

Llangwm Village News

Issue 57 Spring 2023



Inside:

The WRU Youth Bowl: they didn't win but did us all proud

All change at the gardening club

And oysters: the food of the future?

Llangwm Village News Issue 57

Can you help?

We hope you'll enjoy reading this Spring issue of Llangwm Village News – but as you do so you might notice that there's a recurring plea: for volunteers.

Some examples: the Gardening Club is having to cope with the mass retirement, for various reasons, of all its committee members, including the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Having these three offices filled is necessary for their continued affiliation to the RHS. (See page 4)

Llangwm RFC, with their newly-invigorated Youth Team, are also looking for office bearers: membership secretary, sponsorship secretary and Youth Team manager (though the previous incumbents may be a hard act to follow!) (See page 22)

The new trustees of the Village Hall, who took on the role to keep the hall open, are looking to bolster their numbers either with trustees or volunteers – and point out that the hall's future depends on the commitment of local people. (See page 16)

The Carnival Committee needs new members and possible ideas to celebrate the Coronation - though time is short. (See this page)

The successful Llangwm Litfest is looking for volunteers and hosts for writers and visitors. (See page 9)

And should you find yourselves with time on your hands this summer, the Rowing Club (page 20) and Village Voices (page 11) would welcome you with open arms.

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

**Llangwm Village News looks even better in colour (especially the front cover)
You can find us on the website: llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk**



Village News says thank you to Jenny Ambler for the terrific photograph on the cover. (And thanks also to the sheep)

So near.....

Dan Chesmer

Caerphilly 32 - Llangwm 15

After a fantastic run in the WRU bowl competition, which saw the mighty Llangwm youth team travel the length and breadth of Wales and defeat opponents who stood in their way, the 7th April 2023 will be a day that they, the Rugby Club and the village of Llangwm will never forget. To play at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff must be the dream of every young rugby player in Wales, and the 23 players in the Llangwm RFC Youth squad got to live this dream.

The Club has been searching for a youth team for over ten years, and Llangwm RFC would like to say a massive thank you to all of those involved in this journey.

The result on the day wasn't to be but this small village club had run the big town close and the huge Llangwm support agreed that the boys had given their all and done themselves proud.

“You did yourselves & the village proud”

Barry Childs



When Llangwm youth took on Waunarlyydd at home in the first round of the Welsh Bowl on the 15th October 2022 few thought that on April 7th 2023 they would be appearing in the final of the competition at the home of Welsh rugby, the Principality Stadium in Cardiff, even after a convincing 24-5 win. Following that victory, things were to get tougher and matches significantly more difficult to win. The games against Carmarthen Athletic on 29th October and St. Julian's, Newport on the 3rd December were very close affairs with a score of 18-14 against the former and 18-17 against the latter.

So, it was on to the quarter final with a distinct change in direction of travel. The journey to Dolgeddau is picturesque but challenging. However, having got there, the twists and turns seemed to have been worthwhile: the town itself has character and its position, overlooked by the magnificent Cadair Idris, memorable. The on-pitch encounter was dogged but as the game went on we took control coming out winners by the narrow margin of 15-11. Well done to the team but also to the supporters who made the testing trip north.

The semi final against Bryncoch was held at the neutral ground in Cefneithin. Having moved into a 14-0 lead Bryncoch , previous semi finalists, looked to

be in a comfortable position. However, the Llangwm youth team is not wanting in character and through determination and no little skill reversed the position coming out winners 24-14. It was only at the final whistle that what had been achieved sank in: Llangwm RFC had achieved something few could have even dared to have dreamed of.

Next and final stop, Cardiff. April 7th the best day, weather wise, so far this year saw coaches and cars of supporters leaving the village for the capital with optimism and a sense of common purpose to give the boys their whole hearted support. That support was there throughout what proved to be a hard fought encounter against a very good Caerphilly team. After taking an early lead we fell behind and our opponents established a lead which, try as we did, we could not claw back, the game ending in a 32-15 win for Caerphilly.



Coaches Dafydd Bowen, Geoff Asson & Jonathan Whitticombe

It would have been great to have won but that was secondary to what had been achieved by a group of local lads from one of the smallest clubs of the WRU. What will stick longest in the memory was the connection between the team and the supporters. In the words of one player, ‘The support was unreal’. The chants of LLANGWM, LLANGWM, LLANGWM rang out throughout the game and we left the magnificent stadium feeling only a sense of pride and achievement.

Thank you players, coaches and all connected with this great journey, you did yourselves and the village proud.

A changing of the guard

Karen Shepherd

On Monday, April 3rd, an open meeting was held to explore options after the retirement, due to varying personal circumstances, of all of the current club committee. Several of the membership attended but no one felt able to take on any of the three offices required in the running of an RHS affiliated club. Therefore we are looking for a new Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and general support members to lead the club onwards. I will retire from the position of Chairperson, but am happy to remain on the committee in a support role if it ensures the continuation of the club.

Different formats were discussed and will now be put to the membership at the AGM in July. In the meantime, anyone interested in serving on the future committee, please contact Karen Shepherd at kashepherd1602@googlemail.com.

As retiring Chair I would like to personally and publicly thank David Camplin, David Mills, Madeline Tasker, Val John and Norman & Christine Jones for all their support and the contributions they have made in keeping the club running smoothly and growing the interest and membership in the club events.



Rhododendrons at Llwyngarreg

Details of talks and events are advertised on posters around the local villages and on the local village Facebook pages as well as emails to members.

As in previous years we'll be organising club visits to various stunning local Pembrokeshire gardens, we really do have some fantastic gardens on our doorstep, created by wonderful and enthusiastic gardeners. We'll be heading to Llwyngarreg garden near Llandewi Velfrey for their rhododendron spectacular in late April.

July is the end of the 22/23 season and hopefully we'll celebrate with the very popular bbq and the AGM.

The Cottage Inn

The music evenings are back!

Matthew Evans



Our music evenings are back as from the last Friday in April and Jackie Palit will be here on Saturday 13th May cooking up a set menu from selected recipes given to her from family and friends in Kolkata.

We are currently open from Tuesday through until Sunday. We serve food from Wednesday evenings through until Saturday and we serve a roast on Sundays over lunch time. We always appreciate and recommend that you book in advance.

Over the past year we have been delivering roast dinners to people in the village that would be unable to collect themselves. We are more than willing to deliver to anyone within our local community who could benefit from this. Please give us a call on 01437891494 or 07805163632.

To keep up to date with the goings on at the pub, you can always follow us on Facebook.

We would also like to pass on thanks to everyone in our community who continues to support us.

A new vision to believe, achieve and inspire

Mr Rhys Buckley

While in some ways it feels that the mid-year point of the academic year has come as a surprise, when we think back to everything that has been achieved since September it is hardly surprising we now find ourselves almost at Easter. From the continued roll-out of the new 'Curriculum for Wales' to the first Christmas productions in front of audiences since 2019 and an awful lot in between, both staff and pupils can be extremely proud of their efforts so far.



The nursery class dressed as characters from their favourite books for World Book Day

Looking back to December, our school community enjoyed a fun-filled festive season! Each year group delivered a superb Christmas production which they performed to their families in our school hall, we all enjoyed the return of our 'Cleddau Reach Has Talent' show as children from each year group performed a variety of talents to the school and, despite the underwhelming result, the whole school enjoyed coming together to celebrate Wales featuring in the football World Cup.

One particular achievement we were particularly proud of was the performance of our school choir over the Christmas period. The choir, ably led by Mrs James, had an extremely busy schedule, with performances taking place at Picton Castle, Vincent Davies and St Jerome's, and they more than rose to the occasion. Such was the strength of their performances, they have now been invited to perform at a charity concert being held this month at Haverfordwest High alongside an internationally renowned opera singer!



Cleddau Reach netball squad before their fixture against Johnston Primary - which they won comprehensively

The beginning of 2023 has started at a similar pace, with a variety of topics being covered across the school and a wide range of enrichment activities

taking place. Our first Cleddau Reach dance squad took part in the county finals event and did superbly well, with both dance teams placing 3rd overall. Both our football and netball teams kicked off their years with victories against Johnston and have plenty of fixtures coming up. Also, considering our Pembrokeshire Cross Country Championship victory earlier in the academic year, it's great to see our pupils showing off their sporting talents yet again.

In the last edition of the newsletter, we referenced the introduction of our new school rules in September: *Ready, Respectful, Safe*. The children continue to impress us all with how they demonstrate these qualities on a daily basis. Moving on, in January we launched our new school vision following a period of consultation with pupils, staff and governors: *Believe, Achieve, Inspire*. The rationale for this is that it represents the learning journey that children and staff here undertake each day, week, term and year.

