

### A date for your diary:

**Don't forget the Llangwm Litfest is back**

**August 12-14**

**If you fancy volunteering or hosting writers and visitors, get in touch: [llangwmlitfest@gmail.com](mailto:llangwmlitfest@gmail.com)**

## A tangled tale from the archives

On 12<sup>th</sup> May 1872, the baptism of Letitia Childs took place at Llangwm parish church. She was the first child born to John Childs, a labourer in H M Dockyard, and his wife Elizabeth (nee Bryant) of Guilford who had married in 1871. In 1875, 2-year-old Letitia Childs was buried at Llangwm church. This would appear to be a sad but not uncommon occurrence in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

According to the civil registration of births in England and Wales, there was only one child named Letitia Childs registered as being born in Wales or England between from 1871 to 1875. However, on the 1881 and 1891 census, Letitia was recorded as being still alive, living with her parents and siblings in Guilford. In 1894, Letitia married Henry Lewis and went on to have 3 children. By 1939, Letitia had been widowed and occupied a cottage in Orchard Row with her eldest daughter Eveline Esmond.

So who was the Letitia Childs that died in 1875? The 1911 census reveals that John and Elizabeth had 9 children in total but only 4 were still alive by that date – Letitia, John (born 1879), Elizabeth (born 1881) and Annie (born 1884). It has been possible to trace 4 of the deceased children – James (1874-1876), Elizabeth (1876-1877), Louise (1886-1887) and Louise (1888-1889). Could the 5<sup>th</sup> one have been the other Letitia? It is clear that it was not unusual to honour the memory of a deceased child by naming the next baby with the same name. But, as Letitia Lewis was born in 1872, she was still alive when Letitia Childs was buried aged 2 years in 1875.

John and Elizabeth Childs were buried at the cemetery in Pill Parks Way as were their four adult children – Letitia Lewis, John Childs, Elizabeth Stephens and Annie Childs. There appear to be no gravestones for their infant children. The answer to the mystery about the second Letitia Childs could only be found on her death certificate. Letitia, a sickly child from birth, had been the daughter of Richard Childs, a Royal Navy seaman. The registration of her birth was probably overlooked in the circumstances. Her father Richard was the uncle of Letitia Lewis.

**Nikki Bosworth**

*Information from online parish registers and censuses, gravestones and a death certificate.*

## Munich, Ratline, Hamnet & more

Much has been written about the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Two books that look at events of that time are **'Munich'** by **Robert Harris** and **'Ratline'** by **Philippe Sands**. The former, at its centre, has the controversial figure, Neville Chamberlain, and attempts to explain why he did what he did and is a more sympathetic portrayal than the one often painted. The book was recently made into a full length feature film: **'Munich: The Edge of War'** with Jeremy Irons playing the central character.

Whilst this book concerns itself with events leading up to the war 'Ratline' focuses on the end of that sorry period of history when war criminals were looking to escape the consequences of their crimes often seeking refuge in South America. The author, a professor of law at University College London, combines painstaking research with an impressive ability to tell a true crime story in a gripping and convincing way of one character in particular, Otto Wachter. It's genuinely outstanding.

Maureen (Kiff) some time ago asked me if I'd read **'Hamnet'** by **Maggie O'Farrell**. At long last I've got round to doing precisely that though I've always been a bit uneasy about books based on historical figures we know little or nothing about. In this case the title character was the only son of William Shakespeare who died at the age of eleven having contracted the bubonic plague so called because of the buboes i.e. swellings which were alarming symptoms of the disease. That aside, the book is engaging from start to finish creating effectively the feel of the period and the challenging lives of its characters.

Technology has ensured that letter writing is far less common than what it was. However, over time it has had an important role in our lives and in literature. One of the finest examples of the medium is **Dr Johnson's letter to Lord Chesterfield**. Johnson had spent ten years compiling what was to become the first dictionary in the English language and had looked for financial support from the wealthy Chesterfield which was refused. However when the dictionary was published and Johnson became famous Chesterfield wanted to share that fame. The response he got from Dr Johnson was withering: *'Is not a patron, My Lord, one who looks with unconcern on a man struggling for life in the water and when he has reached ground encumbers him with help. The notice which you have been pleased to take of my labours had it been early, had been kind; but it has been delayed till I am indifferent and cannot enjoy it, till I am solitary and cannot impart it, till I am known and do not want it.'* Not a bad put down.

Finally, mention was made earlier of a film recently released. Another worth a visit to the cinema or to Netflix is **'The Power of the Dog'** starring Benedict Cumberbatch. Though a bit disjointed there's a lot to enjoy.

**Barry Childs**

## Llangwm's new Village Hall:

# The long wait continues

Finally, after two long years, activities in the Village Hall are returning, with the pleasure that we get from meeting others in person and having a central, easily accessible venue. But Llangwm's long wait for a new village hall is set to continue due to the inability so far of Llangwm Community Council to agree on the possible exchange of land with Fields in Trust (F.I.T.) on which the deal depends. Our partnership with them continues.

Their instruction to the solicitors Price & Kelway ensured the Land Registration documents and the land ownership are in order. Unfortunately, no progress on this issue was reported at their latest meeting in March.

We have proposed an urgent meeting with LCC prior to any Public Consultation that may be called. We hope this will happen soon, so we can ensure that everyone has complete understanding of the issues, both historical & current, leading to a quick resolution of the steps that need to be taken to ensure progress towards a new hall.

