

Llangwm Village News

Issue 62 Autumn 2025



The Croft: Llangwm faces change
Record audiences for the Litfest
Celebrating our farmers - with Will's help
And Nigel Owens joins the rugby club party

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Llangwm's big news of the past six months has been the spades-in-ground beginning of 'The Kilns' development, now bursting onto our consciousness as 'The Croft'. Love it or hate it, it's given us the opportunity to look back at the impact of previous additions to our village, from the Flemings onwards. Though perhaps current villagers have less to worry about than their predecessors in the 1100s.

Rugby figures large - though nobody's mentioning the national team or indeed the recent problems Llangwm has had turning out teams. The past however was indeed glorious and Richard Howells takes his book on the centenary of Llangwm RFC forward 40 years while no less a hero than Nigel Owens did his bit at the 140th anniversary dinner where hopefully there was no need for his refereeing skills.

Cricket saw the debut of the women's side and unveiled a new cricket correspondent who may or may not have revealed a familial bias, plus a farming correspondent to enlighten ex-townies on Llangwm's food producing potential.

Plus there's Polly's problem – what to do with a second hand boat with 3,200 miles on the clock – and all our usual titbits about all the other things we do in this village of ours.

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

Coast Path Peril, Episode 2



In our spring issue we covered the story of the section of coast path at Ferry Bay a.k.a. Port Lion, which runs from the end of Llangwm Ferry by the sewage works down to the beach. It's much beloved by dog walkers, runners and hikers, allowing access to the road up through Foxhall and beyond. In June last year the path collapsed onto the shore, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and the remnants still litter the area. Some time later the Park authorities put in place a temporary closure notice, largely unobserved, and after a series of calls and emails from local people the 'interested parties', PCNP, PCC and Dwr Cymru, apparently agreed a plan.

A bit of background here: several years ago at the behest of PCNP several trees on the river side of the path were 'pruned' which sadly proved a terminal experience for them.

Fast forward to 2025 and further meetings of 'interested parties' are understood to have discussed two possible causes of the collapse: the Park's tree pruning and subsequent dieback and a leak from Dwr Cymru's sewage works. Meanwhile irate locals were stepping up their campaign – which seemed to produce action. Contractors arrived with a mini-digger, the path was diverted several metres into woodland and the closed signs removed.

Success? Er, not quite. The incline at around 45 degrees resembled a ski slope and deterred all but the foolhardy. (One Facebook member remarked how fast you were going by the time you reached the bottom). So, more complaints, more action. As Village News went to press the path had been extended and the incline reduced, gravel laid, and new wooden railings put in place. A shame that they mysteriously stop just at the bit where they're most needed. And the path, after more than 18 months, remains officially closed.

The printing of Llangwm Village News is funded by our Community Council and the black & white version is delivered to all Llangwm homes. It's also available in colour on the Llangwm Local History Society's website:

<https://www.llangwmlocalhistorysociety.org.uk/llangwmvillagenews.html>

A new era for a re-shaped Llangwm

The Croft, whose cranes now tower over Llangwm, has the potential to be our biggest ever modern day influx of people when it opens its doors for owners and tenants in 2027. Sixty seven new houses with its mix of one, two and three bedroom units, could mean an increase of around 25% in our current but declining population. Letters voicing concern at the plans identified potential traffic congestion and sewage system capacity plus, more tellingly, fears of 'a fundamental change in the character of the village'.

If you don't want our village to change, ever, well sorry, yes of course it will have an impact. But like most villages, towns and cities we've been there before from the Flemings in medieval times onward, and survived, and sometimes it turns out change can be good.

A glance at the statistics shows Llangwm has not so much grown in numbers as it has re-shaped itself in societal terms with far more changes having to do with national, even international trends. In 1980 our population was 734; by the 2021 census it was 820, all but 18 born in the UK. A major development was the building of the Glan Hafan council estate in the 1940s (known apparently as 'the barracks') providing much-needed housing for the postwar 'boomers' who now form Llangwm's older generation. It apparently became part of village life without fuss or bother as did River View in the 1970s as well as the new private housing in The Gail and Gail Rise. Overall one of the few contentious issues seems to have been not about incomers but the cutting down of trees without permission by the developer of River View.

So who were all those new people and why did they come to a village without industry or other employers and not much in the way of transport? Going right back 'immigration' was largely a case of Llangwm women bringing their husbands back with most newcomers coming from other parts of West Wales. By 1970 there was one foreigner in the village, an Italian man who took a job on a farm during the second world war. But in the following years Llangwm was bit by bit transformed. As older local people died and younger families left for work, their places were filled by incomers with a growing number of people from England, especially, and from other parts of Wales and Scotland. By 1980 about half the population were non-natives. Newcomers tended to be younger, especially if they lived in River View, native Llangwm people older.

Looking at our current circumstances, The Croft will have a mix of 45 social rented homes of various sizes

and 22 shared ownership homes where an individual can buy a share of the property's market value and pay rent on what remains. The developers, Ateb, say priority will be given to people with strong connections to the area where possible. If new arrivals follow the example set by River View, tenants and shared owners may well be younger than the overall Llangwm population.

But why choose to come to Llangwm? A survey in 1980 found that jobs in the refineries and in the larger population centres of Haverfordwest and Milford Haven were a magnet; some were transferred here by employers and for many Pembrokeshire's relatively anglicised reputation was an added incentive to say yes. But a lot of people simply liked our combination of rural and riverside beauty.

We may have a good idea what the Romans did for us but what have incomers done for Llangwm? For a start, the population growth saved our school. In 1970 there were fewer than 30 pupils and closure was on the cards. These days there are 230 and the 'new' school is thriving with concerns much more focussed on the problems of integrating a whole new intake of kids.

We've benefitted in other ways too. In the past, numbers helped us get a long-mooted village hall and although its use in recent years has declined it still provides a venue for meetings and talks of all sorts. Many of our newcomers have been active in cultural life -- projects like the 'saving' of St. Jerome's, and related events, the history society and the choirs. And we have the Llangwm Litfest, now in its seventh year, the product of one very energetic new arrival and the concerts in St. Jerome's, courtesy of another. There's no doubt the rugby and cricket teams, boating and sailing, and the Cottage Inn, have all benefitted from new arrivals. Places of worship not so much, though the sharp decline in religious observance is a nationwide trend.

So what have we lost? The Methodist chapel and the gardening society come to mind but the closure of the shop was a major setback as much for the loss of a place where paths crossed as a place to buy bread and milk. But would a larger population have saved it when village shops all over Britain are falling victim to supermarkets and online deliveries?

So overall, swings and roundabouts. Things change, all the time, even in Llangwm.

References: Thomas, Amanda (1980) *A Survey of Demographic Changes in the Village of Llangwm, 1960-1980*. Available at www.llangwmlocalhistorysociety.org.uk. And thanks to those Llangwm people approached for comment.

Lots of trips, lots of visitors

Rhys Buckley

The start of each academic year always brings with it excitement and a busy workload in equal measure and this year has been no different here at Cleddau Reach! With our whole-school Rainbow Curriculum and its accompanying assessment system now embedded across all age groups, our wonderful staff team have been busy introducing their new classes to the topics, knowledge and skills they are going to be focussing on this year.

As is always the case at our school, the children have been able to enjoy a wide range of extra-curricular activities, and this includes leaving the village and extending their learning both in and out of Pembrokeshire.



Henry Tufnell MP was one of a range of visitors

So far this term, our pupils have enjoyed trips to Scolton Manor, Castell Henllys, Pembroke Castle, Carew Cheriton and Broad Haven, as well as welcoming a range of visitors into the school. The curriculum requires that schools invest in and place value on both enrichment and experiences for children of all ages. Providing our pupils with these experiences is a vital part of our development and credit should go to staff for their commitment to arranging them and to the families within our community who are always very supportive of any extra-curricular event.



Shwmae Day cake sale

One notable whole-school event was our recent Shwmae Day celebration where children were invited to come to school wearing our national colours of red, white and green before enjoying a range of activities that celebrated both our local area and our country. As always, it was lovely to see children of all ages mixing well together, celebrating the Welsh language and culture.