We BELIEVE in ourselves

When we believe in ourselves, we can ACHIEVE our goals

When we achieve our goals, we INSPIRE others

The children have taken to our vision very well and, following some hard work from our School Council, we were delighted to welcome back our friend Lloyd in February who helped bring our vision to life in the school hall.



Cleddau Reach football squad proudly wearing their new Valero kit, with Ricky Pearson (PE lead) & headmaster Rhys Buckley

Looking forward, we are hoping that there will be a significant upturn in the weather by the time the summer term is upon us. However, one thing that is guaranteed will be the continuing pace of school life, with plenty of further opportunities for our children to demonstrate their abilities both here in school and out and about. If you'd like to keep up with events and goings-on at the school, the best place to do so is either our new website (www.cleddaureachschool.org.uk) or our Instagram page (@cr_primary_school) which are both updated weekly with newsletters, pictures and videos of what the children have been up to.

“It’s been great”

Barry Childs

What seems like a very short time ago I was elected as Chair of Governors of what was then Llangwm School. Little did I think that well over twenty years later I would have been still in that role. However, ‘there is a tide in the affairs of men’ (and women, though Shakespeare didn’t say that) when all good things must come to an end. So, just before Christmas I vacated the chair not because I was fed up with the work or because the responsibility had become too much or because of differences of opinion etc. etc. but because I felt that someone else should be offered the position that had given me such enormous pleasure and was so worthwhile.

To pretend that the last couple of decades have all been plain sailing would be misleading but, overwhelmingly, my memories are extremely positive. Working closely with two very high calibre head teachers, Mr Nick Groves (Llangwm and Cleddau Reach) and Mr Rhys Buckley (our recently appointed head of Cleddau Reach), teaching staff, classroom assistants, administrative staff and, of course, with the pupils has been a delight. I will always be grateful to them all for their unfailing courtesy and friendship. This was never better displayed when, a few weeks ago, I was lured to the school in order, or so Mr Buckley said, to talk to the children about growing up in Llangwm. When I arrived at the school at 10 o’clock

that morning I was greeted in the packed hall by the school’s pupils, staff and governors all of whom had given their time to say thank you. It was a memorable occasion and one that I will always take with me. It speaks volumes for what Cleddau Reach is: a caring school that goes the extra mile in so many respects and one I feel honoured and privileged to have been associated with.

A significant part of my time as Chair was spent working towards establishing a new purpose built school to replace the much loved but inadequate Victorian building at The Gail. I am grateful to all those who worked so tirelessly with me to deliver to the children of Llangwm, Burton and Rosemarket and beyond a twenty first century school that they so richly deserve and which they so much appreciate. As a passionate believer in the importance of education no time could, in my view, have been better spent.

Now it’s time to look forward. I congratulate the governing body, of which I will still be a member, on its choice of new Chair and Vice Chair. Victoria Owens and Adrian Cook will, I know, be excellent in their new roles and I wish them all the very best for the important work they have undertaken and to which they will give full commitment.

Diolch am bopeth.

Llangwm’s Little Museum

Is it really goodbye?

Jeff James

Yes, this will be the last year that Pat and I will open our collection for large groups, and it is appropriate that Llangwm Local History Society will be the first of five History Societies to visit during the open week.

After spending over 20 years collecting various items from the past, when I’m asked what my favourite item in the collection is, I explain that the most memorable has been bringing home two short sections of the original 1850s transatlantic cables from Ireland.



The most unusual find was a rare ‘resolver’ ball mechanical calculator/computer, used for early aircraft navigation.



The most time consuming was the donated box of bits that was an 1870’s sock stitcher.



Suffragettes, gooseberries & pop

Jane Mills

The year saw us start with our usual quiz night combined with the Llangwm & District Gardening Club. Teams were selected at random which meant that everyone had an opportunity to get to know people they may not have talked to before. With a record attendance, brains were challenged with questions on gardening, history and general knowledge but, fortunately, there were excellent refreshments at half time to revive the brain cells.

February saw our annual AGM at which we welcomed Bob Phillips onto the LLHS committee. This was followed by a sizzling talk by Keith Johnson on “Idris the Pop” – fascinating stuff about a local lad who trained as a chemist but made his fortune in the growing fizzy drinks trade in the Victorian era.



Mrs Pankhurst addressing the crowd in Castle Square, Haverfordwest c.1908

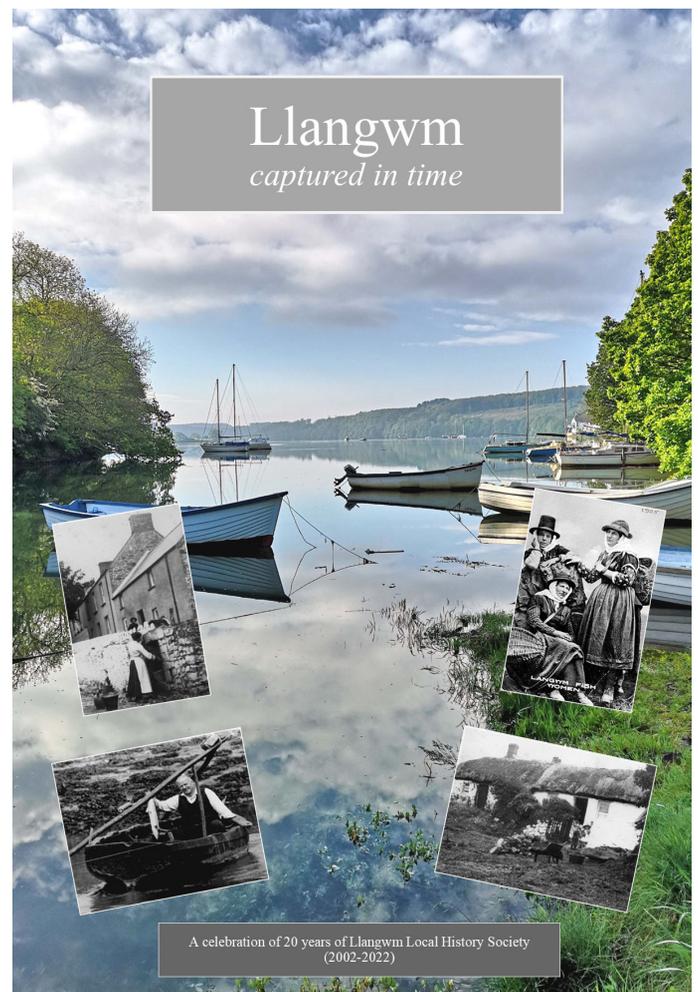
At our March talk we were finally able to welcome Mari James from St Davids Cathedral library after several attempts which were frustrated by Covid and storms. Her research into the visit of leading members of the Suffragette movement, including Emmeline Pankhurst and Annie Kenney, gave some fascinating insights into their tour of Pembrokeshire in the summer of 1908 and established some new information. For example, they both signed the visitors’ book at the cathedral along with others and held numerous meetings round the county. Apparently, some of those attending the meeting in Solva were not appreciative of what they were advocating and started throwing things at the speakers – gooseberries. It sounded innocuous until you realise that in early summer, gooseberries are not yet ripe and very prickly!

Documents also revealed that some Suffragettes visited a fishing village called Langué and held an open air

meeting on the village green which lasted two hours. Given that the report was written by someone who probably was not used to Welsh names, could that have been Llangwm? It would be fascinating to find out if anyone has any family memories of a Suffragette meeting here at that time. Do let us know if you have any such memories.

Topics for future talks include: Pembroke Dock: a Forgotten Town by Gareth Mills, A History of Pembrokeshire Lifeboats by Mike Chant and a History of Trecwn by Dick Russel. We also have various visits arranged throughout the year. If you would like to come along and join us, please do.

We were able to launch our latest publication “*Llangwm – Captured in Time*” in January which celebrates 20 years of the Llangwm Local History Society. In it we share some of the research that has been undertaken over the years and gleaned from our archive of photos, documents, oral histories and memories. The book is available from Victoria Bookshop, Llangwm Post office as well as many other outlets or from members of the committee. We hope you enjoy it.



De La Roche 'rellies' converge on Llangwm

Liz Rawlings

Many of you will remember when St. Jerome's church was in danger of closure and the Heritage Llangwm team was established. Our remit was to apply for various grant funds to restore the church to its former glory and to prevent closure. To support these applications, a series of community activities was set up including a DNA project to establish whether eight male volunteers from the locality had genetic links to the De La Roche Family. They were of Flemish origin and were part of the Norman Conquest and the family built the Manor House at Great Nash and St Jerome's Church on a ruined 9th century chapelry. It was truly amazing to discover that one Llangwm man, Norman Roach, sadly no longer with us, was a direct descendant.