It is important that residents attend Community Council meetings which are open to all residents and take place on the second Tuesday of the month, (currently on ZOOM). If residents wish to attend they can do so by contacting the Clerk to the Council.

Meanwhile, the Village Hall Committee are continuing with the work needed so that once the 'all clear' is given, progress can be made swiftly. Recent work has been:

1) A full topographical survey carried out to the west of the rugby pitch which also went two metres into the graveyard to check that we did not have to worry about contamination from the graves. We don't!

2) All three architects requested to tender, submitted their plans on time with quite extensive detail. Further questions have now been put to them and once these have been answered the three tenders will be made available for Community Councillors to view, following which they will be displayed at a series of public meetings to provide everyone with the opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions etc. Notices will be posted around the village giving the dates of these meetings.

Where do you want to see Llangwm in 10 years time?

Compared to the halls in other Pembrokeshire villages,

Llangwm is being left behind.

Our proposal for a new larger village hall, built on our leasehold land, needs to be agreed by L.C.C., so that we can have a hall in Llangwm fit for the 21st century, with all the new challenges it presents.

For example, this will include heat efficiency and green energy production and while the physical state of our current building is an issue (we can assure everyone that it is in a safe condition), sadly the cost of energy efficient improvements in our old building are just not cost effective. As a small example of this, the roof would need replacing to be able to hold solar panels.

Further, as the number of cars in the village is already seen by many as a problem, and the population of the village is increasing with the proposed new housing developments, there is the possibility of the new hall being used as a pilot project for electric vehicle charging and further ideas that it could be linked to an electric car pool project. We must think to the future needs of our community and its increasing population.

The 'Llangwmfuture' website has been quiet over the last few months as progress on a decision about the exchange of land has been on hold while Price & Kelway finish their investigations. However, hopefully this situation can be resolved quickly and then we hope for rapid progress towards the new build and 'Llangwmfuture' will recommence.

Meanwhile, here's an update on current activities in the Hall. Please see Dave in the shop for contact details/ more information for each activity.

\* Tuesday: Yoga 7-8pm New members very welcome - all levels.

\* Thursday: Happy Hedgehogs (Playgroup) 9.30-11.30

\* Thursday: Village Voices 7.30-9.30

\* Monday (1st Monday in the month): Gardening Club

\* Monday (2nd Monday in the month): History Club

In addition, the Hall is popular for children's parties, parties in general, weddings, etc. It will be in use during the Jubilee Celebrations and don't forget the return of Llangwm Litfest in August.

The Village Hall Committee



## Preserving the past to fund the future

Pamela Hunt

The Friends of St. Jerome's was established in 2017 to develop new and creative ideas that would help fund the preservation of Llangwm's medieval church after the restoration was completed. We welcomed everyone and anyone from the local community to help us raise the money the building would need. Normal church fundraising continued as it had been in the past but during the restoration the new works provided for resources that would enhance our fundraising capabilities. The biggest resource was the installation of an air sourced heating system, arguably the first medieval church in Wales to have green energy heating. Immediately there was one big job it had to do. When the church was restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, bad decisions were made to point the exterior and render the interior walls using cement mortar and over the ensuing 170 years those walls became riddled with damp. The building desperately needed to dry out. The solution required the removal of all the cement mortar, both inside and out, and that was to be replaced with lime mortar, such as that used by our medieval forebears. The success of the drying out of the structure between 2017 and 2020 was demonstrated by the reduction in the annual electricity bill. In year ending 2018 the electricity bill was over £2,700. Three years later, that bill had reduced to £1,400. But with the expected rise in energy prices this coming year, The Friends of St Jerome's have to develop innovative fundraising ideas to cover the extra energy costs.

The installation of 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies not only enhanced the church's resources for worship, we could also utilise resources such as Wi-Fi to run the Talking Tapestry. The provision of a computer and projector enabled groups visiting the restored church to enjoy presentations. So once the church reopened, the Friends were immediately able to raise funds from group visits, medieval events, a film club, special presentations and concerts. St Jerome's was at its fundraising best when hosting concert performances with opportunities to sell refreshments and souvenirs as well as the tickets. We enjoy featuring local musical talent. And occasionally, with the support of the Arts Council for Wales, we are able to invite special performances from across the world.

Then came Covid with the lockdowns and social distancing. All our fundraising depended upon people visiting the church whether for a presentation on Llangwm's medieval and Tudor history or a concert. All activity stopped and since March 2020, fundraising has become nigh on impossible. When the church was able to reopen for worship, some of our regular congregation preferred to stay at home and receive live streamed services or took part

on Zoom. But the concerts really suffered, since social distancing only permitted us to admit a small audience and the revenue was barely enough to pay the artists. It wasn't only the Friends fundraising that was struggling, the usual church fundraising struggled too.

But there is a chink of light. The Welsh Government is starting to lift the restrictions and in the next few months we will be soon able to welcome visiting groups again. There are already three making enquiries about visiting us in the summer. Thanks to a further grant from the Heritage Fund, we are now able to Live Video Stream our concert performances and by Easter we should also be able to welcome audiences large enough to make the concerts viable again. We have developed a long list of both previous and new music performances ready to offer our 'in house' and live stream audiences.

