

Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 22 Issue 1

Sep Oct 2016

£1

CARDIFF HALF MARATHON



Carys Bate, Lauren Poulton and I are running the Cardiff Half Marathon on Sunday 2nd October. We are raising funds for the Macmillan Renton Unit, Hereford. This is a big challenge for us; Lauren and I have never run this far before and Carys, who did run it in 2014, said she would never do it again! We have had family and friends who have been treated for cancer and our motivation now is to raise as much money as we can to help the Macmillan Renton Unit, so other patients may benefit from their help.

After meeting the fundraiser for the unit, Katie Farmer, we are assured that the money will be used to help the rehabilitation of patients. This includes holding counselling and wellbeing classes and providing information folders to every patient they see. The folders cost £5 each and can amount to approximately £6,000 a year! Donations will also go towards extra equipment which will help the nurses within the unit.

Training for this marathon has been a gruelling task for us. When I first started, I couldn't run from my house to the top of Brecon Road, but now I have made it to 10 miles (only another 3 to go!). Lauren has been working long hours and has been finding it difficult to fit in a lot of running and Carys has struggled with injuries and did think at one point she would have to pull out of the race, but Carys is not one for quitting and she is determined to walk, run or crawl to complete this marathon!

To help us achieve our goal and raise as much money for this worthy cause as possible, we would be grateful to receive any donations. This can be done by visiting our Just Giving Page (link below), by contacting one of us or we have a sponsorship form up at the Golf Club.

Thank you for reading this. We will let you know how we got on and how much we raised in the next issue!

Claire Meredith

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Claire-Meredith-Carys-Bate-Lauren-Poulton

Good luck girls:- we look forward to a report and a few pictures in the next issue. ML

Painscastle and District Annual Fete and Sports Day

The annual Fete took place Sunday August 28th 2016.



Official opening of Painscastle Bus Shelter / Information Centre

The rain came and it went, came and went, no one could guess what the weather was going to do. This, however, did not stop the masses from turning up to what turned out to be a Fete Day to go down in history!



It all started with the grand opening of the Painscastle Information Centre, as everyone gathered for the Fancy Dress parade. The Wheelbarrows could be seen rolling up the street, the effort made by everyone was immense.

Smiles all around as the sun shone down on Roy Lloyd's field. The Fete was opened by Mr and Mrs Cooper and Tim and Beau were in their comfort zones with the micro-



phone in hand. The day started with the same amount of enthusiasm as it had when it finished. Lots of competitions, fun for the children in the Tots Group soft play area and a short lesson in Horse Riding provided by Becky Miles, Tea and Scones in the marquee and the YFC tent provided entertainment for all ages.



But the day did not stop here! As the aromas from the BBQ made their way up to the field, everyone descended to the hall to stock up on food and drink. Then the Wheelbarrows came to life, as locals raced against the clock and one another, up and down the village, stopping to drink and eat refreshments! One lone cyclist passing through the village at the same time had a very puzzled looking face; what went through his mind we will never know! As the evening drew in, more games took place - Egg Roulette, hay bale throwing and hit the nail.





Next up, Pig Racing! For anyone reading this who was not there, no actual pigs were harmed in the making of this race! As locals raced against one another on all fours, wearing pig masks and pink capes, down the village hall the night reached its peak.

The Village Hall Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came to the Fete this year, everyone who helped out and took the time to get involved. Without the support of the local area we could not hold the Fete and make it a successful family day out. **Thank you all very very much.**

If you have any suggestions or comments for next year's Fete please let us know, we are always on the hunt for new competitions!

Also, the Village Hall Committee will be holding its Annual General Meeting on October 17th, 7.30pm at the Hall. **EVERYONE WELCOME!!**

GRACE'S ENTRY AT KINGTON SHOW



The entry on behalf of the Rhosgoch & Painscastle Craft Club came second in the 'A celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday'. *Well done Grace.*