His DNA results were shared with a worldwide genetic group, Roche Lineages. Since then, members who have the same DNA have been in touch from all over the world, and some have visited, from Australia, Ireland, Canada and more recently the USA. Three of them, Mary and James Di Carlo Roch from New Jersey and James O'Donnell from Dublin visited Llangwm in June last year and stayed at Roch Castle which was also part of the family estate.



James O'Donnell on the steps of Roch Castle

We're expecting more visitors this year.

Other De La Roche descendants who've visited in the past include Alan and Natalie Roche and their baby daughter Hanna from Calgary in Canada. Alan says he'll show Hanna pictures of where her ancestors came from when she grows up.



Alan Roche & baby daughter Hanna in St Jerome's

There are two family legends related to one of the castle's original inhabitants, David De La Roche. One was a prophecy that he would die from the bite of a snake. He took this to heart and from then on lived in virtual seclusion. But, so the story goes, a servant girl brought in a basket of firewood, and as he reached in to put some on the fire, yes, you probably guessed, he was bitten by an adder concealed in the logs.

The second story was that he had stated that following his death, he wanted to be buried in Llangwm Church. His wishes were disregarded and he was buried at Roch. But the next morning, his shrouded body was found on the steps of St. Jerome's. A few years ago, this second story was re-enacted by a group of us, and a shrouded 'corpse' was brought on horseback from Roch to Llangwm.

Out of a healthy respect for local wildlife we decided not to risk re-enacting the story of the snake in the woodpile.

Coast Path money-raising walk

School head shows pupils the way

If you spent Easter enjoying a well-earned rest, spare a thought for Rhys Buckley whose week-day identity is Head of Cleddau Reach school. Rhys had a childhood friend by the name of Howell Lewis who sadly died of cancer 20 years ago. In his battle against the disease Howell, says Rhys, demonstrated all the toughness that made him such a force on the rugby field - and such a pest off it!

So Rhys and some chums decided to mark the occasion by walking all 186 miles of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path in seven days to raise funds for LATCH, a charity that supports children who are being treated by the oncology unit at the Children's Hospital of Wales.

You can see how he did and still donate via Rhys's Instagram page (@rhysbuckley).

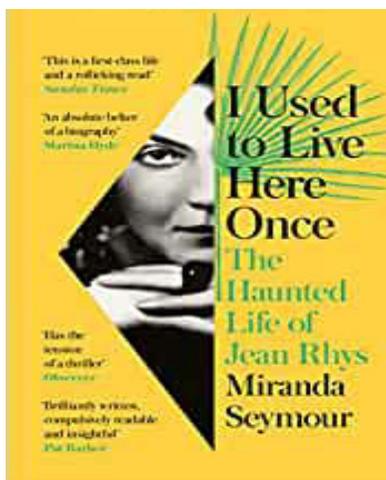
Poetry, music, dancing - and of course books

Michael Pugh

Llangwm litfest returns with an exciting new programme to share between 11 – 13 August 2023.

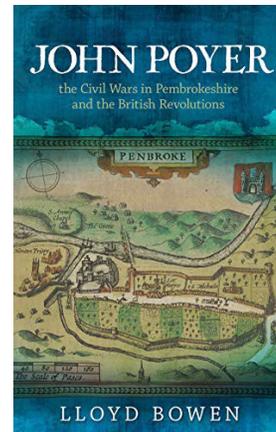
We are delighted to welcome back Harry Mount who will be talking about his latest book *Et tu brute*, which unlocks the wisdom of the past and reveals how ancient Latin can help us to live better in the present. Covering themes such as Latin for Gardeners, the Great Latin Love Poets, Cicero on How to Grow Old Gracefully and Seneca's Stoic Guide to Life, the book offers something to satisfy all the needs of the Llangwm community.

Another renowned author, described by some as the thinking woman's Tom Jones, Ferdinand Mount will also return to Llangwm this year to talk about his latest book *Big Caesars and Little Caesars*. There are Big Caesars who set out to achieve total social control and Little Caesars who merely want to run an agreeable kleptocracy without opposition: from Julius Caesar and Oliver Cromwell through Napoleon and Bolivar, to Mussolini, Salazar, De Gaulle and Trump. The saga of Boris Johnson and Brexit frequently crops up in the author's narrative as a vivid, if Lilliputian, instance of the same phenomenon. The final part of the book describes how and why would-be Caesars come to grief, from the Gunpowder Plot to Trump's march on the Capitol. The book ends with a thought-provoking roadmap of the way back to constitutional government.



Taking us to exotic climes is the celebrated biographer, Miranda Seymour. Not content to stop after her award-winning biography of Mary Shelley, she will share with us her biography of Jean Rhys, best known for her exploration of the life of Mrs Rochester in *Wide Sargasso Sea*. *I Used to Live Here Once* is a fresh, empathetic portrait of an iconic and unconventional

woman writer whose searing novels of trauma, race, gender, and exile were ahead of their time. It is an incredible achievement.



Travelling over from fair Bosherton, psychotherapist Julia Bueno will be sharing her latest book *Everyone's a Critic*. The book focuses on personal stories of the inner critic and how to stop that little voice that tells us we're not good enough from holding us back.

Robin Hanbury-Tenison will be bringing his *Taming the Four Horsemen* to Llangwm (or at least his theories of how to tame them). Robin is Founder and President of Survival International and one of the UK's great explorers. His book deals with Pandemics, War, Famine and the Death of the Planet, but importantly gives us solutions and hope!

From closer to home, we're very pleased to welcome Cardiff University's Dr Lloyd Bowen with his book on *John Poyer* and the Civil Wars in Pembrokeshire. The book shines a light on the Pembrokeshire of old and explores the life of the 'turncoat' John Poyer, the man who initiated the Second Civil War through his rebellion in south Wales in 1648. The volume charts Poyer's rise from a humble glover in Pembroke to parliament's most significant supporter in Wales during the First Civil War (1642-6), arguing that Poyer was a more complex and significant individual than most commentators have realised.

In addition, there will be poetry, music, dancing, art, events for children, foraging and lots more.

As usual, the patrons party will be on Litfest Eve.

We're always looking for volunteers, hosts for writers and visitors and suggestions for the programme. If you have suggestions or would like to be involved, please get in touch with your usual contact or email us at llangwmlitfest@gmail.com

We've never had it so good?

Nikki Bosworth

In January 1873, the Inspector for the Sanitary Committee of Haverfordwest Poor Law Union reported that, in Llangwm, one household of nine persons was living in two rooms measuring 10 feet by 12 feet. This was just one of 900 houses deemed unfit for habitation in the 18 parishes within the Haverfordwest Poor Law Union in 1873.

Other examples in Llangwm included a family of eight sleeping in one room measuring 10 feet by 14 feet and another family of six occupying a room of similar size described as being without ventilation, having no back door and lighted by a small window.

It is difficult to know the exact location of these cottages in Llangwm as the first census to record the number of rooms in each property (if less than five rooms) was in 1891. Sculleries, pantries, washrooms, lobbies and water closets were excluded from the total of five or less.

A cottage at the top of Main Street, then known as No. 1 or Elm House, was recorded as having two rooms in 1891 occupied by Mary Palmer and her adult son. Twenty years earlier, on the 1871 census, Mary, her husband and seven children were resident in the cottage. In 1928, writing from the same property, Thomas Palmer states "I am in the house where I was born and always had a small back garden and somewhere to empty the slops, but now no back, only what the house stands on and can't go to the back to clear other people's muck and filth." By 1928, the cottage had four rooms, suggesting that two upstairs rooms had been created.

Back in 1873, the Clerk to the Haverfordwest Poor Law Union was requested to write to the owners of the substandard properties, drawing their attention to the condition of these cottages on their estates, but reports of overcrowded and dilapidated homes in Llangwm continue well into the 20th century.

Information from online censuses and Welsh newspapers and from records of Haverfordwest Poor Law Union and Haverfordwest Rural District Council held at Pembrokeshire Archives.