We are also planning to offer new experiences to visiting groups such as graveyard tours and wildlife experiences. New 'In Church' presentations in costume are in development, and with additional funding, new concerts from performers around the world will come back to Llangwm. Nevertheless, we always look for exciting ideas to help us raise the funds to enable Llangwm's oldest building to continue to serve this village well into the future.

Just imagine, our little church as we look at it today was built around the time that King John signed the Magna Carta at Runnymede and even then it was built on the site of an earlier church believed built in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century. It has watched over the people of Llangwm through the Black Death, the Hundred Years War, the Wars of the Roses, the Reformation, the Civil War and the Great Plague. More recently it carried Llangwm through two world wars.

St Jerome's still needs our help. If you think you can help us, then please get in touch. But it's even more important that the people of Llangwm and those beyond support our concerts and events. We've already heard that our electricity bills are rising by 61%. We are going to need more money to achieve our objective.

So, whether you support our events, or you come up with a great fundraising idea, we'll be delighted to hear from you. Then we can preserve Llangwm's iconic building for future generations.

If you'd like to help us, our contact email is [info@heritagellangwm.org.uk](mailto:info@heritagellangwm.org.uk).

# St Jerome's news

Well Spring has started to arrive thankfully, after the battering we had recently from Storm Dudley, followed two days later by Storm Eunice and Storm Franklin to top it off! Storm Gladys decided to head further North!! Nature is wonderful, as we enjoy the cheer the bright colours of daffodils and crocuses bring, as they pop up their heads to lift our spirits after Winter. Together with brighter days and staying lighter for longer.

As we observe this period of Lent, a time of reflection. Let us take time, after the past 2 years we've been through with Covid-19 upon us, to remember people who were affected by it. Our brilliant NHS and Frontline workers who worked tirelessly, as well as others in the background. It certainly limited many things in our lives we had taken for granted and the pandemic restrictions we were under, which thankfully are finally coming to an end!

Let us also take time in our thoughts to pray for the people of Ukraine. To give them the strength to come through this unprecedented invasion of their beloved country and that peace can be restored soon.

## LENT/EASTER SERVICES

**Palm Sunday** is on 10<sup>th</sup> April at 9.00am.

**Easter Sunday** is on 17<sup>th</sup> April at 9.00am

### **Tuesday Evening Lent Study**

On Tuesday evenings at 7pm on Zoom we will have our parish Lent study group. This year we will be looking at the prayers of Jesus.

**\*\* Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April – In the Garden of Gethsemane**

**\* Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April – On the Cross**

*Here is the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86556208878?pwd=eWV4OEN6L2M2MUFUWThQZGxrWjYdZ09>*

*Or to join by telephone ring any of these 3 numbers:*

*0203 481 5237; 0208 080 6591; 0330 088 5830*

*And enter the codes below when asked: Meeting ID 865 5620 8878, Passcode: 84830*

**Coffee mornings will be held on the second Friday of every month.**

### **Compline on Monday Evenings**

Every Monday evening at 9pm our Ministry Area will be having a Service of Compline (night prayer) on Zoom. You can join from 8.45pm, for a bit of a chance to chat if you want to. There will be music or quiet for a couple of minutes before 9pm. The service will start at 9pm, include a short

reflection on the theme of discipleship and finish between 9.15pm and 9.20pm.

*The ZOOM link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/552099228?pwd=eVY3VXJxcXhK2MrRy95aHFnW3BpQT09>*

*Meeting ID: 552 099 228, Password: 614354*

*Or telephone in on one of these three numbers:*

*0131 460 1196; 0203 051 2874; 0203 481 5237; 0203 481 5240*

## **SERVICES**

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

The next Worship Time service will be on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.**

**Our regular Sunday Services start at 9.00am.**

**Midweek Eucharist (Wednesday)** are on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> April and 27<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am.

**Thursday Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9.30am.**

*<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/651414030>. Meeting ID is: 651 414 030. Or to join using your telephone, ring 0131 460 1196.*

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt** will take place at St Jerome's on Easter Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April at 3.30pm.

**The Annual Teddy Bears Picnic** will take place in the Summer at St Jerome's. Date and time TBC.

Please check on the St. Jerome's Church Notice Board for any changes and updates to times and venues of Church Services and Events.

Usually, if there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month, there is a Joint Parish Service at 10am, held either in Llangwm, Johnston or Freystrop. The next Joint Parish Service will be Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Venue to be confirmed.

31<sup>st</sup> July – TBC 30<sup>th</sup> October – TBC (Details of venues will be on the Church Notice Board).

**Reverend Marcus and everyone from St. Jerome's Church would like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter and a great Summer.**

### **Parish Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Llangwm-Johnston-Freystrop-Churches-357399061488084>

Debbi Lawson-Earley

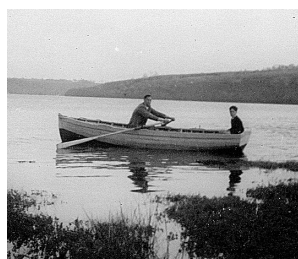
# A childhood on the river

Graham Stephens

There is an old saying that a boat is a hole in the water surrounded by wood (or these days GRP), into which one pours money. Sixty years on from having my first boat I can attest to the truth of this. Anyone who has also succumbed to this particular marine virus will, I am sure agree but equally no-one who has a passion for boats would ever change things.