Another highlight was Celebration of Work Day (or COW Day as it has come to be known!) now a regular fixture in our school calendar. This date usually falls during the last week of term and represents an opportunity for family members to step into their child's classroom and sit with them to look at and discuss the work they have produced over the course of the term. This term we welcomed family members into school on Thursday 23rd October and it was fantastic to see the school packed with proud parents!



Year 4 Rugby

If you'd like to keep up with events and goings-on at the school, the best place to do so is either our 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.



Year 6 Football

Considering all of the above, it has been a fantastic start to the new school year for us here at Cleddau Reach and, with the inevitable rush of Christmas to come, I've no doubt that the remainder of the Autumn will be a success also.

As always, 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 return to St Jerome's recently for our Harvest service and, with several local community groups continuing to use our excellent facilities for their meetings/events, we're always happy to open our doors to members of the local community.

Rhys Buckley, Executive Head Teacher

What happened next...

Polly Zipperlen

In February of this year Llangwm's Polly Zipperlen and three other women -- Team Cruising Free -- set out from Lanzarote to row 3,200 miles across the Atlantic to Antigua. It took them 53 days and having endured all manner of setbacks before they even cast off, they then had to row through acute seasickness, huge waves and power shortages but also extraordinary views of tropical stars and ocean wildlife. The big problem now - what do they do with the boat?

It feels like a long time ago that Team Cruising Free made land in Antigua. We truly had the trip of a lifetime, it was amazing.

After being greeted shore-side on 26th March this year in Jolly Harbour, Antigua, we spent about five days together at the same hotel resort with friends, family and the other teams. This gave us a short pause and time to decompress before making our way back to the UK and our pre-row lives.

We had a fantastic welcome home at Neyland Yacht Club in Pembrokeshire where we are all members and were pleased to find an unseasonably warm April too, not so much of a temperature shock as it might have been.



We then spent time restoring ourselves to some kind of normality. Miyah returned to work immediately as a water-sports instructor and found herself straight back on the water in Dale, updating all her qualifications, teaching wing-foiling and running water-based activities for kids and adults with additional needs. I am still not quite sure how she managed this – Janine and I, as the oldest crew members, were taking afternoon siestas for

a good month following our return to land. Thankfully though, we have now regained some of our former fitness, and Janine is out rowing almost daily and I am back to work as a nurse and squeezing in as much water time as possible.

Sophie too went back to her life of swimming, dog-walking and working as a social worker and has given some fantastic talks to the Cystic Fibrosis community.

We had an ambitious target to raise up to £100,000 for charity, which is no mean feat.

Traditionally, ocean rowers privately fund their crossing which limits the sport to an elite tier of adventurers. And as such, they are able to donate all their funds to charity. Our Atlantic Campaign was very different. Being public sector workers we were not in a position to finance our own crossing and spent two full years fundraising and seeking sponsorship to help us cross the ocean. Many of our decisions were financially driven with a cost-saving priority in mind; particularly in securing a cheaper, larger and slower boat – a Rossiter 3 Ocean Rowing boat, which cost us £40,000, rather than the more typical price tag of over £80,000.

The boat, named Spirit of Bluestone, served us well though and proved to be a safe and reliable powerhouse, coursing through the waves.

The boat is now up for sale and once sold, we hope to have raised about £75,000 for Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Paul Sartori Hospice and Emily's Entourage.



Spirit of Bluestone, now 'resting' in the Zipperlen's drive

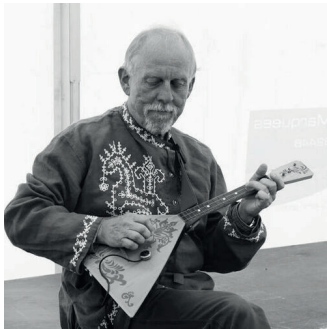
There are not many opportunities for adventure in life, but this is one that I will be forever grateful to have said 'yes' to .

A showcase for Pembrokeshire talent

Michael Pugh

As the first cold snap brings to mind bonfires and treacle toffee, it is nice to reflect on the warm joyful days of Llangwm's seventh litfest.

Day one was a sell-out with record audiences coming to hear that best-selling daughter of Neyland, Sarah Waters. Her writing is arresting! Festival favourites, John and Jen Roach, ran a wonderfully uplifting session for children on *The Red Dragon of Wales*!



Ryan was busy with his writing group at The Cottage Inn working through novels and books that we hope will feature in litfests to come.

Colin Thubron was another sell-out as he took us along the atmospheric banks of the Amur River (KGB in tow of course!), whilst Jack Meggitt-Phillips entertained the younger generation with the quirky combination of *The Beast and the Bethany*.



Ben Aitken provided a hilarious example of how not to judge a book by its cover before another successful musical evening with Boo Hewerdine and Yvonne Lyon by kind permission of Galilee Chapel and organised by Graham Brace, the festival's Curator of Arts.

For me, the most impressive session was that of David Wilson and his inspirational journey to overcome adversity and reach the heights of creativity! Bravo David! A close second, came Polly and her team of sailors with a lifetime of thrills and spills on the high

seas. We were also pleased to welcome local writer Rhys Eynon with tales of his magical world.

Perhaps the most chilling of the talks was that of Carole Cadwalladr and Juliane von Reppert-Bismarck on the AI giants and fake news. Another sell-out event, an hour and half passed much too quickly.



There was plenty of fun too with Jane Austen providing inspiration for another wonderful evening at The Cottage (transformed into The Parsonage for the night). Festival revellers outdid themselves with some incredible costumes, and Val John and Dudley Williams stole the show (separately I should add) as Eliza Bennett and Mr Darcy.



We are thankful to ALL involved in this year's litfest for making it another great success. So many of you are involved in so many different ways. It is always a busy few days, but once again visitors to the festival noted the friendly and warm approach of everyone involved.

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'll be back 7 – 9 August 2026.

Will's Farm: here's how we do it

Will Scale

Our esteemed editor of the Llangwm Village News has convinced me to resurrect a farm diary with a bit of arm twisting! I suppose from my point of view you forget how much of what happens on a farm is actually of potential interest to others whereas to me it's what I've grown up with, so perhaps I'll start from the beginning again!



The farm we farm is Great Nash and it has been in the family since the 1950's. And there has been habitation and a farmstead here for a lot longer than that. On the archaeological dig that was enacted here almost 10 years ago they found Mesolithic flint head chippings meaning that way back in the Stone Age there would have been some proto-farmer (for farming hadn't actually been invented back then!) doing the same as generations afterwards have been doing – and that is hoping that the six inches of soil that the whole world relies on is going to produce a reliable harvest in the five months between May and September. You need enough rain but not too much, enough sun but not too much and it can't be too hot or too cold – fussy situation isn't it? No wonder people say farmers are always moaning.

Nowadays farms tend to need to specialise to stay in business. Mixed farms are nice and can be best for wildlife and the landscape but they can be expensive – so for example if you grow crops and livestock you will need both good fencing for the time the livestock are in there and also lots of expensive equipment such as combine harvesters and sprayers etc. for the crops. And then you also need the skills to manage this – and that can be from having a decent sheepdog or knowing that if fuse number 15 on the combine isn't working then you won't be turning a wheel.

However this village is very lucky as we do have a good mix of crops grown which means we still have cattle, sheep, potatoes, wheat, barley, fava beans, maize, oilseed rape, brassicas all grown in the environs. Dairy cows are still milked if you dare to venture out of the parish boundaries by just a few miles – so it would be nice to think the farmers of Llangwm and around put a good effort into contributing to the national food producing stocks. If we got surrounded by invaders I think we could probably still produce enough variety for the Sunday roast in The Cottage.

It's definitely not the case that all areas produce this variety – and one of the key reasons for this is the soils around here are actually very good quality. They are generally free draining, able to hold onto fertility well which means they are adaptable for a lot of different uses. We also have a decent amount of woodland and hedges, though it is noticeable and sad how many of our ash trees are dying. Hopefully they will adapt, that's the thing with nature – it mostly adapts.

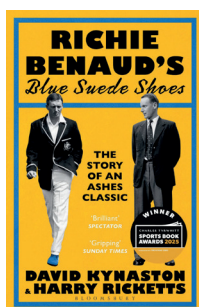
Some of you may have seen Clarkson's Farm. It is generally a very realistic picture of what farming can be like. When Jeremy makes one of his mistakes or breaks something there is definitely a sense of "I've done that before". Farming keeps you humble, nothing is safe until the harvest is in the barn or the livestock have been checked and tended to.