GARDENING CLUB

All meetings at Rhosgoch Golf Club at 7.30pm

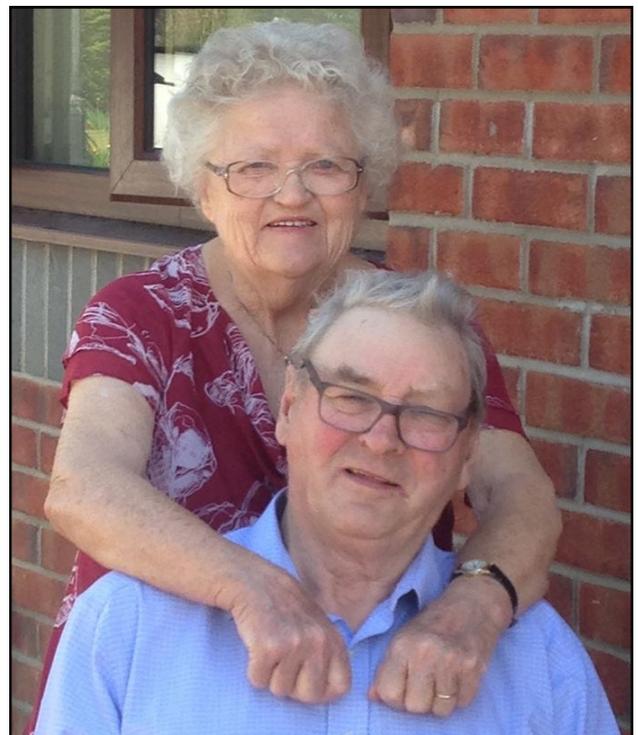
- Oct 13th From the plough to the plate - Steve Morgan
- Nov 10th Beeswax painting - Julie Reed

■ Monthly meetings (Thursdays) at Rhosgoch Golf Club.
 ■ For further details contact Edwina 01497-851284 or Pat Harley 01497-851632

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Many congratulations to Mervyn & Eileen James on their diamond anniversary on 5th May.

They had a party for family & friends on 28th May at Rhosgoch Golf Club. Rather than gifts, donations totalling £550 were divided equally between Wales Air Ambulance & Macmillan Renton Unit Hereford.



Woolly Wales – a grand day out!

Sheep have played a vital part in the Welsh economy for centuries but have you ever wondered how the wool on the sheep around us turns into a warm jumper or blanket? If so, the National Wool Museum of Wales, near Llandysul, is a grand day out.



The Museum's listed mill buildings

The Museum

The National Wool Museum is housed in the former Cambrian Mills - four Grade II listed buildings. It includes historic textile machinery, a woolly trail that explains the story of wool from fleece to fabric, a textile collection and special exhibitions as well as demonstrations and workshops, many aimed at children. You can also see woollen cloth being made in the traditional way at the commercial working mill, Melin Teiffi (weekdays only).

History of wool production in Wales

Whilst the museum mainly focusses on the impact of mechanisation on the Welsh wool industry which led to its success in the 19th century, there are artefacts and references to the early history of wool production.

The industry developed from domestic craft to an industry exporting wool and then cloth in the early 14th century. Manual techniques and processes that had been used for centuries were gradually replaced with new devices. From about 1790 mechanisation saw wool production develop from a mere supplement to farming to a thriving industry in its own right.

The rural wool industry in western Wales flourished, largely due to the availability of water to drive machinery and wash the fleeces plus close proximity to the sheep farms for raw material. By the 1890s there were over 250 woollen factories in west Wales and success continued until the end of the First World War, when demand for soldiers' uniforms fell and prices collapsed. Mills rapidly closed and today few remnants of the golden era remain but the working mill Melin Teifi at the museum is one of them.

From fleece to fabric

The museum trail follows the industrialised process from fleece to fabric through the processes of willowing, carding, spinning, weaving and finishing.

Wool first needs to be washed, then untangled and straightened in a process called *willowing*.

The museum has an electric powered willower which disentangles the wool by passing it through a large revolving drum covered with iron spikes, nicknamed 'the Devil' because of its sharp teeth. It was dangerous work and a man once lost an arm in the machine.

It may then be dyed before *carding*. Huge carding engines, 20 metres long and weighing 10 tons, comb the fibres so they won't break when spun. Carding produces soft rolls of wool called rovings that can then be spun into yarn.



Willowing machine

Spinning then twists the fibres of the roving together to form a continuous yarn that can be woven into fabric. Machines called spinning mules took over from the spinning wheel and these huge electric mules could be operated by just one person and spin 400 threads at a time. Wool was spun onto bobbins that were then taken to the weaving shed to be woven.



A spinning mule

Woolly Words *Spinster*



Originally someone who spins yarn typically done by unmarried women, hence the common term now used to describe an older unmarried woman.