Like many a Llangwm boy, I first experienced the waters of the Cleddau in the family boat. This was a traditional Llangwm boat but unlike its working sisters, it was not tarred overall and had just the underwater sections given the shiny black waterproofing. My grandfather and his two brothers all served their time in the Dockyard and repair and renovation of the family boat came as second nature. I can still remember the smell of pitch melting over an open fire on the foreshore when the boat was given a complete make-over in the 1950s. Oakum, unravelled hemp rope, was driven between the seams with a caulking iron and the molten pitch applied to seal the joint before a layer of tar was applied to complete the work. In my mind I can still see the inside of the old black shed at the bottom of the garden where the brothers kept their shipwright's tool chests and where the paraphernalia of the shipyard lay scattered and the smell of wood shavings and oakum filled the air.



But the family boat was not 'my' boat and I craved my very own dinghy to row around the Pill. And so it was that at the ripe old age of eleven when the end of the first year in grammar school was marked with a trip to Switzerland, I asked my parents if I could have a boat

instead. My father had been admitted to hospital with a heart issue and in the adjacent bed was a person by the name of Martin Reynolds, brother of Campbell and co-founder of Dale Sailing. Martin knew of a 12 foot, sailing dinghy which was available. The deal was done and I became the proud owner of my first boat, a white, clinker built, Bermudan rigged dinghy with cotton sails, varnished topsides and a short bowsprit. A few lessons from a friend in Haverfordwest and my sailing days had begun.

There were very few sailing boats in the village but over the next few years, one or two others appeared on the scene. Brian Allen of Rectory Road acquired an Enterprise and Idwal England bought a twelve foot, flat bottomed sharpie design with possibly a Heron dinghy rig. Many an evening was spent chasing each other around the waters off Llangwm. Brian's Enterprise always had the edge in speed and so it wasn't long before the temptation of being able to compete on an equal footing set me off in search of a new dinghy. Enterprise number 6759 was found in the yard of Trinity House, Burton where Brian Jenkins had set up Jenkins Boats.



I had painted and varnished my old dinghy to get the best possible exchange rate only to be told by said Mr Jenkins "*A drop of paint makes a boat what it ain't*". Somewhat deflated, a part exchange was eventually agreed and I moved up the ladder to my second boat – a proper racing dinghy. Both Brian Allen and I kept our boats at Black Tar where a new slipway had been built by the Llangwm Boating Club. I remember helping to shovel concrete under the expert eye of Eddie James who lived in Llangwm Ferry. Eddie was a lecturer in construction at Neyland Technical College and seemed to take a leading role in the slipway project. There was much pride in owning a proper racing dinghy and a lot

of effort went in to maintaining it. It was with some frustration to find that after cycling across to Black Tar on a warm summer's evening, the deck of the dinghy was often used as a seat for some of the village's larger ladies! However what went through the brain never came out of the mouth. Phew!



Those were great days in what seems now to have been perfect summer weather. Clearly that wasn't always the case and I still do remember anxious aunts and uncles standing on the foreshore, when the wind started to rise shouting "Come thee in. Thous'll be drowned".

An occasional capsized only added to their belief that all would not end well. Some twenty or so boats later and a lot of water having passed under the keel, I'm still here although there has been more than one occasion when their words could easily have become reality. I think they'd be happy now that I mostly leave the sailing to the next generations and rely on a large inboard engine instead.



*Graham Stephens lives in Llangwm and presented the Llangwm Local History Society film Born of the Cleddau, which is available on YouTube.*

## Llangwm Local History Society

### A packed programme - a river trip and more

We are delighted to look forward to the easing of covid restrictions and are looking forward to being able to meet face to face from now on. It has been a challenging two years as we have all got used to masks, social distancing and zoom meetings – thank goodness for that! As restrictions eased last year we have been able to have a couple of visits to Pembroke with Terry John and the Cathedral in St Davids with Mari James, plus we were able to make our film "Born of the Cleddau" which you can view on YouTube. Our archiving project has been an ongoing success and we are looking forward to continuing this in order to preserve our unique history for future generations. You can view what has already been digitalized on the People's Collection Wales website.

2022 also sees the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Llangwm Local History Society and we are planning a celebratory weekend at the beginning of July. Who could have believed how much we have achieved in 20 years? We have undertaken a huge amount of research into the history of Llangwm and its context into the wider area some of which is available to view in the Bygone Days section of the village website. Numerous people have been in touch in connection with family history and it is great that people who have family connections with the village want to find out more about their ancestors and family members. Collaboration with the Heritage Llangwm project has unearthed a wealth of information about Llangwm's medieval history and connection with the de la Roche family and engendered a huge amount

of interest from around Wales and beyond. Exhibitions have been put on when it is great to see people looking at boards and photographs and identifying people they have known or have been part of their family. And we have produced an opera featuring the people of Llangwm which won a national award. What an accolade! We are looking forward to the celebrations in July and hope that you will join in.

We are also looking forward to an exciting series of talks and visits over the coming months and would welcome anyone who would like to join the History Society or come along for individual talks. The programme for the coming months is as follows:

Monday 21st March    Simon Hancock  
Haverfordwest in 30 Articles

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April    Robert Llewellyn Davies  
Fenton's Tour of Pembrokeshire

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May    River Trip

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June    Keith Johnson  
Pembrokeshire Local Ferries & Ferryman

July 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>    20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations  
Do come and join us

Jane Mills

## Allotment heaven

### The joy of a homegrown tomato

Escaping to a small patch of muddy ground that floods in the winter and dries to a crisp in the summer is not everyone's idea of joy or relaxation but for the lucky holders of Llangwm allotments it's been a fantastic release from the pressures we've all been under during the pandemic. Seeing the allotments transform from bare ground and sad looking raised beds to bountiful harvests of fruit and vegetables is a joy, even if your neighbour's sweetcorn is doing better than yours! For most people it's a place to come and relax and either spend some time alone or interact with others who appreciate the value of a homegrown tomato.