Mathom, inquillinate & ert????

Barry Childs

The 2025 Summer, and it was a glorious one weather wise, seems a long way away now and with it the end of the cricket season.

Different sports have contributed a lot to literature in our country none more so than cricket. Just a few weeks ago, helped by its striking yellow and black cover, I was lucky enough to come across a gem of the genre: 'Richie Benaud's Blue Suede Shoes' (no relation to Elvis) by David Kynaston and Harry Ricketts. It tells the story of an Ashes test match played at Old Trafford in July 1961.



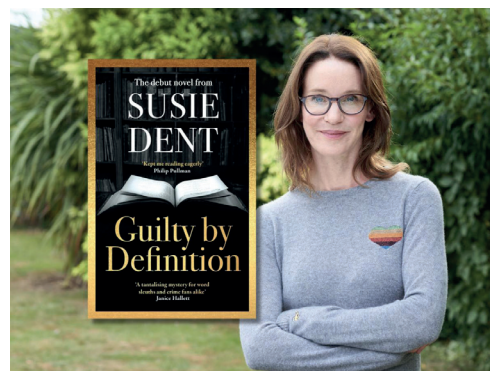
The drama of that encounter is brought vividly alive but whilst the game is the focus of the book it's about much more than that. It's about the backgrounds and characters of the two captains, Peter May and Richie Benaud - the first a non risk-taking establishment figure, the second an engaging risk-taker more in tune with the changing world of the sixties. The book captures what happened when those with the power in the game i.e. the MCC remained rooted in the past clinging on to a world that was fast disappearing.

The book brought back my memory, as a very young boy, watching Benaud play for Australia against Glamorgan at St Helens in 1953. A great cricketer, later a great commentator and a real entertainer. Of its type this book is as good as it gets.

Japan is not a cricketing country but there is no shortage of books by Japanese writers available on bookshelves. One of these is 'Butter' by Asako Yuzuki. You won't miss it because it too has a sharp yellow cover. The book, to a certain extent, is about what the title suggests but that's only a starting point. Apart from food it deals with relationships, unusual deaths, misogyny and women in Japanese society. The more you get into it the better it gets.

'Guilty by Definition' by Susie Dent is set in a very different place - present day Oxford. The author is an expert on words and their meanings and has also worked

as a television presenter. In this her first novel she puts her expertise to very good use. The central characters are colleagues who work on dictionary updates. Each chapter is headed by an unusual word cleverly worked into the plot. Some of these words were new to me e.g. 'mathom' (a precious thing or valuable gift), 'inquillinate' (to live in a strange place), 'ert' (to annoy, irritate) etc. The novel is cleverly constructed, has pace and is entertaining. Not a bad debut whodunnit and one I'm confident you will enjoy.



Finally and briefly, for those interested in history 'The Red Prince, John of Gaunt' by Helen Carr is interesting and very readable. It's about one person's drive and ambition.



That person is probably best known to most of us through the famous speech given to him by Shakespeare in his play, 'Richard II':

*'This royal throne of kings, this sceptered isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi paradise,
This fortress built by Nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war.'*

That affectionate description of this, his country, is not a bad note to end on.

(And more from Barry on cricket later.)

How 'ferocious' Llangwm became the Wasps

Richard Howells

One hundred and forty years ago a bunch of sturdy Llangwm men decided that this new much-talked-about game of rugby, where men could hit lumps out of each other and call it sport, was tailor made for them.

That was in 1885 and now in 2025 rugby is still being played in the village, one of the very few genuine village sides left in Wales.

At the time rugby was introduced to Llangwm the main source of employment for men of the area was as shipwrights and carpenters at the Royal Naval Dockyard at Pembroke Dock and these extraordinarily tough men would, regardless of the weather, walk or cycle to Neyland, be rowed across the river for sixpence a week and go on to do a day's work.

Rugby was being talked about and beginning to be played in Haverfordwest and Pembroke.

In no time there were two teams around the Parish of Llangwm: the Wanderers and the Swifts. They played one another on what was described as high days and holidays.

By the late 1890's Llangwm were playing "friendlies" against Neyland and Pembroke and had their first real taste of success in 1908 when they were the gold medal winners in a Pembroke Dock tournament, a win which led to entry to the West of Llanelli league. The local paper reported: "Llangwm had a ferocious pack of forwards who knew little about the finer points of the game".

ARRIVED BY STEAMER

Leading up to the First World War the side played moderately well in the 'League' and there were some great moments which emphasised the importance of the game to village life.

There was an occasion when Pembroke Dock Quins were the opponents and the visitors arrived by steam boat bedecked in black and white favours. And then there were several occasions when the 5th Battalion of the Welch Regiment, who were camped at Hearston, were the villagers' opponents in WW1 fund-raising matches. There were over 1000 soldiers stationed just a mile outside the village - must have been an amazing sight as a couple of hundred soldiers led by the Regimental Band marched down Butterhill.

Reformed after the Great War, Llangwm were doing quite well but then came the devastating closure of the Royal Dockyard in 1920 and a mass exodus of Llangwm

men who went far and wide in search of work. It was a desperate struggle to survive, and it was about this time the village first played in the famous black and amber and so became the Wasps.

GRAND NATIONAL WINNER

The Black and Amber kit was a gift from the Lort Phillips' of Lawrenny Estate and were the racing colours of the family, worn by Tich Mason when he rode their horse, Kirland, to victory in the Grand National. Previously Llangwm played in blue hoops and in the very early days, red.

However, survive they did and by the mid 1940's the legend was born. It was in 1946 that Haverfordwest businessman, Mel Bishop, donated his cup – the Bishop Cup – which Llangwm won for the next 15 years.

In the late 40's the Wasps had improved to such a degree that on three consecutive occasions they reached the final of the Pembrokeshire Knock Out Cup only to be narrowly beaten each time. Then in the 1948/49 season under the captaincy of the extremely influential Meurig Hughes the Knock Out Cup made its way to the village and that same year Llangwm were runners up in the championship.

From then on it was success all the way through the 50's and well into the 1960's.

The elusive double, that is the Knock Out Cup and Championship, was won time after time and on more than one occasion the Double was supplemented by the Seconds Knock Out Cup and the County Sevens.

In fact, in one session of history the Wasps were Cup finalists for seven consecutive years and one stalwart, the late Glynmore Howells, set a record that will probably never be beaten. He appeared in no less than nine consecutive finals - the first two were with Neyland!

Very gradually the side hit troubled times and it was a herculean effort to keep going; there were years when not a victory was achieved in the championship and exit from the KO cup was predictable.

But the spirit was magnificent and against the odds the Wasps survived and continues to provide a sporting outlet for dozens of youngsters. 140 years and there is still a sting in the boys in black and amber.

Richard's book Llangwm RFC - A Hundred Years of Rugby 1885-1985 was produced in 1985 and is no longer in print.

Christmas again!

Neil Martin

Christmas always begins early for musicians! You may think that it spoils Christmas when you have had blow-up Santas, Christmas decorations and artificial trees in the shops since the middle of October but Music Directors have been thinking about Christmas since the end of August. The same goes for the music specialist in schools and local amateur performers.

One of the strangest experiences of my young life was to be part of a recording with the Wedgewood Band and Choir making a Christmas Album to promote the Wedgewood brand (now completely gone) in the USA. We recorded the album in early June! Singing traditional British Christmas Carols in shorts and teeshirts. That may be normal in Australia and New Zealand but it felt very weird in sunny Stoke-on-Trent.

I have been performing Christmas music for over 54 years and directing performances for about 48 years so I have done the 'standard' music many times. In my first teaching job, I distinctly remember doing eleven School Christmas Concerts in one week.

So, when I was charged with putting together a Christmas programme for "Wrong Direction" I thought it was time to start doing some of the more esoteric and unusual Christmas songs. That is why you will find such things as 'Still, still, still', a beautiful Austrian carol, 'As I sat on a Sunny Bank', the original song that inspired the more famous 'I saw three ships' and 'On Christmas Night', again the original 18th century version rather than the more modern version.

It also gives me the opportunity to play around with some of my favourites. In particular I have always loved the French carol 'Quelle est cette odeur agreable' that we sing in English, French and Welsh. Then we have my own particular mash-up of songs based on 'the Twelve Days of Christmas' with segments from 'Deck the Halls', 'Joy to the World', 'I saw three Ships' (modern version) and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' making some rather disruptive intrusions into the song.