Cofio & more

Barry Childs

When I started out in teaching (at Ysgol Preseli) I was aware of a principled but, in the eyes of some, a somewhat eccentric figure who was much talked about in the area: Waldo Williams, a remarkable man after whom one of Haverfordwest's schools is named. If you go past the Valero refinery you'll come to Rhoscrowther church, St Decumen's, which is well worth a visit. Below the church, outside a separate building you will see a memorial to Waldo in the form of his celebrated poem *Cofio*. He was harvesting turnips on the farm of his friend and local farmer Willie Jenkins when the inspiration came to him. The poem talks about how fragile life is and how important links to the past are. Though a translation can never capture the full impact of any poem D.M. Lloyd has done a very good job. Here is one of the six verses:

One blissful moment as the sun is setting
A mellow moment ere the night comes on
To bring to mind things which are long forgotten,
Now lost in dust of era that are gone.

Whilst on the subject of poetry a recent publication is worth browsing. *A Poet's Guide to Britain* is an anthology of work selected by another Welsh poet, Owen Sheers. The selection has been organised into six sections: London and Cities, Villages and Towns, Mountains and Moorland, Islands, Woods and Forests and Coast and Sea. Here is a very interesting collection of poets, some well known others less so, some contemporary, some written at the time of Henry V111 and earlier. Whatever your taste there is plenty to enjoy and to make you think. If you dip in you will find for example, 'Beeny Cliff' by Thomas Hardy, 'Adlestrop' by Edward Thomas, 'Return to Cardiff' by Dannie Abse, 'Stafford Afternoons' by Carol Ann Duffy, 'I Remember, I Remember' by Philip Larkin (very different in content and tone from 'Cofio' and not to be confused with Thomas Hood's overly sentimental poem with the same title). Sheers has also included two poems by Waldo Williams: 'On Weun Cas' Mael' and 'The Ancient Wood'.

Moving from poetry to prose. Kazuo Ishiguro is best known for his novel, *The Remains of the Day*, though he has written eight others the most recent of which is *Klara and the Sun*. The contrast between the world portrayed here and that presented in the earlier book couldn't be much different. Here, he draws us into a world where the main character and narrator is an AF (Artificial Friend) to Josie, a teenager who has been genetically modified to enhance her intelligence. It all sounds weird and a bit complicated but at its core it's a book about relationships and loyalty. If you enjoy this type of fiction then his earlier work *Never Let Me Go* could also be worth considering.

Our new musical director!

Fiona Cutting

Those of you who read the Autumn/Winter edition of the Llangwm News may have got to the bit where it says “...so now we’re heading to Christmas...” and then later noticed that nothing took place. Sorry about that. We were devastated by the sudden news that our choir leader/musical director had suddenly resigned in order to decamp to Scotland.

We have since been putting out feelers for a new leader and just before putting this edition to print we’re very happy to say that we’ve found a treasure in Paulette, a music teacher trained at the Royal Northern College of Music, followed by a Master’s and who at the start of Covid had been teaching in Thailand where she was locked down for six months. She’s now back in Pembrokeshire.

We had a very productive first session with her and, happily for us, she is keen to take us on.

It’s early days yet and the only possibilities on the horizon are the Bluestone Brewery Choir Competition in June and tentatively the Literary Festival in August. But everything will be posted on the Llangwm Facebook page.



The Brewery competition is a great night out, very funny with a comedian as MC and loads of good beer available along with food, well worth a trip to Newport to support us.

So we’re more than delighted to be in harness again. Any newcomers to the village....how about trying us out, and to past members, maybe it’s time to come back.

Thursdays 7.30 at the Village Hall. No need to be able to read music, no need to have a good voice, just enjoy singing and there’s no audition therefore no embarrassment. Students of music? An extra coaching session, an extra experience are there for the taking.

We are SO looking forward to the future!

Llangwm's boy band & the pong song

Neil Martin

My last articles have been about surviving the Pandemic and emerging from that weird period of our recent history. As a group we face constant challenges that can either shake us up or inspire us; I prefer to consider them as inspiration to do something new.

Challenge number one has always been (and will always be) – what are we all about? We are a small choir, although I prefer to use the term Male Vocal Ensemble so that no one mistakes us for a Male Voice Choir – which we certainly are not! We are a group of ‘less young’ local villagers who get together on a fairly regular basis to sing, “take the mickey” out of each other, laugh regularly and enjoy each other’s company. We are a social group for whom singing is the vehicle by which we get along, and from that viewpoint, challenge number two arises.

Challenge number two is more of a personal challenge for me! Clearly, Wrong Direction is not a group of outstanding singers with a background in professional music. In fact, most of them barely read music and rely on regular practice to remember how to sing the individual parts. So my challenge is to consider how far to push them musically.

This is really what this article is all about. How do I choose the music and arrange it so that it challenges the singers to the best level, keeps up their interest and provides a suitable collection of songs for the potential audience to enjoy. ‘Enjoy’ being the main theme – the singers need to enjoy the singing even when the music pushes them to the limit of their musical knowledge and the audience needs to enjoy the fruit of our labours.

Let me tell you about our newest song! I have just completed an arrangement of a traditional song called ‘Santiana’. As I researched it, I found that it was written, originally, in French and translated into English later on. There are several versions and recordings of it in both languages and I even found one in both. That was the starting point! Why not push the WD boundaries by singing a song in both English and French? We have done it before! One of our Christmas songs entitled ‘Whence is That Goodly Fragrance’ or more affectionately known as ‘The Pong Song’ is in English, French and Welsh.



Whence is that good - ly frag - rance flo - wing steal - ing our sens - es all a - way,
 Quelle est cette o - deur a - gre - a - ble, ber - gers, qui ra - vit tous nos sens?
 Draw yn nhaw - el - wch Beth - lem dre - f, daeth ba - ban bach yn Geid-wad byd.

We have also done songs in Welsh throughout and some in German but this time I thought it might be interesting to swap back and forth between the languages all through the song, one verse in English and the next in French and back again.



Oh San - ti - an - na gained the day, A - way! San - ti - an - na!
 Oh San - ti - an - na fought for gold



C'est un fam - eux trois mâts, fin comme un ois - eau, His - sez haut! Sant - i - an - no!
 Je pars pour do longs mois en lais - sant Mar - got

That will keep them on their toes!

The boys were due to face this particular challenge at our concert at the Albany Chapel, Haverfordwest as Llangwm Village News was about to go to press, and this is how we were described:

“We look forward to a visit by the famous Llangwm-based ‘Boy’ Band, Wrong Direction.”

What annoys an oyster? - we do!

Sue Burton

Llangwm used to be at the centre of a thriving industry that provided jobs and cheap, nourishing food for local people. What's not to like? But the native oyster beds fell victim to pollution, over-fishing and disease and all we have now are the oyster shells still found in many of our gardens. But there are hopes of a revival. Sue Burton (Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation Officer) has been looking at the potential for restoration under the Natur am Byth partnership for which funding for a four-year project will be confirmed in June.

The native oyster, *Ostrea edulis*, is a bivalve mollusc that filters plankton and particles from the water for energy. At the same time, they also remove nutrients, chemicals, and other pollutants from the water. A single oyster can filter as much as 200 litres of water per day.

Native oyster reefs are formed when large numbers of living oysters and dead shells form an extensive biogenic habitat on the seafloor. These are now unfortunately extremely rare.

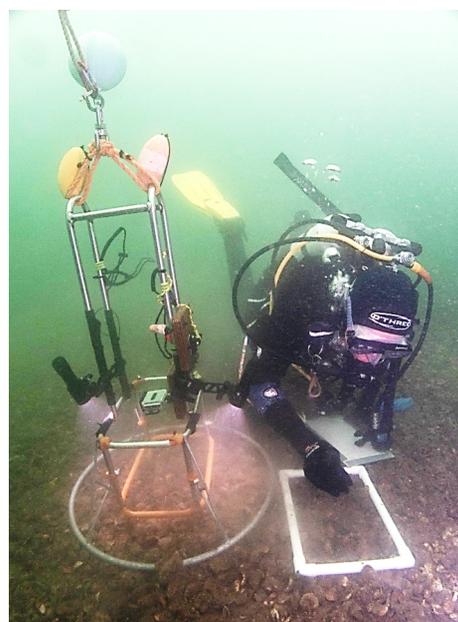


Native oysters were once prolific and integral to Llangwm's culture and economics. In the 1600s the Welsh oyster was held in high esteem and occupied vast beds. Native oysters in Wales were harvested in a sustainable manner until the late 1700s. Rival Welsh fisheries would boast among themselves of the great abundance and quality of their regional oysters. During the mid-1700s the fishers of the Pennar beds in the west of Wales stated their oysters had superior taste and size to those from the neighbouring fishery of Llangwm which they described as "bad of taste and small against our large delicious salty oysters of Pennar" (Fenton, 1810).