A little while ago we had the opportunity to apply for a grant via 'Grwp Resilience Wales' (<https://m.facebook.com/grwp.wales/>) which provides help and support to community resilience projects such as allotments and encourages the sharing of information and equipment within local communities. We built a large shed that can be used to support the allotments, but will also be available for other local projects that could make use of such a space. We were also able to improve the access across the site with a refurbished gravel track.

It's early days yet but it's hoped that in the future we could use this brand new space to host tool repair services via Grwp Resilience, work with our neighbours at the school and support a much wider range of projects to support and benefit Llangwm and the wider community.

We are looking for ideas to make the most of the resources we have already been granted and maybe even for future projects that tie in with the aims of the allotment. So feel free to think how you could make use of our facilities and come and have a chat. A community apple press seems to have a lot of support from people in the village, personally I didn't realise just how many people like apple juice, or maybe I'm being naive and they have further plans for the apple juice!

Finally, just as elsewhere in the country, the pandemic has led to a significant, and to our minds welcome, increase in interest in gardening and growing your own food. This means that currently the waiting list for the small number of allotments available at the site is doubled and is unlikely to reduce in the near future. As a society we will be looking to see if there is any innovative way we can ease the situation, so watch this space.

Contact Tim Cousins at 9 The Green Llangwm if you have any ideas or want to look at the space available.

## Planting new trees

### Llangwm does its bit

Last year Kathy Codd (LC C's Clerk) received 40 small trees from the CCAT organisation (Coastal Communities Adapting Together). Since then, Nick Ainger has kindly looked after them with great expertise, as planting was delayed due to Covid.

Now, Mike Standish (Volunteer Tree Warden for Llangwm & other local villages) and myself have explored the village to try & identify public areas where trees would be a benefit, with the support of the Community Council.

The aim was to plant them before the end of March with the permission of landowners and with due regard to suiting the tree size to the site and to the sight lines of neighbours.

Initially there are only 40 trees, and they are tiny at the moment, but will grow the better for it. They include several Rowans, a few Beech, Oak, Hazel, Birch and others.

More trees will be available this year from various sources and it is hoped to plan further planting, possibly fruit trees as well.



*L-R: Kathy Codd, Mike Standish, Nick Ainger & a boot full of young trees*

Late news: Welsh Water have agreed to some selective planting near the pumping station, if approved by residents, and we're approaching the school. Mike Standish is currently taking care of the little trees.

Madeline Tasker

# The boys in the band go high tech

As we come to the end of a time of confusion and adversity, there is very little to report on regarding the activity of Wrong Direction over the last few months. We are back together rehearsing – that's about it! We have some concerts planned but first of all we have got to recover from the months and months of not being together. I don't think that we are alone in this.



So, this article is about the various things we have done to overcome the problems we have faced for the last two years.

Before the pandemic began I had already started to pressure the 'boys in the band' to follow what I have been doing for several years. Very simple really, I always perform my music from a specialised app on my tablet. The app displays pages of music in .pdf format on the screen in full size and makes it easy to turn the pages with a single click on the screen, or for me, a click on a foot pedal. After all, my hands are already quite busy playing the piano. It took a bit of persuading but after seeing it in action, I don't think the boys would go back to pages and pages of paper, flapping in the wind.

The tablets really came in to their own during lockdown, when we were not allowed to meet, certainly not allowed to sing. We met at our usual time on Zoom but soon realised that there was a major technical limitation to be overcome. It's called 'latency'. It is something we are often not aware of even though it surrounds us all the time. It is the tendency for electronic systems to have a time delay on any type of transmission. Television and Radio both have latency but because we have nothing to compare them to, it goes unseen (and unheard).

On Zoom, there is always a small delay between you speaking and your Zoom buddy hearing you but because there is no frame of reference, we cannot see it. However, when there are several of you all trying to sing together, it becomes painfully obvious as you hear the other singers very slightly out of time with each other. Made worse because each system has its own level of latency so no-one is in time with anyone – cacophony!

The answer turned out to be me playing the piano and singing

in time with myself and everyone else muted but singing along with me. Poor devils! Only having my 'dulcet tones' to sing along with. I'm surprised that so many managed to stay with me and didn't end up deaf or permanently mentally damaged. Despite the pain they must have suffered, it worked and Wrong Direction managed to keep together throughout the darkest days of the lockdown.

It was helped by two other technical innovations. The first is a page on Google called 'Classroom'. This is actually intended as a tool for teachers, whereby they can put work on the internet and allow a number of their students to download the work. I have all of our songs on Classroom and all the boys have access to it and can download the pdf files directly on to their tablets and straight into their music readers – magic.

The second innovation goes hand in hand with Classroom. Sitting alongside the pdf file is another file that goes into a tremendous program called MuseScore. This fantastic piece of free software allows you to write music on your computer and produce perfect musical scores but, even better, it plays the music back to you. I would create the song file, the boys in the band would download both files and they could read the music on their tablet and play the music on their PC or MAC.