Our next performance in Llangwm will be during the Christmas Tree Festival on 12th to the 14th December in St Jerome's, where many of these songs will make an appearance.

Remember, if you want to sing some of the old favourites then get ready for the Christmas Carol Service at St Jerome's on 16th December, featuring Llangwm Village Voices.

Raising the roof

Fiona Cutting

Our Spring concert in St Jerome's on May 2nd went well....it seems like ages ago.... and a week later we were at Albany chapel in Haverfordwest with the Combined Chorus helping to raise the roof with sound.

Later in summer we were back in Haverfordwest outside 'The Bristol Trader' singing under a wildly flapping gazebo in a typical Pembrokeshire wind. Paulette's music went flying but, professional as she is, she carried on dauntlessly.



Well summer has gone so we're now working towards Christmas and singing again with the Cleddau Orchestra and the children of Cleddau Reach. That will be on December 15th followed by our Carol Concert in St Jerome's on the 16th.

Newbies to the village (and judging by the amount of properties currently for sale there should be plenty) would be so very welcome. Don't think you have to be Bryn Terfel or Katherine Jenkins, any voice is gratefully received and will always blend in. Come and join us on Tuesday, normally at 7.30 in the church and at risk of repetition, there are no auditions nor an ability to read music. YouTube is a godsend.

Together we make a pretty good noise with an eclectic mix of songs. Looking forward to new faces.

Coming soon: a walk through history

Jane Mills

LLHS's latest initiative is the development of Heritage Trails around Llangwm using QR codes at various locations. People will be able to scan the QR code on their mobile phones and access stories about the history of that particular spot together with photographs etc. Two interpretation boards will also be created. The main one on The Green will have a map depicting the trails, QR code locations and the information about the trails in English and Welsh. The second one will replace the one at Black Tar which is slightly damaged and is in need of further information. In conjunction with Llangwm Community Council we will be working on this project in the coming months and will be updating the community in due course.

LLHS has continued its programme of talks and visits throughout the year. During the summer half term a small posse of members went on a coach trip to Swansea, together with a few members of Pembrokeshire National Trust Association to swell the numbers.

The morning was spent in the Maritime Museum, where we appreciated the photographic history of South Wales industrial heritage. The RNLI had also contributed to a fascinating exhibition that was particularly enjoyed.

The main focus of the trip was the Egyptology Museum in Swansea University. We had booked a "tour" and were split into two groups, with an Egyptologist leading each one. We explored the Life and Death rooms which were full of amazing artefacts, but the best bit was to be able to handle mystery objects and learn their function which really brought ancient history to life. The museum is closed at present as it is being rejigged in order to exhibit the treasures in a more accessible way.

LLHS made a donation of £50 to the Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre's fund for the restored Memorial Window which has returned to Pembrokeshire as a long term loan from the RAF Museum in London. It depicts Coastal Command aircraft and squadron crests. The window was dedicated in 1945 and remained in the Dockyard Chapel until the station was closed in 1958. A re-dedication service was held on 26th October 2025.

As part of our programme of talks, Terry John, a long time friend of the Society, gave us another of his fascinating talks, this time on the story of Isaac Davies, the sailor from Hubberstone who became a Hawaiian chief. It is amazing how far Pembrokeshire folk can get in the world.

Terry was followed by Luke Jenkins who showed us the remarkable prehistoric discoveries that were unearthed during the recent A40 road works. This archaeology was undertaken by Heneb, The Trust for Welsh Archaeology, and whilst they found signs of settlements through various prehistoric periods, sadly they found no human remains and very little in the way of artefacts. The current policy of calling in archaeologists to major projects such as the A40 and the recent re-development of Ocky White's has resulted in some amazing finds.

Upcoming events will include a talk on Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry VII who was born in Pembroke Castle, Pembroke Town Walls and slave owners in Pembrokeshire. Please see the LLHS website or the Llangwm Facebook page for details.

We would also like to thank Penny and Martin who have provided refreshments at our talks for many years. They have taken a well deserved rest from these duties but have been ably replaced by Viv and Paul Kettle and Mark Nevitt. Welcome to them and many thanks for volunteering.

And more here for history buffs...

The Llangwm Local History Society's website, launched in October 2024, offers a rich and evolving archive for anyone interested in the village's past. It features a complete picture archive, a full set of Llangwm Village News back issues, and indexed inscriptions from Pill Parks Cemetery - making it a valuable resource for researchers and nostalgic visitors alike.

Among the latest additions is the "Tales from the Archives" section, which brings together newspaper reports and historical documents dating back to the 18th century. Whether you are re-tracing family roots or exploring local stories, the site provides a vivid window into Llangwm's heritage: <https://www.llangwmlocalhistorysociety.org.uk/index.html>

The Llangwm Local History Society's YouTube channel offers a rich mix of videos that bring the village's heritage to life. Alongside brief explorations of topics like the effigies in St Jerome's Church, the medieval role of the Cleddau Waterway and the history of Llangwm RFC, the channel also features substantial productions such as the World War One Opera and The Search for Little Flanders, a documentary uncovering Llangwm's Flemish roots. The channel is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/@llangwmlocalhistorysociety>

Hospital volunteer award

Thirty three years ago Jane Tovey's young daughter Clare was diagnosed with Non Hodgkin Lymphoma, a type of blood cancer, and received her treatment at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children. Jane says the hospital was 'truly fantastic' so she decided to do her bit by joining its support group, the Guild of Friends.

And now all these years on she's been awarded the prestigious Order of Mercy by the League of Mercy, created in 1899 by the then Prince of Wales to encourage voluntary work in hospitals and the community. Llangwm resident Jane says it was a complete surprise and she feels very honoured.

The Guild, of which Jane has twice been chairman, aims to support the well-being and happiness of children receiving treatment at the hospital – which can range from help for low-income families, purchasing equipment, or even equipping the kitchen areas so that parents and carers can enjoy a cup of coffee when the going gets tough.

It's also been raising money through a series of art-themed events, the 'Angels in Art' project, to fund art activities for the children.

Jane received her award at The Mansion House in London from the League's president, Lord Lingfield, who described her as a marvellous example of someone whose longstanding and voluntary dedication to the service and welfare of others was noteworthy and remarkable.

Clare by the way is now a thriving 45 year old.



Jane with Lord Lingfield at The Mansion House in London

Cheers from the tenants

Nikki Bosworth

The twenty-first birthday of John Frederick Lort Phillips in November 1875 was an important event for villagers in Llangwm and the surrounding area. He had inherited the Lort Phillips' estate following the death of his uncle George Lort Phillips in 1866. The estate had been administered by Admiral John Lort Stokes during his minority and it was now time for an official welcome from his tenants.

At this time, the 19th century 'mock' castle at Lawrenny was home to the Lort Phillips family and a large marquee was erected in the grounds to accommodate up to 500 guests. In Lawrenny village, a series of evergreen arches were constructed and bore slogans such as "Welcome to thine inheritance", "Health and happiness attend thee", "Peace and prosperity be thine" and the family motto "Animo et fide" (with Courage and Faith) whilst banners and bunting were everywhere. The dinner guests included not only his tenants but also local gentry from the de Rutzen, Allen, Scourfield, Higgon and Stokes families. The Castlemartin Yeomanry Band provided the entertainment. A silver salver and claret jug was presented to John F L Phillips and accompanied by three hearty cheers, "in which the stentorian voice of Mr John Evans of Llangwm was most conspicuous". A large bonfire was built at Great Nash under the superintendence of Mr David George, there was another bonfire at Barnlake, a supper was held at the Commercial Inn in Neyland and the bells at the churches of Haverfordwest St Thomas and St Mary were rung.

Celebrations continued in December when the half-yearly rent audit provided an occasion for the tenants - and their wives "who seemed to look upon this as a special opportunity for being introduced to their new landlord" - to enjoy a "substantial good old English dinner of roast beef and plum pudding". The health of the ladies present at this event was proposed by Mrs Maria Shrubsall of the Black Horse Inn in Llangwm.

It was under the guardianship of John Frederick Lort Phillips that residents of Llangwm were offered the opportunity to purchase their homes in the early 20th century.