By 1810 the fisheries of Tenby, Llangwm and Pennar were all considered in a serious state of decline due mainly to over-fishing. By 1920, oyster disease causing 'oyster mortality' was noted in Milford Haven and Mumbles. Commercial fishing was no longer feasible in many areas. Small-scale extraction continued in the Milford Haven Waterway until as recently as 2010. No permits are currently issued for commercial oyster

dredging.

The Portuguese oyster was introduced to Milford Haven in 1933 but was unsuccessful (Cole, 1953). In the 1960s/70s there were farms with Pacific oysters at Garron Pill and Carew. Now there is one farm with both Pacific and native oysters at Angle Bay.



Divers during rare ideal, clear underwater conditions in the waterway, undertaking native oyster monitoring work. September 2022 (Photo: Francis Bunker).

While the recovery of native oyster habitats remains challenging, the Milford Haven Waterway presents a number of opportunities and involvement by the Llangwm community would be welcome. Further information will follow in the autumn, depending on funding success! In the meantime, if you have any queries or information, please contact Sue.

sue@pembrokeshiremarinesac.org.uk Tel: 07881334047

*(Thanks to Bangor University for the historic information – see <https://www.alr-journal.org/articles/alr/full/html/2023/01/alr220035/alr220035.html> for Hayden-Hughes M, Bayford P, King J, Smyth D. 2023. The European native oyster, *Ostrea edulis*, in Wales, a historical account of a forgotten fishery. *Aquat. Living Resour.* 36: 7.)*

Why even bishops have to be ‘climate literate’

Rev Marcus Zipperlen

Over the last few weeks dozens of senior staff from across the Church in Wales, including all our bishops, as well as finance managers, building officers and others, undertook a two-day course to enhance their literacy skills. ‘Climate Literacy’ that is, not comprehension skills or the appropriate placement of apostrophes. Rather, they learnt the whys and wherefores of our changing climate and how to respond to protect people and planet. The training was part of the Church’s evolving plan for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2030 and was delivered by a team at the Centre for Alternative Technology, where I used to work.

Despite that august lineage many found the course a little dispiriting. I think that was because Christians tend to be more motivated by narratives of hopefulness and possibility in the face of societal troubles, rather than impending catastrophe. This is one reason why the diocese of St David last year committed to becoming ‘climate positive’ rather than merely ‘carbon neutral’, because our hope is not only that we stop doing something (burning fossil fuels) but that we actively do something positive and heal the earth. Our attempts at enhancing biodiversity in St Jerome’s Churchyard are a very modest move in that direction. In the Christian worldview the future God calls people to inhabit is no diminished version of the present, where we live less that more may live, but a future community where we love more that all may know life in its fulness. That’s the theory at least, even if day by day the Church falls way short of living it.



Enhancing biodiversity with the new trees in St Jerome’s churchyard: last year’s crop (left) and (above) one of this year’s, with still a bit of growing to do.

Certainly, our material world places limitations on our use of resources because our planet, despite its remarkable fecundity, is only so big. This reality inclines some to regard life as a ‘zero sum game’ where if one person has something another cannot have it as well. Aside from the obvious fact that we can share things and still all benefit, the larger reality is that of those things that truly make us joyful and content - love, community and belonging, thanksgiving and celebration - there is no limit. Love begets love without end. More love and care in one place doesn’t mean less in another. Hopefully now some in the Church in Wales have brushed-up on their carbon literacy skills we might be better placed to begin to model care for our earth and each other, in communities where we help one another live with increasing justice and generosity, and still rejoice to share our finite common home.

Llangwm Community Council News

The Retirement of our Clerk.

It was with real sadness that members learned that Kathy, our clerk of the past 13 years, had decided to retire from the position she has filled with distinction. In recent years she has faced significant challenges having lost her husband Steve whilst, at the same time, contending with serious illness.

The job of clerk has become increasingly demanding and Kathy has worked tirelessly on behalf of our community and often gone well beyond what she has been contracted to do. She has always set high standards for herself and, by definition, for the council which has found her advice and guidance invaluable.

We thank her for her unfailing courtesy, decency and diligence. Her integrity has, throughout her time as clerk, been there for all to see. I'm sure that the community will join with us in wishing Kathy all the very best in her well deserved retirement.

The newly appointed clerk is Debbie Hanney who lives in Main Street and has been part of our community for some time. In welcoming her to the post we hope that she will have a long and happy time with us.

Village Hall

In the last edition of this publication readers were informed that most members of the village hall committee had resigned because it was 'unable to reach agreement with L.C.C.'. For a range of reasons that was the case though countless hours, often late into the night, were spent in discussing the future of the hall. However, it is now time to look forward and, to that end, L.C.C. members have agreed to take on the task of acting as trustees for the hall. It's not an ideal solution but had that not been done, the hall, vital in the life of the community, would have had to close.

There is much work to be done to make the hall more presentable both inside and out (please see

the article by Victoria Owens, the secretary on page 16 in Village News) and, hopefully, that work can proceed once funds have been transferred to the new trustees.

Tuesday Tea

L.C.C. has sponsored the weekly get together at the village hall where tea/coffee and biscuits are provided to all who wish to attend. The take up has been encouraging and those who attend are very positive about the venture. Our sincere thanks are extended to those who have given their valuable time so generously to ensure that this is a success.

The Old School

Despite numerous attempts on the part of the council and over a considerable period of time we have been unsuccessful in getting representatives of the Lawrenny estate to meet with us to discuss the short and long term future of this important building. We will persist in our attempts to obtain information and to work with the dedicated group that has applied for listing of the building.

The Methodist Chapel

It would appear that the chapel has been sold though details are somewhat sparse. No plans for the building have so far been submitted to L.C.C..

Youth Rugby

Our congratulations go to our youth rugby team which has reached the final of the all Wales Bowl Competition. The final against Caerphilly at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff is a first and a considerable achievement for our small village.

New trustees take over

Victoria Owens

The new trustees of the Village Hall are all current councillors of Llangwm Community Council who agreed to take on the role of trustee in order to keep the Village Hall open. The intention was for this to be an interim arrangement while a new Village Hall Committee was formed. We would welcome anyone interested in joining the trustees either as volunteers to form a committee and contribute their ideas and expertise to forward planning for the hall or as additional trustees. There is a substantial amount of work needed to refurbish the building to maintain the hall in a safe, warm and welcoming condition and it is clear that considerable fundraising efforts are required to achieve this and fund future maintenance.

Our immediate focus is on ensuring the roof, walls, windows and doors are waterproof and weatherproof, before moving on to painting and improving the outside. We will then turn our attention to the inside by replacing the lighting and heating with more modern and cost-effective systems, painting the walls, laying a new floor, a change of soft furnishings and an upgrade of the kitchen and storage facilities. This will be funded in the short term by the residual grant funding for community buildings received during Covid. Our aim is to make the Village Hall a more attractive, versatile and consumer friendly venue and hopefully as a result increase the bookings that are made and therefore the income raised.

The current trustees of the Village Hall are:

Matthew Evans (treasurer)

Victoria Owens (secretary)

Barry Childs

Neil Sandford

Chloe Davies

Neville Lewis

Michael John

For anyone wishing to book the Village Hall there is now a booking diary held in The Cottage Inn. Please call in to check availability and book.

The future of the Village Hall is dependent on the commitment and involvement of the local community. If you would like to join us either as a trustee or in a volunteer capacity, please contact any one of the above. We would be happy to discuss ideas and welcome you to future meetings.

There is also Llangwm Village Hall Facebook page set up as a source of information about the hall, its events, booking procedures and fees and will eventually be home to an online booking system.

If you would like to be a trustee more information can be found on the Charity Commission website by Googling 'The Essential Trustee'.

Tuesdays Community Coffee Morning

“Really successful”

Kim Sandford

The Tuesday coffee mornings have been up and running since January 17th with a great group of volunteers. It's been hugely successful, and we regularly have more than 30 people coming along for coffee and a chat.

The initial idea came from the “Warm Spaces” initiative, though unfortunately when the Community Council were approached in December, it was too late to apply for grant funding.

I then heard that Avril Platten and Carol McGrath were also thinking on the same lines. Having already approached Llinos Martin to help I knocked on Avril's door and the rest is history. We now had an initial group of four prepared to take the project forward.

We knew from talking to others in the village that there was a need for this type of Community event: a chance to socialise and have a chat over a cuppa.

In January this idea went back to the Community Council, we were able to let them know that there were sufficient volunteers, all with a great deal of enthusiasm, and they agreed to donate £200 to get us started.