To be brutally honest, not everyone has embraced all the technology but they have all used at least part of it and those who have gone the 'whole hog' have benefitted tremendously and practised all the way through this most difficult time.

There is no doubt, however, that we are all pleased and relieved that we can once more sing together. There is no substitute, however clever the technology is, for the joy of working as one. We are still a bit 'rusty' but thoroughly enjoying the process of singing and performing together. As normality returns we are planning to do some local events and we hope that we will soon see you at one of our live gigs.

Neil Martin.

## The beginning - but not quite the end

Jeff James

It is 20 years this May since Pat offered to do teas/cakes for the Gardening Club, which was when the idea of a museum materialised!

Now, with old age kicking in, Pat and Jeff have decided that due to Covid, and the confines of the museum, there will be NO village open day, although small groups will still be welcome on certain days in May although must be PRE BOOKED (do not just turn up, then be offended).

There is no charge, all donations go to the Wales Air Ambulance, and if you haven't already been, and want a flavour of what to expect – visit [www.scrimpinology.co.uk](http://www.scrimpinology.co.uk)

So if you want to visit, please get in touch - [curator\\_james@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:curator_james@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone 01437 890841 to arrange a suitable date.



### The photograph:

Of interest, the rails are from the narrow gauge tracks at one of the Hook collieries, while the wheels are cast iron colliery dram (tram) wheels, with the rest being fabricated in wood.

Oh yes, the coal is authentic and was donated by Tyrone O'Sullivan (Tower Colliery, Hirwaun) to Victor Norman of the Stepside School museum when he intended to have a mining section at his school museum, reflecting how coal had transformed the 'port' of Saundersfoot.

## Galilee Baptist Chapel

### Hymns help return to normal

Margaret Brace

Sunday morning services have been getting back to normal since Lockdown, with hymn singing once again allowed as part of worship.

On Sunday 6 March one of Llangwm's own 'sons' Derek Slark returned to lead the morning service which was also attended by some of Derek's family and friends from past years.

On Sunday 13 February members of Galilee and St Jerome's joined with the congregation of the Methodist Chapel for their final service, sensitively led by Rev Hugh-John Wilson.



### Notable forthcoming services include:

Palm Sunday (10 April) Morning service at 10.30am

Good Friday (15 April) Service with Rev Roger Hart at 9.30am followed by tea, coffee and hot cross buns in the vestry.

Easter Sunday (17 April) Morning service at 10.30am to be taken by Nigel Thomas.

Over the years there have been strong links between Galilee and the Methodist Chapel, uniting particularly for Sunday School anniversaries and harvest festivals. The late Ellen Skyrme used to talk about the great rivalry between the chapel choirs – to see which would sing the best anthem! Good wishes go to the Methodist fellowship as they enter a new era of worship.

Services will continue through the summer months, with Harvest Festival to be held on 25 September.

A warm welcome is extended to all.

# LLANGWM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## ONGOING PROJECTS AND NEWS

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- **Public Engagement** – During the last few years, it has been very difficult to hold Public Meetings to discuss projects. We hope now with the ending of Pandemic restrictions to hold several meetings during 2022. Let us know what you think, your contribution is vital to ensure the Community Council makes the correct decisions for you and the Village. Email [llangwmclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:llangwmclerk@btinternet.com) ring/text 07866 958795.
  - **Tirion's Rainbow** – Tirion's Rainbow hope to commence work on the upgrade of the Play Area in 2022. An update will be in the March 2022 Draft minutes of the Llangwm Community Council and hopefully an action plan will be available on the Llangwm Notice Board and Llangwm Village Website once known.
  - **Councillor Pam Hunt** – Cllr Hunt has given notice of her retirement. Members are very sorry to see her leave, but are extremely grateful for all the work she has undertaken as part of the Community Council over the past 5 years. We wish her all the very best for the future and good health.
  - **Tree Planting** – A group of local residents have come together and made a plan of possible tree planting across the Village of Llangwm. Community Council Members have met with them and will agree the way forward at the March 2022 meeting. We are very grateful for the amount of work undertaken by these volunteers. In its capacity as a Community Council, we were able to source, free of charge, 40 various trees from the Coastal Communities Growing Together tree planting initiative last year and we thank Mr Nick Ainger of Port Lion who has nurtured them over the past 12 months.
  - **Queen's Jubilee** – We await the outcome of a Public Meeting to decide how residents wish to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.
  - **Green Projects - Wind, Tidal, Electronic Charging Points** – Please let us know if you have any ideas on these subjects. We are looking at grant funding and possible sites and look forward to hearing from you.
  - **Planning at the Kilns** – The Community Council have responded to the planning application – a copy of the letter will be available on the Llangwm Website and placed on the Llangwm Notice Board. This is an ongoing application process and Llangwm Community Council will keep you informed via the Notice Board and Website.
  - **Old School** – Members have attended several of the meetings to discuss the way forward on the future of the Old School.
  - **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 members met with Pembrokeshire County Council in February 2022 to try and address issues of parking, pedestrian safety, blind spots and speeding.
- Date and times of next Community Meetings:**  
- 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Agenda available on the Llangwm website or by request from the Clerk. 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. This arrangement may well change following the Welsh Government decision to end all restrictions on the 28<sup>th</sup> March.
- Please let us know if we can help or advise by contacting the Clerk, Kathy Codd on [llangwmclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:llangwmclerk@btinternet.com) or leave a message on 07866 958795. All Community Councillors contact details are available on the Llangwm Village Website.