Lawrenny Castle
(Image: Pembrokeshire Archives
& Local Studies)

Information available online at newspapers.library.wales

Carnivals, quizzes & curry

Jane Williams

Llangwm Events Group hosted the ever-popular Llangwm Carnival in June which is growing year on year. This year not content with watching on the sidelines a number of young people got together and with the support of Llangwm Community Council hosted a pre-carnival disco. DJ Henry did his thing on the decks, party games were organised and fun was had by all that attended.

The success of the event then led into the Carnival day itself which was supported by Blackbear, Morganstone, Mill Bay Homes and Ateb. The popular Greenacres dog show returned to the carnival and will be a regular feature going forward, FF Dancers wowed the crowd with their performances and the whole community got involved with the tug of war.

The day was rounded off with an after party held at The Cottage Inn. We would like to thank all of the community for their continued support, we rely on this support to host the event.

We have hosted two successful quiz nights to raise much needed funds for the carnival, each event was well supported and we hope to make this a regular event – please keep checking social media to find out more.

The Great Llangwm Curry Off is returning for another year on 28th November, 7pm at Llangwm Rugby Club, tickets are £7.50 and can be bought on the door. The defending champion Tony will be up against 3 other hopefuls to try and retain his title.

Looking towards the festive season Light up Llangwm will return again this year. There is no need to enter this year, the judges will be walking around the village from 9th December. If you do not wish for your property to be entered please e-mail llangwmeventsgroup@gmail.com

Santa will be making his annual appearance around the village again this year on the 18th December, please keep an eye on our social media pages for more information regarding the timings and route. As always the route will conclude at The Cottage Inn where a warm welcome awaits and the results of Light up Llangwm will be announced.

If you would like to get involved with Llangwm Events Group, meetings are held in The Cottage Inn on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Please get in touch or just pop along.

Knots, space & pizza

Simon Preddy

It has been another busy start to the autumn term, and we have welcomed a number of new faces into our group. So far our Beavers and Cubs have been working on their Space Activity badges, learning about our solar system and space exploration. They have also been working on their Air Activities badge which included a fantastic visit to Haverfordwest Airport to see how it all looks in action.

Our Scouts have been busy working on some of the traditional skills, developing their knots and pioneering, fire lighting and whittling. They have also done some cooking, making home-made pizza at the hall. Our older Scouts were out at the end of October completing their Expedition Challenge and you may have seen them out on their adventure.



A big thank you to everyone who was able to support our annual prize draw which raised a brilliant £708 so that we can continue to ensure we have the right resources and equipment to continue to provide safe and exciting activities for our young people. We will be in Morrisons supermarket at the end of November so please stop and say hello.

Following our regular feedback sessions with our young people on what they would like to do, we have been successful in receiving a grant from South Hook Community Fund to further improve and develop a community food growing site at the hall. Once up and running, if you are interested in helping out, then please drop us a message.

If you have a young person interested in joining, please complete the form located here (<https://forms.gle/cx1JSbUvtLLQBY8J6>) and we will be in touch, with spaces currently available in all sections.

Beavers (6 to 8 yrs): Friday 17.15 to 18.30

Cubs (8 to 10 ½ yrs): Friday 18.45 to 20.15

Scouts (10 ½ to 14 yrs): Thursday 18.30 to 20.30

And a reminder that our hall in Hill Mountain (the old Methodist Church) is available for hire – for enquiries just drop us an email at 1stjohnston@gmail.com

A harvest festival & a BBQ

Debbi Lawson-Earley

Well after a glorious Summer, albeit very hot at times, Autumn has truly arrived. Our first storm of the season, Amy, certainly blew in and made her presence known. The temperatures are dropping and the nights are drawing in. The various beautiful colours of red, yellow, russet, golds and brown glisten in the Autumn sunshine on the trees and hedgerows. Our farmers have been working extremely hard harvesting their crops in readiness for the Winter. Some crops have been a disappointment this year because of the changing weather climate conditions, but it has been a bountiful apple harvest! We have been busy in our gardens gathering our crops that we have sown, grown and now enjoying the fruits of our labours. Now there is excitement in the air, as the schoolchildren enjoy their half term break, visiting local farms' Pumpkin Patches and choosing their pumpkin to decorate and carve, ready for Halloween.

Let's hope we enjoy a lovely Autumn and Winter is kind to us this year.

We have just celebrated our Harvest Festival. St Jerome's was seasonally decorated and generous gifts were given and donated to Patch.

As usual in July St Jerome's BBQ visited Cleddau Reach VC Primary School for the Annual Year 6 Leavers' BBQ. We had a great evening in lovely dry, sunny conditions, which was a very welcome change from last year's heavy rain! The children thoroughly enjoyed a game of traditional rounders, with Revd Canon Marcus and Headteacher, Mr Buckley. They worked up a very healthy appetite for burgers and hot dogs, there was a queue for seconds! After enjoying some fresh fruit, sitting on the playing field, Revd Marcus had a little chat with the children about their next step going onto Secondary School and each child was given a small gift from St Jerome's Church. Always a very enjoyable evening. With thanks to Mr Buckley, Mrs S Thomas, Deputy Head and Year 6 teacher, Mrs L Hicks, Year 6 teacher and Mrs S Nowell, Caretaker, as always.

We also have a box in the Church porch for anyone wishing to donate non-perishable food items to Patch. Any support is very much appreciated.

As many of you may be aware Rev Canon Marcus is away on a sabbatical until mid-November. Church Services are as usual.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Prayer at 9.00am – First Sunday of the month

Parish Eucharist at 9.00am – Second Sunday of the month

St Jerome's All Age Communion Service at 10.00am – always the Third Sunday of the month

Parish Eucharist at 9.00am – Fourth Sunday of the month

If there is a Fifth Sunday in a month, a Sunday Service is held in either St Jerome's Llangwm, St Peter's Johnston or St Justinian's Freystrop. Details of which venue will be on the Church Noticeboard.

MIDWEEK EUCHARIST SERVICE – Held on a Wednesday at 9.00am

THURSDAY MORNING ZOOM PRAYER IS AT 9.30AM: Revd Canon Marcus Zipperlen for details.

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE:-

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

Contact Details:- Revd Canon J Marcus Zipperlen, The Rectory, Four Winds, Llangwm, Pembrokeshire SA62 4NG

Tel No:- 01437 899548 (marcuszipperlen@cinw.org.uk)

Whilst Revd Canon Marcus is away contact details are as follows:

Revd Canon A.M Chadwick, Church Road, Llanstadwell, Milford Haven SA73 1EA. 01646 600227 (alanandmarychadwick@btinternet.com)

Revd John Cecil, The Vicarage, Steynton, SA73 1AW 01646 600227 (JohnCecil@churchinwales.org.uk)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Our Winter Activities are being planned with more interesting and varied activities to be announced in due course, solely due to the fact they will be advertised when Revd Canon Marcus returns from his sabbatical.

Breakfast with Santa: this is usually at the beginning of December on a Saturday morning. Date and time TBC.

Christmas Tree Festival: this is definitely going ahead.

St Jerome's Christmas Carols with Village Voices
Tuesday 16th December @ 7:30pm

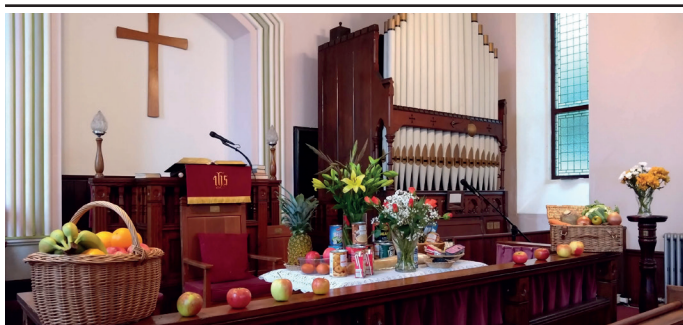
Christmas Crib Service: Wednesday 24th December TBC

As always please check the church noticeboard for any information and details.

Revd Canon Marcus Zipperlen and all the St Jerome's congregation wish you a peaceful Autumn, Winter and all the best for 2026.

Hymns and arias?

Margaret Brace



Galilee Chapel's magnificent acoustic came into play for the folk concert held there during the village's Literary Festival over the second weekend of August.