Weaving turns the spun yarn into cloth. There are daily demonstrations of this process by an artisan weaver working on one of the museum's electric looms. Beware, it is very noisy, even with just one loom running. The mill would have housed



Cloth being woven on an electric loom

many looms so just imagine the noise the mill workers would have had to endure. And it would have been dangerous - the shuttle that carries the thread back and forth through the loom travels at 30mph! With the early machines the weavers would have also needed to keep a mental count of each time the shuttle passed through so they knew when to change colour according to the pattern.

Finishing

Cloth may then go through a process called *fulling* where it is cleaned and thickened in a process similar to felting. Historically this would have involved pounding the cloth in water with hands or feet but from the medieval period fulling was done in a water mill known as a fulling mill. It has been recorded that Painscastle/Rhosgoch was the site of a fulling mill in 1309 although its location cannot be established.

Woolly Words



The Welsh word for a fulling mill is 'pandy', hence the common place name Pandy

Cloth was dried in sheds where frames called tenters with hooks are used to hang and stretch the fabric into shape as it dries and shrinks. The surface of the damp cloth may also be combed with garden grown teasels to make it soft and fluffy. A machine called a teasel gig was invented to do this and could hold 3000 individual teasels.



Samples of Welsh cloth



Woolly Words

Tenterhooks

Evolved from the process of stretching woven cloth after washing to keep its shape – using tenters and hooks. Usage evolved to mean ‘under tension’ or now a ‘state of anxiety’



The cloth is then ready to be made into clothes or blankets. The museum’s textile gallery has a selection of cloth and clothes made from Welsh wool, from soldiers’ uniforms to 1960s fashion.

Museum details – website <https://museum.wales/wool/>
National Wool Museum, Dre-fach Felindre, near Newcastle Emlyn, Llandysul, Carmarthenshire. SA44 5UP
The museum is about a 2-hour drive from Painscastle and allow half a day for your visit. Entrance is free and there is a nice café and also children’s play and picnic areas.

Jackie Stephens

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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sarah Emmerson and Richard Thomas, Upper Llandewi, Llandewi Fach, on the birth of a baby girl Anna Gwendolen Rose Thomas on 8th August, 2016.

MIKEY’S DIARY



By now I expect you all know that I am at the beck and call of everyone at ‘Lundyville’ - that is TD’s name for it anyway, mainly because no-one seems to leave they just take over another shed! Mo is the most demanding, but then I suppose that is alright as she is the one who feeds me. So I dutifully go out with her every morning and evening to ‘do the pups’. Of course they are no longer pups, they are huge sheepdogs, but they are still very immature! They leap about and knock anyone and anything over as they go. Mo’s job is to train them, I do my best to help but it is an uphill struggle. I feel a bit sorry for Mo really as it can’t always be her fault that they are so wild. They also like to be heard and that makes them unpopular, especially if they bark in the night, or early on a Sunday morning when some of the Lundy humans think they would like a lie in. I have developed selective hearing which serves me well, so they don’t disturb me.

I am not sure if we can really say that the training is going well. They love going around the sheep but so far it is only the tiddlers on the back yard. I am not sure if the reason for that is Mo is afraid of the tiddlers running away or is she frightened of losing the dogs. I think it would be a great relief if they went off for a while and gave us a bit of peace and quiet. She has now more or less got the tiddlers trained and I have learned to keep out of the way, I am allowed in the training area as long as I keep to the side and don’t upset things. The tiddlers don’t take any notice of me in any case so I don’t know why she worries about me, she has much more work teaching Blue and Gyp the difference between left and right. Why that matters so much I am not sure, but it is something to do with sending the dog on the outrun. The aim of that apparently is to gather all the sheep in the area, I think Blue and Gyp need a few more lessons yet!