# **LLANGWM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

### **ON THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

#### **NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING(S)**

**MAY 2022**

**DATE(S) TBA VIA VILLAGE NOTICE BOARD AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Current situation on the 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). There is also a notice page on which there will be a report following the first part of the Public Consultation, as printed in the Llangwm Village News in Spring 2021.

Llangwm Village are extremely fortunate to have a strong Village Community Centre Committee who have worked tirelessly to source grant funding and are working extremely hard to gain the best Village Community Centre they can. Llangwm Community Council Members are more than aware of the number of voluntary hours it takes to produce the paper work, i.e. legal papers, quotes etc to complete grant requests. So, a big thank you to all Llangwm Village Community Centre Committee Members!!!

No formal agreement has been made with Llangwm Village Community Centre to exchange land or any planning applications agreed. However, once Llangwm Community Council receive: -

- a) 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.
- b) The Community Council may then reconsider decisions made after six months (i.e. July 2021). Following, adherence to our Standing Orders NALC 2018. This will be led by you the residents following the Public Meeting the date of which is still to be announced

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 [llangwmclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:llangwmclerk@btinternet.com) or leave a message on 07866 958794, or ring 01646 601655 between 9.00 am and 7.00pm, (please note at present there is no answer phone on this number).

# Town and Community Council Elections

## 5th May 2022

Elections to the County Council and Town & Community Councils will be held on Thursday 5 May 2022. Formal notice of the elections will be published on Friday 18 March 2022 and the period between this date and the close of poll on 5 May is called the 'pre-election period'.

The reason for the pre-election period is to ensure that no advantage is given to one political candidate over another.

For further information please see the following: -

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

Telephone

01437 775715

Email

[electoralservices@Pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@Pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

Please contact the Llangwm Community Council Clerk, Kathy Codd, for any further information regarding the Community Council role and responsibilities. Current Members would also be pleased to give you an idea of their role and the amount of time given and the wide range of topics that are dealt with by the Community Council. Please see the website for contact details or again, go via the Clerk.

All information will be placed on the Llangwm Village Web Site and the Llangwm Notice Board to ensure all residents have access to the Election Notices, Election nomination process etc.

**\*\*\* Young people aged 14 and 15 are now able to register to vote and 16 and 17 year olds can now vote in Welsh Parliament (Senedd) elections and Local Government elections.**

### County Council Report.

Cllr Michael John is unable to submit his usual column to this issue of the Llangwm newsletter due to it being released during the pre-election period.

On advice from the Monitoring Officer at PCC, it would be deemed inappropriate with him being a candidate in the forthcoming election.

The Editor would like to thank Cllr John for his previous submissions to the Llangwm News.

# Keeping village rugby alive - loudly

As we near the end of the 2021/2022 rugby season there have been many positives both on and off the field at Llangwm RFC. Following an encouraging pre-season and good numbers at training, our First XV currently sit in 9<sup>th</sup> position in the WRU 3 West A league. The team performed really well in wins against Tregaron and St David's recently, where Llangwm retained the Johnny James Memorial Cup.

A close match against Cardigan could have pushed us further up the table but the game finished 6-12 in the opposition's favour.

First team players Ieuan Power and Gethin Thomas were selected to represent the county team, which is a great honour and experience for them. As the league draws to a close with two games remaining we hope to finish strongly and put a marker down for next season.



*Llangwm Youth XV Semi Final win*

Another big positive is the performance of Llangwm RFC's first youth team in ten years. Winning games in both the league and cup competitions, they now play in the plate final against local rivals Neyland on the 15<sup>th</sup> April. This is a great achievement for the team and we would like to wish them all the best for this season Finale. With the majority of the side in their first year of youth rugby, they aim to build on this strong start with coach Dafydd Bowen and captain Arwyn O'Loughlin excited at the prospect and challenge ahead for this side.

Brendan O'Loughlin and his team continue their great work with the mini and junior sections of the club and it is amazing to see the youngsters enjoying their rugby at Llangwm and the numbers continue to grow. The mini and junior sections are key to the future of the club, as youngsters from the village and surrounding areas enjoy learning new skills and building friendships at this great village club. We are always looking for new players at all age levels so if you are interested then please contact

the club via the website <https://llangwm.rfc.wales>.

The ongoing work on the facilities at the field have improved the training and matchday experience for the players and supporters. New training ground floodlights have finally been installed after a long wait and we look forward to testing these out on training nights. This long-term investment, with support from our sponsors, the rugby club and the WRU, will benefit the teams in Llangwm for years to come. We will continue to work and update the facilities at the field and would like to say a big thank you to those involved in all the work for their time and dedication.



*Llangwm 1st XV PD Quins*

The vocal support that the senior and youth teams have had this year has been fantastic and it is testament to the people of the village and the local area who enjoy watching a good game of rugby and sampling a pint in the rugby club afterwards. The club is in the process of creating a Club Development Plan which will provide a focus on what we would like to achieve over the coming months and years. We are lucky to have a small and dedicated committee and volunteer group who continue to try and improve the club and its facilities and are always looking for new members to join or to help out on matchdays, so please get in touch, if you would like to get involved.

I would like to say a big thank you to all those involved in the club from players, coaches and committee to sponsors, members, parents and supporters who make our local village rugby club alive. Have a great summer and we look forward to welcoming you all next season.