We have done several consultations to get feed-back on the morning and the good news is that we will be continuing on a weekly basis after March.

To enable us to carry on after that we will need to become self-funding so we will be looking for a small donation to cover all outgoings, not just the tea, coffee and biscuits but electricity and hire of the hall.

We now have more than eight regular volunteers and others that we can call on if needed.

A big thank you to Llangwm Community Council, the Village Hall Trustees and everyone who gives up their time to volunteer, but a special thank you to those who turn up on Tuesdays to support the event.

We currently run from 10:30am until 1pm so if you are free on a Tuesday morning come along and join us, you'll be sure of a warm welcome.

Galilee remembers Rev Roger Hart

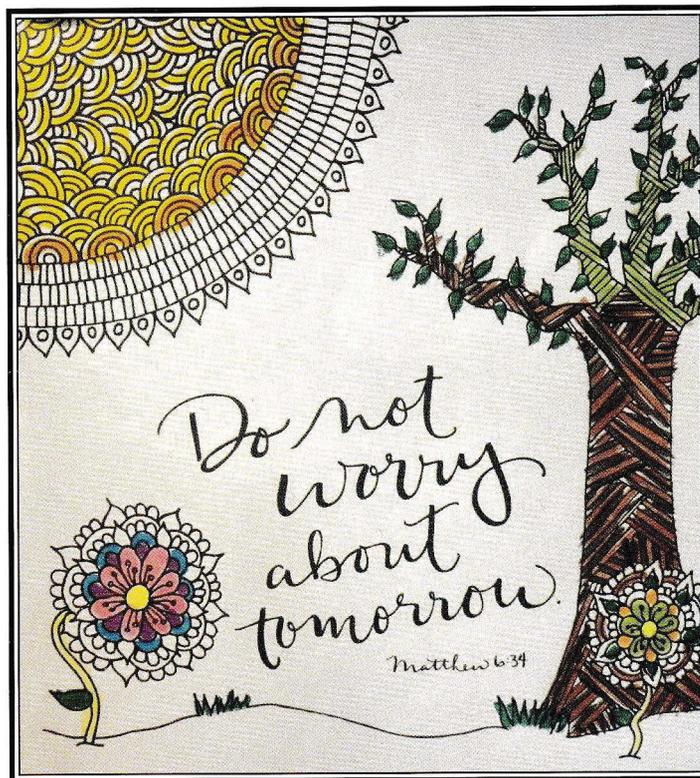
Margaret Brace

Representatives from Galilee and the local area attended the funeral of Rev Roger Hart, who had served as Galilee's minister for the past seven years.

The service was held at the mighty Moriah Baptist Chapel in Risca (Gwent), Roger's childhood home town, and was well supported.

There were many tributes to him given by his daughters and granddaughters, as well as a fine eulogy from Rev David Jones, a personal friend and colleague. Fine Welsh hymns were sung, and there was also a selection of Roger's favourite music played before and after the service, from opera to 60's pop.

Roger will be remembered fondly by members of Galilee and also those in the wider community whom he frequently met during his ministry here.



Rev Hart chose & coloured this drawing in the art class he attended the day before he died. A message for us all.

Regular Sunday morning services at Galilee continue weekly at 10.30am, taken by a variety of local preachers.

On 30th April Mr Derek Slark, whom many will know from his childhood and youth in Llangwm, will travel from Bridgend to lead Galilee's Sunday service. If you know Derek and would like an opportunity to catch up with him after the service, do come along.

Mr Nigel Thomas of New Wells Road continues to be a pillar of support to the chapel in respect of pulpit duties.

Mrs Margaret Davies and Nigel both provide fine accompaniment at the organ for Galilee's well-known and favourite hymns.

A welcome is extended to all.

Bacon butties & a musical treat

Jane Mills

We have been busy over the last three months holding Bacon Butty events in the Village Hall and have been delighted that so many people have come along to enjoy good food, good company and a good chat. The Strollers have come to every event after their walk, one of which included a visit to the church to view the tapestry. It seems that people are really keen to get together after such a long time and have an opportunity to relax and enjoy themselves. It has been a real team effort from members of the church and other supporters and we have been delighted that we have also had support from Tesco and Matthew for these events. Despite requests to continue, we have decided to restrict ourselves to three events. However - watch this space – as we will be holding our popular cream tea events over the summer.

initiative has been open to every household in Wales and we hope that many have taken advantage of it. It will take a while for the trees to come to fruiting but we are delighted to be doing our part to help with the challenge of climate change.



Bacon butties in the village hall



Haverfordwest Ladies Choir: "They will be back"

Haverfordwest Ladies Choir gave us a real musical treat in March with a varied programme of pieces to a packed audience. They had not performed in St Jerome's since its renovation and appreciated its greater flexibility and the continued excellent acoustic as well as the refreshments afterwards. Thanks to them and their musical director, Nancy Mann.

They will be back.

As part of our on-going efforts to encourage biodiversity in the churchyard, we have added to our burgeoning orchard of Welsh fruit trees by taking advantage of the "My Tree Our Forest" initiative which is part of a Welsh Government initiative to tackle the effects of climate change and create a National Forest for Wales. We were able to collect a crabapple, hazel and elder from Scolton Manor to add to our other trees. This

Our service pattern has changed slightly recently and we now have the following services each month:

1st Sunday – Morning Prayer at 9.00 am

2nd Sunday – Eucharist at 9.00 am

3rd Sunday – Family Worship Time at 10.00 am

4th Sunday – Eucharist at 9.00 am

5th Sunday – Joint service with Johnston & Freystrop (please see notices for venue)

Rev Marcus and all in St Jerome's wish you all good health and hope that you enjoy the new life that spring brings.

God bless



County Council Report

By Cllr Michael John

Pembrokeshire County Council's annual budget for 2023/24 was agreed at the recent meeting of council on the 2nd March. The council is facing an £18.5 million funding gap for the year. The ruling Cabinet proposed an increase of 7.5%, with an amendment put forward for 5.5%. This was narrowly defeated and the 7.5% was passed. This equates to a £1.80 per week for a band D property.

In addition, 75% of the 2nd home council tax will also go into the general budget rather than its intended aims of affordable housing and community schemes.

Speeding in our village is always of concern, and is an issue raised regularly.

Whilst the majority of drivers do adhere to the speed limits, (and they are thanked for doing so), some do not and continue to put themselves at risk, as well as the safety of all other road users.

Once again, I would urge anyone who witnesses any erratic driving or any traffic incidents, (whether they are accidents or near misses), to report them on 101.

There is also a facility call "Op Snap" which is a reporting mechanism for such issues. This is run by the Go Safe organisation. The following link provides direct access to their website which includes background to their campaign. <https://gosafesnap.wales>

The Community Speed Watch Team are very supportive in tackling the issue of speeding, and are currently looking for volunteers in the area to come forward for training.

If there are any residents interested in joining the Community Speed Watch Team, please contact the Milford Haven Policing Team via 101, or let me know and I can forward their details directly.



PCSO 8090 with Cllr Michael John on foot patrols around Llangwm, Freystrop and Hook identifying locations of current issues and discussing general community matters. #NeighbourhoodPolicingWeek

I have recently been on joint patrol with the local rural policing team and highlighted areas of concern in the area. They do patrol regularly and will respond to local issues when raised. Again it's 101 to report any issues of concern.

The possibility of Vehicle Activated Signs has been raised. These would need to be funded and any accident data would add to the case.

It is therefore very important that all traffic issues are reported to the Police on 101 or via the link given to highlight the problem areas.

Welsh Government 20 mph roll out Following on with the speeding theme, and as reported in my last post, this is on schedule for roll out in the Autumn this year as planned, and will see all roads in our area which are currently 30mph, reduced to 20mph.

There is an option for "exceptions" where the 30mph would remain, but there are none in our area.

WG have said: *Drivers can stop their vehicles quicker at 20mph, giving all road users time to spot hazards and making the roads and communities safer for everyone. That's why there's a new default 20mph limit for most residential roads from 17 Sept 2023.*

Hywel Dda University Health Board A public consultation is currently being undertaken on choosing a site for a new Urgent and Planned Care Hospital. This closes on the 19th May. You can find out more, and a link to the consultation document at: <https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/healthier-mid-and-west-wales/new-hospital-site/>. I have attended consultation sessions with the Health Board, and I

would urge anyone with views on this to ensure they make them known in the consultation document.