I don’t know if you read the column that the vet wrote last time, but it would have helped if Mo had read it, but then I’m not sure that she reads the ‘Gossip’! If she had she may have noticed that I had ‘visitors’. Kate said she thought Bailey & Ozzie had ‘visitors’ too. I was very unhappy so Mo took me to the vet. I have discovered over the years that vets are improving, I didn’t used to like them at all especially after my motor accident when I was hospitalised for a while and then kept in a cage. This time we saw Matt. He was quite a kind man in shorts. He said “oh dear you are in a poor state, those flea-bites have got inflamed.” I had scratched quite a patch and he took clippers and clipped all the hair off the middle of my back. Then he washed the infected bites and gave Mo some cream to put on them. The only thing I didn’t like was when he stuck a needle in my neck but I only sang out once, I was quite brave really. Geraint now calls me the saddleback, which I don’t think is very nice. All us dogs have now had pills to get rid of our ‘visitors’. Lindsey said I shouldn’t mention this, I know humans pretend they don’t have the problem, but I have heard them whispering about them being in school - you know!

Abbie has now moved into her new house, well it was a shed but it is a big place so she has taken her dad Matthew & her mum Pam with her. They seem to like it there, but they leave their wellies outside the door which Blue thinks is for him to play with. She still comes to see me as she likes me, so sometimes I take her for a walk. She likes to have a lead so that I can look after her, but then she gets fed up so the lead gets taken off. I am training her to be good on the lead and when she gets really big and strong she can be attached to Blue or Gyp. However, I think that will take a long time as they pull very hard, while I don’t bother, I am never in that much of a hurry.

Mikey

CULINARY COLUMN

The Honey Café

Set the alarm clocks, dig out the hairbrush, sort out the cascade of odd socks that have bred merrily in the cupboard all summer: the seven weeks of school holidays are over. Our joyous chaos has finished, and we all needed a treat at the end of the first week of enforced order. We headed off to The Honey Café after school, and sat outside pretending it was still summer as the black clouds scudded across the Sugar Loaf. The views are picturesque and the umbrellas over the tables are so enormous that it is worth chancing the showers.

The menu is Texmex after 7pm, but with the optimism of a fresh new term ahead we primly resolved to have the kids in bed on time, and opted for the more traditional daytime menu. Fish fingers and chips is much of a muchness and a standard child crowd pleaser, but the plates were left shiny clean so everyone was happy. Anywhere that makes three children feel so welcome, and the parents relaxed, is worth its weight in gold. The description of my battered cod as 'catch of the day' was perhaps a little optimistic but you'll have to excuse this coastal girl for being picky with her fish. The accompanying salad was colourful and plentiful. My Gentleman Friend chose ham, egg and chips, which was again very generous and perfectly cooked.

The Honey Café is a family business with a history worth reading when you visit. Grandma Glynwen established the café in the recession of the 1930s, and many of the delicious homemade desserts and cakes use Glynwen's original recipes. American GI soldiers used to queue at the door for her welshcakes, and the Honey Café still has a good bustle and busy atmosphere. 85 years on and the children very much appreciated a pre-bed nightcap of wonderful blueberry pie and cream, chocolate cake and treacle tart, all guaranteed to make children sleep as soon as their heads touch the pillow. Of course this part is not strictly true, but we did have a lovely family meal in a cosy, friendly environment.

Food *** Service **** Value *** Atmosphere ****

The Honey Café, Bronllys, Brecon, LD3 0LH, telephone number 01874 711904.

Cooking with kids- chunky fish fingers

Some might ask 'is it worth it' before voluntarily covering the kitchen with flour and eggy gloop, so in our house the vote was yes, it is worth it (just). In the taste test between the chunky homemade fish fingers, and the fake tanned kind that Captains prefer, the family voted in favour of au naturel 3:2. I might add that one of the traitors was not a child, and that the making of these was really good fun.

500g skinless, boneless chunky white fish fillet cut into neat thumb-sized strips

100g plain flour, seasoned

3 large eggs, beaten

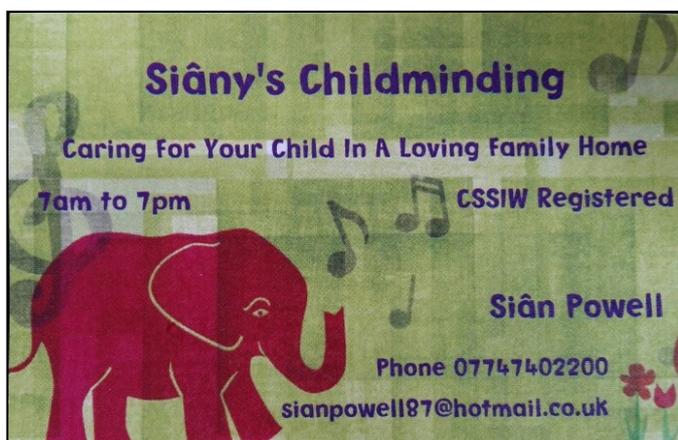
200g dried breadcrumbs

large pinch turmeric (optional)