Dan Chesmer – Llangwm RFC Chairman

# Llangwm RFC Minis and Juniors

The section continues to be a hive of activity with lots of kids enjoying the great outdoors, the sport of rugby and meeting new friends. Our U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s, U13s and U15s teams tend to train every Wednesday evening with competitive games on Sunday mornings (weather permitting)

We're very lucky to have a strong coaching team and an active club committee. 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 Llangwm youth and senior team<sup>s</sup>.



**U15s played Vardre**

The club feel that it is important to have an active social scene. We had a spooktacular Halloween party and over Christmas we held a juniors bingo night and in February we held a delayed minis magic Christmas show with disco. Our U15s team hosted a visiting team from Vardre RFC with a return journey planned for this September. In April, our U15s are also hosting a visiting team, Mallow RFC, from Ireland.

In collaboration with the seniors section, we have embarked on a Club Development Plan (CDP). We are currently in the process of canvassing feedback from those associated with the club with the intention of developing rugby skills (across all age categories) training equipment & facilities, as well as ways in which we ensure we best serve the local community. More information will be shared on this; special thanks to Dom Beattie for facilitating this process for us.



**Halloween Party**

The club is run by volunteers under WRU guidelines. We rely on the goodwill and commitment of the coaches, committee and parents, some who provide home game refreshments and make visiting teams feel welcome at Llangwm. New players and parent volunteers are always welcome. More information and updates are posted on our Llangwm RFC Facebook.

Brendan O'Loughlin

## Llangwm Lions AFC

Our U7's looking smart in their new tracksuit tops courtesy of the Port Authority Community Fund.



On the pitch, the players have made an encouraging start to mini football this year, and we look forward to seeing their continued development.

Our U11's battled the elements away to near neighbours Neyland.



This group of players continue to set high standards great performances week in week out.

Mike Preddy

# Swans, seals, and more in our 'impressive' estuary

Graham Brace

Since my last report in October, the Pill and adjacent shores have played host to the usual assortment of winter visitors and resident birds. These include Canada goose, greylag goose, teal, shelduck, mallard, redshank, greenshank, dunlin, common sandpiper, snipe, black-tailed godwits, ringed plover, lapwing, little egret, heron, cormorant and the occasional great crested grebe and its smaller cousin the dabchick. In addition, 5 species of gull are regularly seen...greater black backed, lesser black backed, herring, common, black headed and, from time to time, the Mediterranean gull (very similar to the black headed variety). Also, the azure flash of a kingfisher darting over the water is always a joy to see. Other small birds drawn to shore include the black and white pied wagtail and its more colourful relative, the grey wagtail, often misidentified as the rarer yellow wagtail because of its yellow breast and rump. Regular raptors seen from time to time include the buzzard, sparrowhawk, peregrine falcon, red kite, merlin and, if you are lucky, goshawk. In spring and autumn, ospreys pass through and occasionally linger upstream around the Western and Eastern Cleddau. All in all, quite an impressive list of species in one location. The Daugleddau Estuary is an area of significant importance for migratory wetland and shore birds.



We have had one unusual visitor which turned up on 15<sup>th</sup> November. This was a hybrid duck which, along with expert opinion, we believe is a cross between a common shelduck and a ruddy shelduck. The ruddy shelduck is a very rare visitor, whose normal territory is the area surrounding the Black Sea. This individual is almost certainly an escapee and the progeny of an encounter between a shelduck and ruddy shelduck at one of the larger established wildfowl collections in the UK (e.g. Slimbridge). As I write this in early March it is still around and can be seen most days feeding and swimming with the common shelduck, happily accepted as a member of the flock.

Between early December and late February folks living and walking around the shore cannot fail to be impressed by the spectacular aerial displays put on by

large flocks of lapwings, numbering sometimes as many as three to four hundred birds, wheeling around having been disturbed by a dog, walkers or a passing raptor. This display is often enhanced by an accompanying flock of dunlin, small waders whose flight pattern is tighter and more rapid. When undisturbed these birds can be seen feeding together along the tideline or on the mudflats. Smaller groups of lapwing also like to rest on the grassy banks around the Pill. Their plaintive call gives them their other name, peewit. They are also known as the green plover.

By the end of March into early April the Pill will become increasingly devoid of these wintering shorebirds as they head off to their various breeding territories in the UK and further afield.



The swan family have flourished well and the youngsters are beginning their moult to adult plumage. If and when the raft is secured to the mooring in the Pill again it will be interesting to see if the adult pair repeat the process this year...hopefully producing a larger brood.

Without doubt the highlight of recent months occurred on 8<sup>th</sup> February when Peter and Judy Rose spotted a small seal resting on seaweed on the rocks at Black Tar. Smaller than the Atlantic Grey Seal which frequents our coastline and is often seen in the river, this individual was a Common Seal, spotted and photographed the previous day hauled out and resting at Hobbs Point in Pembroke Dock. Despite its name it is quite a rarity on southern and western coasts of Britain, its range being mainly around the coasts of Northern Ireland, Scotland and eastern England.

While on the subject of mammals, otters have been seen on a few occasions in broad daylight around Black Tar. The usual indication that otters are around is by their spraint found at two points in the Pill. Of late I have found no traces of spraint at all.

Please let me know if you see anything unusual wildlife-wise by emailing me at [grahambrace@btinternet.com](mailto:grahambrace@btinternet.com)