308 Bus Service I continue to receive queries over the 308 Bus Service and lack of any Saturday service. I have raised these with PCC. If you have any comments over this service please send: pubtran@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

2nd Home Council Tax Following my last article, several people contacted me with concerns over 2nd home council tax. Welsh Government have brought in legislation enabling local authorities to further raise this by up to 300%. The rate in Pembrokeshire is currently 100% on top of the standard rate. This will not change for the 2023/24 tax year but may be considered in future years. No decision has been made at present.

Pembrokeshire County Council is highlighting the free services available for unpaid carers in the county who carry out an invaluable role caring for their families and friends. In recognition of the contribution made by unpaid carers, a free annual parking pass at Scolton Manor is available, along with a free hot drink on each visit. There is also a free six-month membership at local Council Leisure Centres on offer. To access these benefits, unpaid carers need to register for a recognition card. Young Carers can register for a Carers Recognition Card via Action for Children's Young Carers Service, telephone 01437 761330. Adult Carers can register via the Pembrokeshire Carers Information and Support Service, telephone 01437 611002 or email PCISS@adferiad.org

Suspected breaches of planning Members of the public are able to report suspected planning breaches direct to Pembrokeshire County Council via an online form: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/planning-applications-faq/what-if-someone-has-carried-out-development-without-planning-permission> The form enables important information to be reported directly to the Authority's Planning Enforcement Team. This ensures Council officers have the relevant information they need to investigate potential planning breaches.

(Continued from previous page)

Suspected breaches of planning in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park should be reported to: <https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/planning/planning-enforcement/>

Finally, PCC are encouraging the public to get involved with the Council's Scrutiny process. There are 5 scrutiny committees, Corporate, Services, Policy & Pre-decision, Social Care and Schools & Learning. These committees meet regularly through the year and review, investigate and challenge council decisions. They also contribute to policy development and monitor performance.

If you have a question that you think needs a closer look, then the overview and scrutiny system is an opportunity to get involved with the work of the Council. Questions and suggestions for discussion on Council matters and the impacts on the wider community are welcomed. You can also make a request to speak at a meeting if you wish. If you're not sure which committee is best suited to answer a query, there is guidance at: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny>

Forms to raise any matters, along with details for public speaking can be found at: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny/public-engagement>. You can also contact the team via: Democraticservices@pembrokeshire.gov.uk or by letter to Democratic Services, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, SA61 1TP.

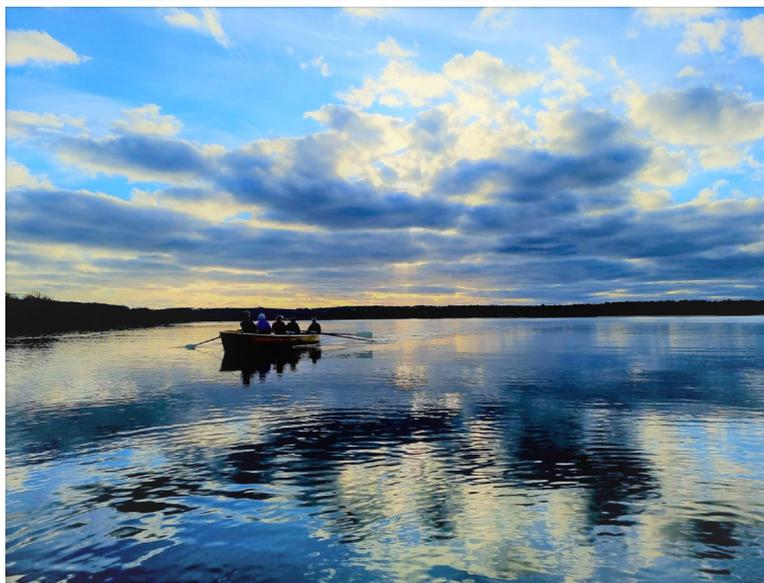
If you have any queries or questions regarding any topics, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I can be contacted on 01437 890175 or cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

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 Longboat Rowing Club

Spectacular displays - & rowers

Peter Rose



The Llangwm Longboat Rowing Club is based at Black Tar. We are affiliated to the Welsh Sea Rowing association and we have four of the four-oared Celtic Longboats, which is a standard design used by most of the coastal rowing clubs in Wales. The club also has a smaller two/three person skiff. Most of our members come from Llangwm and the surrounding villages but others come from as far as Narberth or Pembroke. New members are welcome and we will be running taster sessions for beginners now the clocks have gone forward and evenings are lighter. If you would be interested please contact us through our facebook page or email: llangwmlongboats@gmail.com



It has been a quiet winter with many put off by the gales, cold and rain. Nevertheless one or other of the boats has been out most weeks. The photo shows Jacqueline, Judy, Geoff and Rachel taking a short breather up beyond Slebech on the Eastern Cleddau one crisp morning back in November, when the trees still retained the last of their autumn colour. We took two boats up-river on the 2nd January and were treated to some spectacular swirling displays by a flock of waders in the mouth of Sprinkle Pill and another flock, possibly starlings, over Picton Point.

With the warmer weather and longer evenings we are hoping to get out more frequently in the coming months. At the end of April there will be a rowing regatta over in Milford for the more competitively minded. Why not come and join us?

The Sweet Smell of Success

Ian Jacob

Close your eyes – can you smell it? Can you smell the unique smell of new season, freshly mown grass? It's a smell like no other. It's the smell that evokes memories of the past, of hope, ambition and success. It's so powerful you can almost taste it.

It's the smell of cricket – it's the smell of the start of a new cricket season!

2023 – The New Season

In 2022, Llangwm Cricket Club basked in glory and success, but that was then, what could they look forward to from the season that is about to start? What are their hopes and ambitions for 2023?

Quote of the season: Never give up; just absolutely never give up. (Shane Warne 1969 – 2022)

To answer this and other Club related questions, Club Chairman, Ian Gow, reveals all:

Q – After the success of last year, what are the prospects for the season ahead?

A – Following the success of an outstanding season in 2022, the forthcoming season is going to be a challenge for us as a Club to rise to. Many Clubs have recruited new players whilst we have lost an outstanding young cricketer in Joe Phillips who has decided to further his career with Carmarthen Wanderers. We wish him well. However, as a Club, we are blessed with a lot of talent. We have 'match winners' in our squad and that means we remain a dangerous and competitive side to play against. We will continue to compete and play our naturally attacking form of cricket. We also intend to improve the facilities for our cricketers to be able to train during the week.

Q – What are the key ambitions for the First XI and the Second XI?

A – Our overall ambition is always the same, to win and to entertain our supporters. By coincidence, we have a repeat of last year's final in the very first round of the Harrison-Allen Bowl competition. We play Haverfordwest. The good news is that we will have home advantage. It will be played during the week commencing 29 May. So get this date in your diaries. We love competing in the Harrison-Allen Bowl. Our aim to win the Pembroke County First Division League remains constant. The last and only time the Club achieved this goal was in 1969. Former Club Chairman, Dai Davies, was captain. Might we win it again in 2023?

We hope our second eleven have another season like last year, but take the next step and gain promotion that we narrowly missed last year.

We are looking for local players to boost our numbers, so if

there is anyone out there who fancies a game this summer then please get in touch with us.

Q – What ambitions does the Club have for Junior Cricket?

A – Our aim is to start Junior Cricket in some form this year. We do not have enough players at present to enter the league. The Club has decided to start coaching our youngest age group during this season through the England and Wales Cricket Board **ALL STARS** initiative.

Q – There used to be a Llangwm Cricket Club Women's Team – Do you see a Women's Team starting up again?

A – We would welcome the return of a Llangwm Women's team to Pill Parks. Women's cricket is on the rise. There are plenty of role models in the women's professional game. Hopefully we will see girls joining our coaching initiative this year as a start.

50th Anniversary - Memory Lane

As Michael Caine would say, 'not many people know this but, ...' last year when Llangwm Cricket Club played and beat Haverfordwest Cricket Club in the Harrison-Allen Bowl final, in 1972, exactly 50 years earlier, Llangwm once again played Haverfordwest in the very same fixture and also won! To celebrate this very special occasion, on the day of last year's final, eight of the surviving Llangwm team, which beat Haverfordwest 50 years ago, met at the Cresselly Cricket ground and minutes before the final started had their photographs taken to mark the occasion.

To join our successful and progressive club either as a Member, a Vice President or as a Sponsor contact the Club's Secretary, Joseph Kiff on: josephkiff@googlemail.com



*Harrison-Allen Bowl 1972 Final: 8 of the surviving Llangwm winning team
Back row L-R: Colin Phillips, Raymond Hunt, Tony Tuckwell, Dai Davies. Front row L-R: Chris Palmer, Robert Griffiths KC, Ian Jacob, Eric Harries. Photograph: Susan Davies*

Llangwm Lions AFC

A great way to finish

Mike Preddy

Well done to Llangwm Lions U12's, pictured here after beating St Clears to reach the U12's Cup Final. A Cup Final against Tenby will be a great way to finish off the season, after a securing a superb second place league finish.