vegetable oil, for frying

- ◆ Get 3 shallow dishes and set up a production line of flour then egg then breadcrumbs. Children can pour the ingredients into each dish and crack and beat the eggs. If you want the breadcrumbs to be golden then mix through the turmeric.
- ◆ Show children how to methodically dip a finger of fish in the flour, shaking off any excess, then dredge it through the egg and finally roll it in the breadcrumbs so it's completely coated and place it on a plate. This is a job kids as young as 2 can help with but it's a messy one so they may need a wipe down halfway through. The fish fingers can now be laid on a tray and frozen then placed into a bag.
- ◆ Preheat the oven to 200C/180C fan/ gas mark 6. Brush a tray with a little oil, cook the fish fingers for about 10 - 12 mins until golden and cooked through, turn over half way through cooking time.

Taken from www.bbcgoodfood.com



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PAINSCASTLE RECYCLING & RUBBISH COLLECTION

Kerbside recycling collections in the Painscastle area are every Thursday with three weekly rubbish collections. The dates of the rubbish collections are:-

13th October 2016 3rd November 2016 24th November 2016 15th December 2016 5th January 2017

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri Sep 30th Macmillan Coffee Morning at Rhosgoch Chapel
10am-12 noon
Fri Sep 30th Joint Harvest Thanksgiving Service Llanbedr
Church 7 pm
Sat Oct 1st Macmillan Coffee Morning at Painscastle Hall
10am
Sat/Sun Oct 1st & 2nd Red Dragon Endurance Ride
Sat Oct 15th Concert at Llanbedr Church {TheThree Tenors}
Mon Oct 17th Hall Committee AGM at Painscastle Hall 7.30pm
Wed Oct 19th Wednesday lunch club Rhosgoch Golf Club
Sat Oct 22nd Autumn competitions Painscastle Hall
Thr Oct 27th Bingo at Baskerville Hall Clyro Court 7.15 pm
Sun Oct 30th YFC Tractor Run from Rhosgoch 9.30 am
Wed Nov 16th Wednesday lunch club Rhosgoch Golf Club

HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH

ALL SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30pm exceptions
below:-

Thr Oct 6th Harvest Thanksgiving 7pm
Oct 30th United service at Moriah
Sunday School every Sunday morning 10 – 11 am

ADULLAM BAPTIST CHAPEL, PAINSCASTLE

Thurs Oct 20th HARVEST FESTIVAL Revd P Buckingham
7pm

MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN

Services Sundays at 2.30pm
Oct 4th HARVEST Rev Robert Thomas
Oct 16th Rev B Reardon
Oct 30th Joint service—Rev Robert Thomas
Nov 13th Church
Nov 27th Rev Ifor Williams - Communion



**Macmillan Coffee
Morning
Sat 1st October
Painscastle
Village Hall**

Raffle, Chinese Auction,
Cakes, Produce, Games,
Bacon Rolls and More!



MOBILE LIBRARY

The Library bus comes
to this area on the third
Tuesday of the month.
It stops at :
Painscastle Village Hall
for the playgroup
10.45-11.10.
then stops at the Roast
Ox Inn: 11.15 - 11.30.
it is at
Rhosgoch Castlefield:
11.35 - 11.50.
and at the Kiosk at
Newchurch
12.40 – 12.55.

PAINSCASTLE CHURCHES

Services for October

Sunday Oct 2nd	Trinity 19	
9.30 am	Eucharist	Llanbadarn
10.30 am	Mattins	Newchurch
Sunday Oct 9th	Trinity 20	
11.00 am	Eucharist	Llanbedr
Sunday Oct 16th	Trinity 21	
11.00 am	Eucharist	Newchurch
Sunday, 23rd October Last Sunday after Trinity		
9.30 am	Eucharist	Bryngwyn
Sunday, 30th October All Saints.		
11.00 am	Eucharist	Bryngwyn
Sunday 6th November 3rd Sunday before Advent		
10.30am	Mattins	Newchurch

Fr. Paul Keown, phone no. 01982 560653.