Boo Hewerdine (a.k.a. Mark, Boo being a longstanding nickname) and Yvonne Lyon were the duo who graced Galilee with their melodic harmonies and well-crafted original songs. They enchanted the audience – and the audience enchanted them with their responses.

The concert was based on their latest album *Things Found in Books* - songs inspired by a bookseller's collection of such items as notes, photographs, travel tickets and love letters tucked into second-hand books.

One of their numbers, *The Man that I Am*, had been composed by Boo as a tribute to the orphans who were shipped out to Australia in the 1950s with the promise of a new life but often encountered cruelty and slave labour when they arrived. He reflected that it had all the poignancy of the performance he gave at Fremantle in Western Australia, where many of the descendants of those children were present. (Wrong Direction, Llangwm's men's choir, often performs a version of this classic.) Many thanks to Neil Martin who was the 'sound man' for this unforgettable concert.



Boo Hewerdine & Yvonne Lyon: 'unforgettable'

Regular events at Galilee have included the twice-monthly morning services – held at 10.30 on the first and third Sundays of the month – and the annual Harvest Thanksgiving service with its attractive produce table, held on 21st September.

Recently it was good to welcome to Galilee some members of Sardis Baptist Chapel which sadly closed its doors this summer after 203 years. Their last service on Sunday 3rd August, a bittersweet occasion held in the chapel's schoolroom and led by Nigel Thomas, was attended by friends and families of the members and many supporters from the locality. It included a look back at the history of Sardis (the 'mother chapel' of Galilee) and many of the favourite Sankey hymns which had featured in its renowned singing festivals over the years.

Looking ahead, the Carol Service at Galilee, which everyone is welcome to join, will take place at 10.30am on Sunday 21st December. After that we look forward to the New Year and renewed warmth of worship – a new boiler is presently being installed.

Llangwm Village Hall



Available for Hire

Celebrate, connect, and create memories in a space designed for every occasion. Whether it's a wedding reception, community event, meeting, or birthday party, our village hall offers:

A Versatile Layout – Easily adaptable for intimate gatherings or larger celebrations.

Modern Facilities – Enjoy contemporary amenities set in an inviting, traditional ambiance.

A Central Community Location – With convenient parking and easy accessibility, your guests will feel right at home.

 **Session Times:**
Morning 9.30am - 1.30pm
Afternoon 2pm - 6pm
Evening 6.30pm - 10.30pm

 **Just £20 per session**

 **To check availability and book please call 07539 864330 or email info@llangwmvillagehall.co.uk**

15



County Council Report

Cllr Michael John

Review of Town & Community Councils in Pembrokeshire:

Welsh Government Ministers have now considered the Commission's final report (and public comments) and have accepted their final report. This means that Llangwm Community Council will remain as it is, and not face forced amalgamation with Hook and Freystrop. The next step will be the drafting of the legal order to implement the changes across the county, which are due to come into effect from 6th May 2027.

Details can be found on the WG page: <https://www.gov.wales/announcements> For further details, including the final report and maps: <https://www.dbcc.gov.wales/reviews/01-25/pembrokeshire-community-review-final-recommendations>

The Croft Development 24/0120/PA:

Since the granting of planning permission for this site in February, works started in May and have been continuing at a steady pace. There have been concerns raised locally over issues such as water run-off and noise, and I have had regular meetings with Morganstone and Ateb to ensure these issues are addressed. Ateb has confirmed there will be a local letting policy for the site, and this will need to be developed and agreed locally. Full details of the application and reserved matters can be found at:

<https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/pembrokeshire>

Rural Street Lighting Policy Following a question I raised at a recent full council meeting, this policy is set to be reviewed by the Policy Overview & Scrutiny committee at its meeting in November. The committee will review the criteria and wider issues associated with rural street lighting including budgets, energy costs and savings.

This follows representations made to myself by residents on the issue and I will feedback any outcomes once known.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has recently issued a "nitrate neutrality directive" due to concerns around nitrate levels in protected marine areas of the Cleddau. These areas are known as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and they are important for protecting wildlife and

natural habitats. The topic of pollution in the Cleddau has been brought to the fore by the great work of the "**Friends of The Cleddau**" team who have been holding NRW to account over the issues.

The new directive targets all new developments in mid-Pembrokeshire to be *nitrate neutral*—meaning they must not add to nitrate levels in the Cleddau catchment area. You can find more information on the NRW website <https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/> However, housing only contributes a small percentage of the overall nitrate levels, and PCC has had to set aside £400,000 to develop a nitrate mitigation strategy for future developments. Due to the implications on planning and the wider economy, the Welsh Government has been asked to progress any possible legislation to ease the planning pressures which result from the directive.

20mph Review PCC is currently reviewing feedback from its recent survey following the implementation of the 20mph speed limits across the county. Public views were gathered during its recent consultation on any possible reversals of the speed limit. Once the outcomes of the review are known, PCC will liaise with any local communities affected.

Nash Lane Following several complaints of excessive speeds on the road between Llangwm and Troopers Inn, PCC carried out a speed survey and as a result are considering a reduction to 50mph. The road is used by many farm vehicles and horses, as well as cyclists and pedestrians. Once confirmed, the necessary advertising will be posted for public comments.

2nd Home Council Tax At a recent full council meeting on the 9th October, it was recommended that the second homes premium remains at 150% and a long-term empty properties rate remains at 300% (for properties empty for more than two years). An amendment was put forward to reduce the 2nd homes premium to 100%. It was highlighted this would result in a budget pressure of £2.8m for 2026-27. This wasn't carried but a 2nd amendment to reduce to 125% was agreed.

WG has changed rules for 2nd homes used as holiday lets so they have to be occupied for 182 days per year to qualify for NDR (non domestic rates) as opposed to the council tax. Representations have been made to WG to lower to 140 days

due to the impact on the tourism industry.

A new Tourist Tax is also possible under WG rules but is on hold in Pembrokeshire until at least 2027 in PCC.

Secondary school places Parents/guardians of Year 6 pupils in Pembrokeshire are reminded to apply for a secondary school place for September by the closing date of 21st December. Applications received after this date will be deemed late which may mean your child misses out on a place at their chosen school. There is no automatic admission to a secondary school (except for 3-16 schools), even if living in catchment and/or your child attends a feeder school.

An application must be made.

It is important to note that a school place will not be allocated unless a formal application is received.

The online application form can be found on the Pembrokeshire County Council website: www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning under 'Apply for a School Place'.

GOT A QUESTION? Residents can submit questions to Council or one of the scrutiny committees on issues they have concerns over in the county. There are regular meetings during the year. For further information contact : Democraticservices@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

DID YOU KNOW most council meetings are livestreamed and can be viewed here:

<https://pembrokeshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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Finally, as always, I would like to wish all residents and their families a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for a great 2026!!

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If you need to contact me, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I can be contacted on 01437 890175 or cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

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

Community Council to fund history trail

Debbie Hanney

Local Matters in Focus as Llangwm Council Addresses Heritage, Housing and Community Maintenance:

Llangwm Community Council has been steadily working through a varied range of local issues in 2025, with heritage projects, housing developments and everyday maintenance all featuring prominently in its correspondence and follow-up actions so far this year.

Heritage Plans Gaining Momentum: The Community Council is working with the Llangwm History Society to develop a History Trail around the village, aimed at sharing stories and landmarks in an accessible way for residents and visitors. The History Society will be inviting members of the public to contribute their own knowledge, memories and suggestions to help shape the trail, and will also be involving children at Cleddau Reach School as “Guardians of the Trail” to help protect and interpret its heritage for future generations.

The Community Council has confirmed a commitment to offer financial assistance toward the development of the History Trail, helping the project progress from planning into delivery once proposals and costing are finalised. Further details on funding arrangements will be reviewed as the project develops.

Housing at The Kilns Under Watch: The proposed housing development at The Kilns has been one of the most persistent topics across recent meetings. Councillors have met with representatives from Ateb Housing and Morganstone Contractors for regular updates and to raise concerns. They have also been in communication with Pembrokeshire County Council regarding street-naming plans. The community council continues to request updates and has signalled its intention to keep residents informed as details progress. Councillors will be actively involved with the development of the Local Lettings Policy for assigning the houses as they become available.