Llangwm Lions U8's would like to thank Frank Brick from Deerland Road Garage for the sponsorship of bobble hats for players & parents. Certainly needed for those harsh winter Saturday mornings.



Our fantastic Llangwm Lions U6's continue to impress, especially after spending the whole season playing up a year against U7's teams across the county. Keep your eyes on this group!



Llangwm RFC

A tough start but seniors rally

Dan Chesmer

As we draw towards the end of the 2022/23 rugby season it is a good time to reflect on the season so far and glance towards the future. The talk of the village and the wider rugby community is the performances and journey of our excellent Youth team. (See page 3)

Following a tough start to the season the senior team have rallied well and have played 14 WRU league games, more than the majority of the teams in the WRU leagues. We have recruited new players to increase the size of the squad and local lad and ex-player Mathew Hughes has joined the coaching team of Bruce Evan and Lewis Wood bringing a real enthusiasm to the squad set up. At the time of writing training numbers have been great and the team are aiming to move up the league table with recent narrow losses to Tregaron and St Davids.



Llangwm RFC Seniors

Fixture secretary Richard Scriven has worked tirelessly to ensure that Llangwm fulfil our league fixtures whilst juggling the needs of the youth and other teams within the club. As always, the club would like to say massive thank you to all of those involved in the playing side and the running of the teams who make the time to support our village club. The Senior and Youth team Presentation evening is booked for the 19th May and further details will be available soon.

We have excellent support from our loyal sponsors and club members whose help and contributions enable Llangwm RFC to survive and would like to say a massive thanks for your continued support. We are always looking to increase membership numbers and if you would like to sponsor the club then please stop in at the club on a match day or use the contact details on the website below.

The club house has been busy over the Six Nations period and we really appreciate the support of our members and locals who have enjoyed a pint and the craic even if the results haven't gone Wales' way. Again, a big thank you to all the volunteers who give up their time to ensure the club is open for these games. As a volunteer-run rugby club we are always looking for people to join our small team. On the committee we are looking to fill the important roles of Club Membership Secretary, Club Sponsorship Secretary and Youth team Manager. If you are able to help out on a Saturday or during the week then we would love to hear from you so please get in touch using the contact details below.

<https://llangwm.rfc.wales/committee>

Llangwm RFC Minis & Juniors

“All about taking part & having fun”

Brendan O’Loughlin

The 2022/23 rugby season is coming to a close and it has been a fantastic year for the Llangwm RFC Minis & Juniors. The club fielded a joint U7s & U8s, U9s, U10, U11s, U14s and U16s. We have a wide volunteer support group, including coaches, team manager and committee members to help drive success both on and off the pitch.

It has been a great season with Minis teams’ visits to Parc y Scarlets, training with Wales rugby legend Gareth Davies, Halloween and Christmas parties. On the pitch, we have seen more victories and success than ever before. The Mighty Wasps are becoming the most popular club in Pembrokeshire with a solid reputation for fun and disciplined rugby.

We are a rare village rugby club side that competes strongly against the bigger teams in west Wales. Player numbers continue to increase. Our priority remains being an inclusive club that enables kids to enjoy rugby with their friends. Our club ambition 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 success. This is evident with the current success of the Youth team who got through to the Welsh National Bowl finals at the Principality Stadium.

Please support and join this great club next season!

For this edition of Llangwm News, we have asked for a few testimonials from our future stars.

First up, we have **Iestyn Thomas**, an U8’s star. Iestyn says:

“This has been my first season playing for Llangwm. Although all of my school friends play for a different club, I really wanted to play for Llangwm as growing up I always watched my dad play for them. I have loved making new friends and always look forward to my next training session and learn more every week. My favourite thing about playing for Llangwm is working as a team and making our yellow wall. Dan, Tal, Dom and Gethin are the best coaches and always take the time to help each of us. Thank you all for making me feel so welcome and I can’t wait for next season.”



Isla Chesmer, one of our U10s top try scorers says:



“I have been a Wasp for three years now. I like it how boys and girls can play together. The volunteers, coaches and supporters make me feel welcome and put on good parties. I like it how we get to meet kids from different schools and this will help me when I go to secondary school. I’m proud to be a Llangwm Wasp.”

And finally **Ben Stanton**, who won the Junior Disability Award in the Sport Pembrokeshire Awards 2022:

“Sport has given me new confidence and new friends. I play forward for Llangwm U14s, loosehead prop. I enjoy it because it’s a nice club, a nice village. Everyone’s lovely there. I’d like to say thank you to Llangwm RFC for having me at the club, you’ve all been



legends, you’ve just been amazing. In the future I’d like to help other autistic children, with epilepsy, with disabilities, and say to them you can do sport, no matter who you are or where you come from. It’s all about taking part and having fun.”



Ben Stanton and friends

Deceitful lapwings & heart-breaking swans

Graham Brace

Throughout the winter months from early November to mid-February most of the residents of Llangwm will have witnessed the aerial displays of flocks of lapwings over the Pill and river. Walkers along the shore will have seen these attractive birds, sometimes numbering more than two hundred, feeding or simply resting along the tideline and on the mudflats. Smaller groups and single individuals are often present in the Pill sometimes virtually impossible to spot when resting in patches of seaweed. Many will have heard its plaintive cry “peewit” which gives it one of its alternative names. It is also known as the green plover, being the largest member of the plover family resident in Britain. The name ‘lapwing’ roughly describes its distinctive flight with slow, irregular wingbeats. A group of lapwings is called a ‘deceit’.



Lapwings are one of our largest waders and are UK breeding birds with a resident population of around 100,000 pairs. During the winter months their numbers are significantly increased to around 650,000 with the arrival of birds from northern Europe to overwinter in the UK. Lapwings are ground-nesting and breed on arable and meadow land particularly on upland areas moving to agricultural land at lower levels, marshland areas and estuaries during the winter months. They feed mainly on invertebrates, earthworms and insects and the mudflats and the muddy shores around Llangwm sustain them well during their stay.

Sadly, in the last decade or so the breeding population in the UK has fallen by more than 50% due mainly to changes in agricultural methods, particularly autumn sowing of crops resulting in crops being too tall for lapwings in the breeding season. Also, the reduction in uncultivated grassland through increased hill farming is another major factor. This reduction in numbers has resulted in them being placed on the Red List.

To the casual observer the lapwing appears to be black in colour above and white below. However, closer inspection will reveal that the upperparts are a beautiful iridescent combination of dark green and purple. The cheeks and underparts are white

and under the tail is a patch of orange-brown. It has a black ‘bib’ and crown and its distinctive upward curving crest is black. Males and females are virtually identical with only minor differences in plumage.

Lapwings are often accompanied along the tideline by various numbers of dunlin, a common small brownish wader. When alarmed both birds will take to flight in mixed flocks, the dunlin being noticeably smaller with a sharper profile and rapid wingbeats.

Further upstream at Fowborough and Sprinkle lapwings are often present in flocks of many hundreds in the company of golden plover whose numbers often run into thousands. This is truly a sight to behold particularly when they are all in flight. Just under a mile north of Llangwm, Fowborough Point is without doubt one of the best locations in Pembrokeshire to see overwintering ducks, waders and other water birds.

This year, the lapwings disappeared fairly suddenly at the end of the second week of February to return to their breeding grounds.

It has been an unremarkable winter bird-wise with the usual wader and duck species present. There were very few reports of black-tailed godwits although they were present in other parts of the estuary.

As I write this in the final week of March there are still small numbers of redshank and teal still present, along with two greenshank, half a dozen shelduck and mallard to be seen in and around the Pill. Other species likely to be seen are curlew, little egret and grey heron. The practised eye might also spot a common sandpiper and the lucky ones will see the azure flash of a kingfisher. As we go into April the Pill will become virtually devoid of birds until the redshanks return at the end of June.

After last year’s traumatic experience when our resident mute swans lost their entire brood of eight cygnets to the perils of the surrounding mud and foxy predators, the raft has been removed from its mooring and has now disappeared. Presumably, the swans will continue, as before, to attempt nest building at various places around the shore only to be destined to failure due to high tides and predators. It’s heart-breaking!

If you have any interesting sightings to report please email me at grahambrace@btinternet.com