Our New Parish Priest.

Paul Keown may have rather an unusual background for parochial ministry. For much of his adult life Paul was a professional actor and singer. Qualifications at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama were followed by 22 years working in television and regional and West End Theatre, including shows such as Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita.

From Paul's theatre days teaching beckoned and he left the theatre to gain his first degree in English/Medieval Studies. He has spent 20 years lecturing/teaching Speech and Drama and has taught drama and the Performing Arts at both secondary and tertiary level. Paul gained a PGCE in Primary Education as he believes this age holds the key to the formation of the individual in a Christian context.

With a growing Christian vocation, Paul trained in Oxford and Ordination followed for him: deaconed and priested in Brecon. Paul's first parish was in Townhill, Swansea and he is overjoyed to be back home in the Church in Wales after serving in London for some years. We believe that the three main aspects of his life experience - communication, teaching, pastoral care – contribute to an exciting blend of gifts for his commitment to life as our Priest - the key to what he hopes to bring to a shared pilgrimage with us in the Erwood and Painscastle group of parishes.

Paul's wife is Carolyn, who also teaches the performing arts. They have three children, Guy, Toby and Katie. Guy is working in Swansea, Katie is working in London and Toby is working at Hereford Hospital.

PAINSCASTLE MOTHERS' UNION

Future Dates:
11th October - AGM and Planning for 2017
8th November - TBC
6th December - Christmas Dinner

You are very welcome to join us for our meetings, held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Painscastle Village Hall at 7.30pm

For more information: Fran Shaw - 01982 560480

Tractors £10

Cars £5

RHOSGOCH YFC TRACTOR RUN

Sunday October 30th 2016
Starting in Rhosgoch LD2 3JU

Breakfast from 9.30 am

Tractors to leave at
10.30am

For more info please call Andrew: 07929 171276

RHOSGOCH & PAINSCASTLE AUTUMN COMPETITIONS

Saturday 22nd October, 2016

Painscastle Village Hall

Open for entries 9.30 am until 10.30 am

Open to public at 2.30 pm

Free Entry Prize money 1st £3, 2nd £1.50, 3rd 50p

3 pm Demonstration by Mrs Marilyn Thomas "Silk Trees"

Estyn Meredith Cup for best mince pies

Sheila Meredith Rose Bowl for best floral exhibit

Section 1 - Open "Ruby Bagley Cup"

1. 5 mince pies
2. Knitted Christmas article
3. 5 shortbread biscuits
4. 3 hen eggs
5. Photograph - winter wonderland
6. Homemade Christmas decoration suitable for hanging on a Christmas tree - any medium
7. Homemade Christmas card
8. Christmas door wreath
9. Any craft not otherwise specified
10. Jar of jam
11. An acrostic sentence using each letter from the word 'Christmas' e.g. C is for Cinnamon, H is for ...
12. Floral exhibit depicting a Christmas pantomime no greater than 18 inches in any direction
13. Prettiest wrapped Christmas present

Section 2 - Open Grandparents Class - Clyro Court Perpetual Cup

1. 5 mince pies
2. Jar of marmalade
3. My favourite childhood toy
4. Item of crochet

Section 3 Open pre-school children

1. Homemade African drum - any medium
2. Papier mache shakers - any medium
3. Homemade decorated Christmas parcel - any medium

Section 4 Open 7 years & under - Mrs T Herdman Memorial Cup

1. 3 decorated Christmas biscuits
2. Picture - any medium
3. Homemade Christmas card
4. Homemade Christmas stocking - any medium

Section 5 Open 12 years & under - Mrs Val Price Cup

1. Drawing of an animal
2. Item of jewellery - any medium
3. Finger puppet
4. 3 Christmas flapjacks

Section 6 Open 18 & under - Mrs G Jones Cup

1. 5 mince pies
2. An item of craft
3. Photograph - friends

Section 7 - Men only - Grace Davies Cup

1. 5 mince pies
2. Craft any medium
3. Photograph - Christmas

Exhibits to be at Painscastle Village Hall by 10.30 am

Competitors can only compete once in each class

Every exhibit must be the bona-fide work of the exhibitor

All exhibits will be on show from 2.30 pm to 5 pm and must not be removed.