Community Correspondence and other issues on the Ground Level: Smaller but important local concerns have also been raised:

- A rental arrangement of £20 per month has been agreed with the local rowing club for boat storage on adjacent land to Black Tar toilets.
- Dog fouling and parking issues are addressed when reported.
- A request came in for a memorial bench at Pill Parks in honour of Peter Locke.
- Tree maintenance was undertaken at Pill Parks.

Community Council Website: The Community Council have a new website where the agendas, minutes and other news can be found. The address is www.llangwm-cc.gov.uk

Council Membership Changes: Three new councillors, Cllr Helen Carrington, Cllr Barry Smith and Cllr Jane Williams joined the council and completed their acceptance of office. The council later received the resignation of Cllr Evans, and a vacancy is currently being advertised on our website www.llangwm-cc.gov.uk. We would like to thank Cllr Evans for his valued contributions during his time on the Community Council.

Local Sporting Success: Llangwm Community Council would like to congratulate Evelyn Thomas after returning from the 2025 World Para Powerlifting Championships with an exceptional achievement, securing double silver in the Next Generation category. Her performance has brought pride to the community and highlighted the strength of local talent on the world stage.

In addition, Cllr Helen Carrington has recently competed in Malta at the European Bench Press Championships, where she won Bronze in the M1 category, a remarkable achievement and a point of pride for the village.

The Community Council would also like to congratulate the Rugby Club on its 140th anniversary year.

What Happens Next? Residents can expect further updates on

- The continued progress and timeline of The Kilns housing development.
- Progress on the Llangwm History Trail.
- Local maintenance actions.

The Community Council has also once again been involved in organising the village’s Remembrance Service, providing the poppy wreath and making a donation toward refreshments served afterwards - a tradition it remains committed to supporting. Councillors would like to thank everyone who is giving their time freely to support this event.

The Lions roar

Mike Preddy



Another fantastic start to the season for the Llangwm Lions as they continue to grow from strength to strength.



Demand for moorings

Chris Thomas

The long summer of 2025, with dazzling sunshine and lazy days, was ideal weather for Llangwm Boating Club members to take to the water. Boat owners enjoyed sharing stories when members came together for the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday November 11th, 2025. The venue, as always, was the Cottage Inn, with thanks to Matthew and his team.

Copies of the updated constitution were available for all who attended. Changes to the club's governing document were agreed last year and bring it into line with the club's present operation and membership.

There has been a demand for moorings within the Llangwm Boating Club area. Five people submitted new applications this season for vessels including a 14 foot motorboat and a 27 foot catamaran. The club invites applications for new moorings every spring. There is still space for moorings on the river at Llangwm. Anyone interested should contact the Mooring Officer, Bog Tyler (llangwm.boat.club@gmail.com). The 2026 application period will open next April.

Members are reminded of the requirements of their mooring licence. Mooring buoys must be clearly marked with the correct mooring number. Any unmarked mooring buoys are deemed to be unlicensed by Milford Haven Port Authority and will be removed by Dale Sailing this winter. Removed mooring tackle will not be returnable.

Once again, Dale Sailing is offering a group scheme for Llangwm Boating Club members who would like their mooring winterised and serviced for the 2026 season. Please contact Caroline Griffiths to book a place (01646 603 105 or carolinegriffiths@dale-sailing.co.uk).

Llangwm Boating Club has, once again, made a donation to Llangwm Community Council towards the upkeep of the toilets at Black Tar. The toilets are an important facility for the village and water users.

There was an unfortunate incident earlier in the season when a member's boat was badly struck by another vessel. It appears to have been a 'hit and run' impact which caused serious damage. We understand that the owner, who was not a Llangwm Boating Club member, has become known to Milford Haven Port Authority for not reporting the incident.

Llangwm Boating Club Officers, Mooring Officer and committee members wish everyone a safe and happy end of the season. It is time to think of necessary laying up work on our boats but also plan for another summer of happy boating.

Llangwm success

Here's another sport at which Llangwm excels: powerlifting.

Helen Carrington, who is not only a powerlifter but a Llangwm councillor, won bronze at the European Masters Powerlifting Championships in Malta in September having in May competed for GB in the World Masters Bench Press championships in Norway and won silver at the British Masters in February. And that's only this year's tally.



And there's even more. Llangwm's Evelyn Thomas won two silvers at the World Para Powerlifting Championships in the New Gen category in Cairo, one for three successful lifts, the other in the total medal ceremony. She also won first place and best New Gen athlete for GB in the World Para Powerlifting International in Ireland in July



And at the risk of telling readers what they already know, powerlifting is not the same as weightlifting, focussing on lifting the heaviest weight in three lifts, whereas the Olympic sport of weightlifting emphasises speed and techniques.

Llangwm's amazing rowers

Bill Muldrew

The 2025 season ended with Llangwm once again winning the Welsh Sea Rowing South League Shield and the South Club Shield which were presented on 19th October at the WSR Presentation evening. Sixteen of the club members attended and we also won additional trophies as follows: South Senior Vets, Joint Senior Vets, South Mixed Vets, South Ladies Vets, Joint Ladies Vets, Joint Ladies Super Vets, South Ladies Super Vets and South Ladies.

The Club participated in many races throughout the summer including races in Fishguard, New Quay, Llangwm, Solva (Ramsay Island), Mumbles, Neyland (Nobbler), Cardigan (Mermaid Race) and the 5 Miles from Home Race. Unfortunately races at Solva, Aberdyfi, Clevedon, PYC (Neyland) and Aberystwyth were cancelled due to weather conditions. Trophies are back on display at the Cottage Inn.

Social rowing and training were all well attended and contributed to the success of the club. The end of season bash will take place on the 21st November at the Cottage. Over the coming months our four boats and equipment will be undergoing refurbishment and to that end it is hoped to stage some fundraising events. These will be posted on the Cottage and our Facebook pages. Over the winter social rowing and training will continue (weather permitting) in preparation for the 2026 season.

Helen Heaton our club chair will be taking part in the World's Toughest Row across the Atlantic with three colleagues (Denise Leonard, Liz Collyer and Heledd Williams), and heading off to the Canaries for the race which starts on the 12th December. Prior to that there was a leaving bash at the Ship Inn Solva on 31st October.



Cariad's crew - setting off in December



Cariad - soon to be on her way

To Cariad and the crew: Wishing you a safe and successful row. And thank you also to those who provided sponsorship and support. We will be with you in spirit and tracking your progress.

Finally, a big thank you from the club to all those who have supported us throughout the year and in particular the Community Council and Lyn Morgan for providing storage for our boats and trailers.

Thanks also to the club members who have all worked so hard, attending training and events to make our club so successful.

Fantastic Llangwm ladies save the day!

Barry Childs

Unfortunately, the 2025 cricket season was a disappointing one for both our men's teams - but well done to those players who stuck to the task against considerable odds. On a brighter note, however, the re-formation of a ladies' team in our village was a brave and very successful venture.

The squad was made up of 'older hands' and those who were new to the game. I managed to watch most of the games at home and away and what struck me most was the commitment, the willingness to learn and the togetherness of a very impressive group led from the front by captain Pam Asson.

The resurgence was not only remarkable for what happened on the field but what happened off: the attendance at training/coaching sessions, the level of support and the 'feel good' atmosphere surrounding the group. To have finished the season second in their league was an outstanding achievement.

The ladies played 9 league games, won 6, lost 3, winning their last five games. Pam Asson scored 310 runs, the most in the whole county and Daisy Brick took 14 wickets, again the most in the county.



Below you will see a poem for which I am grateful to Natalie Braney which encapsulates what has been said earlier.

Ode to the Llangwm Ladies.

In the heart of a village by Pembrokeshire's tide
A team rose of courage with Pam as their guide,
No wickets, no bats, not a pad had been worn
But from laughter and learning a legend was born.
With Zoe the vice steady, bright and sincere
And coach Toby's voice ringing strong full of cheer
They gathered with giggles and puzzled delight
Which end of the bat? Just hold it tight.
They stumbled and fumbled through the opening match
Missed throws at the stumps and many a missed catch.
But spirits stayed high and smiles didn't fade
Each bruise was a badge of the effort they made.
The scoreboard was cruel, the wickets fell fast
But determination held firm to the last.
They trained in the rain, through the sun and the pain
And slowly the losses turned into gain.
A cut shot, a yorker, a catch from the sky
A village began to look on with pride.
From bottom they climbed, game after game
Soon the league whispers were calling their name.
They finished in second, a feat so well earned
So much grit in their souls and their loyalty burned.
Not champions in gold but champions in fire
These resolute ladies rose higher and higher.
So here's to Pam and her steadfast crew
To Zoe and Toby and all they went through.
A tale not of trophies but hearts set alight
Of women who dared and learned how to fight.