Exhibits must be removed by 5.15 pm

Judges' decision is final

Any queries regarding the competitions please contact Mrs G Gore (01497 851264)

EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. We are starting a new year so subscriptions and adverts should be renewed, if you still want to support us.

There are features on local news and events. Mikey has moved to [P5], please don't tell him he is not in colour! Culinary Column [P6], YFC [P12&13], Farm Focus [P14], Tots [P16].

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue, please continue to send articles, news and events. [m.lloyd1@btconnect.com or 01497-851609]. ML (Editor)

The Rhosgoch Gossip is available at Clyro Filling Station & Painscastle Farmers Buying Group. It is available by subscription (due in September), £6 for delivery in Rhosgoch and Painscastle and adjoining areas, £12 posted. We welcome all correspondence, letters, articles, local news, comments etc. For further details 01497-851609 OR m.lloyd1@btconnect.com.

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POWYS PRATTLES

by COUNTY COUNCILLOR JAMES GIBSON-WATT

Our feelings of elation locally about the success of the superb campaign to save Gwernyfed High School and Community Sports Centre have been rather reduced by our anger that the pupils, parents, school staff and our local communities had been put through such unnecessary stress (again). Indeed, the wider County Council membership is becoming very unsettled about the way the Cabinet is carrying out the Council's review of schools in Powys. At a recent meeting of the full Council, members welcomed the Cabinet's proposal to retain both Gwernyfed and Brecon High Schools. But the proposal from my group that the Cabinet should also abandon plans to merge Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells High Schools also won massive support; and the Cabinet's plan to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon (Dolau) Primary School was overwhelmingly rejected as well.

The votes were not binding on the Cabinet, but they were a strong indication that the Council members want things to be done differently, with more concentration on the needs of local communities and proper account taken of the potential impact of proposals *before* decisions are made. It may sound obvious, but consultation with local communities and impact assessments should happen at the *start* of any process, not *after* proposals have been formulated and published, as has been the case with the schools' review. This is actually what the Welsh Government's Schools Organisation Code says should happen. I and others will do our best to ensure that it does happen from now on.

Ironically, the rebellious reaction of Powys County Council members in a way speaks to a wider rebellion happening across western democracies at the moment; a rebellion that is giving us Brexit, the real possibility of a President Trump in the US and the far-right Leader of France's National Front, Marine le Pen, as a front-runner in the Presidential election there next year. Apart from obvious issues like the refugee crisis in Europe, one of this rebellion's causes surely traces back to the financial crash of 2008, which in some countries (e.g. Spain, Greece, US) resulted in millions losing their livelihoods; and even in those that perhaps escaped the very worst effects, like the UK, made everyone, except a very favoured elite, feel a whole lot poorer. People are still understandably angry and frustrated. We all need to kick against something sometimes and turning to politicians who use easy, often divisive slogans as answers to complex problems is, alas, a natural outlet for that anger.

Kicking against the system can be a good and positive thing, as we have seen at our very local level with the Save Gwernyfed campaign. But we should not lose sight of the fact that it can also produce unfortunate, even dangerous results if we are not careful or look the other way. But whatever troubles lie in store, let's at least heed the lyrics of Nat King Cole –

*There may be trouble ahead,
But while there's moonlight and music and love and romance,
Let's face the music and dance.*

Keep well!

Please contact me at any time on 01497 820434 or 07971048737 or at cllrjgw@powys.gov.uk

James G-W

ASSEMBLY NEWS

I hope all *Gossip* readers had a nice summer! In early August I was lucky enough to have an opportunity to spend a morning on Ireland Moor with local graziers and wildlife wardens, learning about some of the challenges that the Moor faces. It is such a beautiful area and areas like this are a vital part of the Welsh ecosystem.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to listen to the vision for the Moor, and especially pleased to learn about the submission of an application under the Sustainable Management Scheme of the Rural Development Programme, to implement a programme of activities to help the moor restore its health to its former glory.

It is great to see the different interest groups working together and I fully support the plans to encourage children to get out into areas such as this to learn about the environment and amazing ecology we are so lucky to have on our doorsteps.

My new role in government does throw up some challenges for me: for example, as the Education Secretary I am constrained from taking a public position on matters where I have a personal and constituency interest. As your Assembly Member, I can however reflect the views of my constituents. This is something I have done throughout my time in office.