Well done to all concerned. Brilliant.



Happy 140th with a special guest!

Dan Chesmer

Welcome back to the new season at Llangwm RFC, which marks a truly special milestone for the Club as we celebrate our 140th anniversary -- a testament to the enduring spirit of community, sport, and tradition in our village. From humble beginnings to a thriving club, we now run nine teams across minis, juniors, and senior age groups, continuing to offer young people and adults alike the chance to play rugby, grow in confidence, and belong to a great village club.

This milestone is only possible thanks to the dedication of the people involved, past and present, and a massive thankyou must go to our coaches, players, parents, managers, and first aiders – each of whom is amazing. We must also thank our sponsors, club members, committee and volunteers, who are vital in ensuring that rugby continues to grow and prosper in Llangwm. We are always looking for new recruits, both on the playing and volunteer side, and we welcome anyone who would like to join us in continuing the tradition of rugby in Llangwm.



*The
U13s'
amazing
season*

Under the new coaching setup of Jordan Evans, Gethin Thomas and Dan Richards, the senior team started pre-season well with a win over Milford 2nds and looked forward to the first few league games. As with many teams in the Pembrokeshire region, injuries and unavailability have made it hard to find consistency in playing squads. In early October, the club reached out to recruit players and received a great response from the local rugby community.

In the next game, the team beat Llanybydder to secure their first league win of the season and are currently 8th in the 4 West A table. With new captain Morgan Rees leading from the front, we look forward to the rest of the season and wish the boys the best of luck.

After four seasons of youth rugby, we were gutted not to be able to field a side this season, as we struggled to get the numbers required for matches. The coaches and committed players have put so much into the team over the years, and we look forward to welcoming those

players back to Llangwm in the future as they continue their rugby journey.

Our Junior and Mini Section continues to grow, with amazing teams from U7s to U14s who regularly compete with the best in the county. Last season's U13s (now U14s) have continued to build a fantastic squad of players, picking up silverware by winning the Devon Cup while on tour, as well as claiming victory in the Pembrokeshire Plate Final – rounding off a fabulous season for the team. Once again, the coaches and helpers are vital in making all this happen, and a massive thankyou goes out to them all for their hard work and dedication.

The 140th anniversary celebrations are well underway, starting with the Llangwm RFC Golf Day held in September, which was well supported by 26 teams. But the 140th anniversary dinner on November 8th was the star of the show with guest speaker, referee Nigel Owens MBE (see picture below with committee). With the annual Boxing Day game taking place in Llangwm this year and more events planned for 2026, it's shaping up to be a busy season for the club. These occasions are not only great fun but also help raise much-needed funds for the club – so please support if you can.



The clubhouse will be showing international and club rugby matches throughout the autumn on Friday evenings and Saturdays so please keep an eye out for opening times and come and support. We are a friendly and inclusive club and we are always looking for new players and people to help out or join our club. If you are able to spare a couple of hours on a match day weekend or can help out in the week, please see the contact details on our website and get in touch.

Your club needs you !! <https://llangwm.rfc.wales/contact>

Eight teams, 100 youngsters

Rhiannon James

The new rugby season is in full swing for Llangwm's minis and junior section. In the club's 140th year, we are very proud to have eight teams sporting the famous black and amber shirts – under 7s, 8s, 9s, 10s, 11s, 12s, 13s, and 14s – with around 100 youngsters training and playing matches for the young wasps each week.



The U10s who represented Llangwm at Parc y Scarlets

This is a great achievement for a village club and our teams are definitely holding their own against bigger clubs in the county, with some great results in our matrix matches already this season. This includes the U11s who recently braved the weather for a county festival and came away with a record of played four, won four, beating Haverfordwest, Neyland, Pembroke and Tenby. Well done!

The U11s are currently raising money to go on tour next year and held a successful curry and quiz night in the club to kick off their fundraising.

We were very proud to see our U10s representing Llangwm at Parc y Scarlets in September. They were flag bearers at a match between the Scarlets and Munster and played on the field at half time.



The U11s after winning all their matches in the county festival

Our Under 12s, 13s and 14s are all through to the quarter finals of the knockout cup competition, which will be played in February.

We are building a reputation as a strong club playing a high standard of rugby with polite and friendly children who respect the values of the game and display good sportsmanship. This is all thanks to the hard work of the volunteer coaches and team managers who give so much time to the club and also the commitment and support of all the parents. We are very grateful to you all.

New players are always welcome to join Llangwm. Boys and girls from school year 2 and up are welcome and no experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun, play rugby and make friends. Training takes place for most teams on Wednesday evenings at Pill Parks at 6pm. Head to our Facebook page to find out more or contact Rhiannon James on 07968 104032.

A great place for ospreys & success for the swans

Graham Brace

I wonder how many of our readers have had the good fortune to see this iconic raptor? The osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), a.k.a. sea hawk, river hawk, fish hawk, is one of Britain's largest birds of prey, up to 60cm from tail to beak and up to 180cm wingspan.

It is a summer visitor migrating 3000 miles to breed in the UK from its winter quarters in sub-Saharan Africa. Keep your eyes peeled from mid-March until late September when they can, if you are lucky, be spotted along the length of the Daugleddau, its creeks and tributaries. Generally, they are passing through en route to or from their breeding sites in North Wales, Cumbria and Scotland.



Photo by kind permission of Brian Southern

Persecution in Victorian times led to their extinction in the UK. They first re-established themselves as a breeding bird in Loch Garten in Scotland in 1954 where they were vigorously protected around the clock after several devastating thefts by egg collectors. Since then numbers have slowly increased and in 1996 they were successfully reintroduced to Rutland Water in central England from where they have now spread to Wales. There are now around 300 breeding pairs in the United Kingdom with much of this success being attributed to the conservation work of the wildlife trusts.

The osprey feeds solely on fish and if you do see one you may be even luckier to witness the spectacle of it catching its prey. Spotting an unsuspecting fish swimming near the surface it plummets from a height with talons out-stretched, hitting the water at speed and becoming almost completely submerged. Once resurfaced it then takes to the air again, often appearing to require a great effort particularly if it has caught a large mullet or bass. If successful, once in the air again it very deftly rearranges the alignment of the fish in its talons so that it points forward, torpedo-like, to make it more aerodynamic. A true spectacle!

The chances of seeing an osprey locally are more favourable in the autumn when greater numbers, increased by the season's youngsters, are returning. They often linger sometimes for a few weeks around the Daugleddau, stocking up on food and building their energy for the long journey back to Africa. They are more likely to be seen in the lower reaches of the Western and Eastern Cleddau and the pills of the Daugleddau at Millin, Sprinkle, Cresswell, Carew and Westfield. This autumn an osprey remained for three weeks in Westfield Pill and was seen almost daily by walkers and cyclists from the track.

I am hoping that it is only a matter of time until they establish a nesting site on our waterway. The upper reaches particularly offer superb cover with heavily wooded fringes and the river provides an abundant supply of fish. I gather that one or two nesting platforms have already been optimistically erected in the hope that one day an enterprising pair of these superb birds of prey will be encouraged to stop over and breed locally.



Photo: Ceri Brown

At long last our resident pair of mute swans has succeeded in raising a family unaided - a process which has been much talked about and lovingly observed by many of the inhabitants of Llangwm. Limited success was achieved just once in recent years when they raised two youngsters from a clutch of six eggs on a raft constructed and placed midstream in the Pill by a couple of enterprising shore dwellers.

This year common sense prevailed and they managed to build a nest just above the spring tide limit on a high point on the north side of Guildford Pill. Somehow, they have evaded predation by foxes, herons, gulls and raptors, and those four cute balls of fluff have grown into fine cygnets which currently are nearly as large as their parents.

Come spring when the parents once again get the urge to breed they will be driven off from the security provided by mum and dad to make their own way in the natural world.

Fingers crossed for a repeat performance in 2026.

Please report any unusual bird or animal sightings to grahambrace@btinternet.com