There can be little doubt of the strength of public feeling around Powys County Council's plans to close Gwernyfed High School. The response from the community and surrounding communities was absolutely incredible and appears to be a strong reason for the council's recent decision to retain both Gwernyfed and Brecon High Schools.

My good friend and Liberal Democrat colleague, James Gibson-Watt, said of the announcement: "the complete change of direction on the future of Gwernyfed High School by Powys County Council is a victory for common-sense and just reward for the incredible efforts of the local campaigners who have argued so passionately and sensibly in support of the school and its community facilities."

If you have any issues you would like to raise with me, please email me at Kirsty.williams@assembly.wales or call my office on 01874 625 739. I will do my very best to help in any way I can.

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NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

The word on everyone's lips in our area over the past months has been Schools – and rightfully so.

Powys' decision to consult on school closures seemed to me to be the wrong way of looking at service provision in our area. Rather than looking at how to save money, the Council should have been looking more at how to ensure that we, the people of Brecon and Radnorshire, get the best quality of services for the best value for money.

It was clear to me and many others that closing our superb local schools was not the best value for money for education services in our area. With such talented teachers and fantastic facilities, closing the schools completely would have been a great loss to our local area, not just socially, but economically too.

That is why I am pleased that the Council has heeded the call to keep Gwernyfed and Brecon High Schools open and not to go ahead with their proposed merger. I firmly believe that it was the local community, coming together and speaking with one voice against these proposals that did it, so a massive well done to everyone involved.

Now time to continue the fight in other parts of our area. It is only right that education provision has parity across Brecon and Radnorshire and I have once again written to the Council recommending that they keep Builth and Llandrindod High Schools open as well. Radnorshire should have the same provision as Brecknockshire to ensure that educational excellence is delivered across our part of Powys.

In other news, this month I was pleased to back British farming in Westminster to show my support for our fantastic farmers. That is why I am pleased that the Westminster Government has pledged to continue CAP payments until at least 2020 post-Brexit.

Finally, I was also pleased to welcome the excellent new employment figures for our area. We have the lowest unemployment figures in Wales once again. This is further evidence of the benefits of having a majority Conservative Government in Westminster and I urge the Welsh Assembly to follow their lead.

That's it for this month. If you would like to contact me on these or any other issues you can do so by e-mail: chris.davies.mp@parliament.uk, or phone: 01982 559180.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Philip Lewis, Llandeviron
Vice-chairman, Robert Tyler, Lower Pentrecaeau
Richard Ball, 2 Hermon Villas
Monty Graham, 2 Castle Meadow

Treena Davies, Lettypiad
Deri Jones, Portway
David Nicholls, Castlefield Close

Mrs Jenny Smith, Penrhiw

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month.
Agendas and minutes for meetings are posted on the notice boards in Painscastle, Rhosgoch and Llandeilo Graban.

Clerk: Richard Price, Trewylrod 01497-851244

Agendas and approved minutes are also on the Painscastle-Rhosgoch website: www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk

THE RHOSGOCH RABBIT

You have probably heard of the Beast of Bodmin, but what about the Surrey Puma, the Fen Tiger, the Exmouth tiger or the Plymouth leopard? Or indeed any of the other wild Big Cats that have been spotted around the UK, 200 sightings in Devon and Cornwall alone since 2003.

Now we have our own jungle beast – the Rhosgoch Rabbit. There have been three sightings of a large fluffy dark brown or black rabbit wandering Rhosgoch near to Hermon Villas. The animal has not shown any aggression to the witnesses but members of the public should be aware that large rabbits are a clear and present danger if an attempt is made to eat them raw.

Experts in *Oryctolagus cuniculus* are fairly confident that it is not dangerous but suspect it has escaped from a domestic environment to roam the wild. Readers are asked to check their hutches.



Artist's impression of the Rhosgoch Rabbit

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YFC NEWS

Chairman's Log – Shaun Meredith – 2016/17

Week 1 – Stardate 1/8/16

My time as chairman began at our club AGM which was on the Thursday of this week. We had a strong start by gaining Andrew Richie and Meryl Lloyd as they agreed to be our joint Presidents. The leading roles this year are as follows:

Chairman – Shaun Meredith (ME!!!)

Vice Chairman – Rich Meredith

Secretary – Tom Protheroe

Minute Secretary – Charlotte Protheroe

Treasurer – Claire Meredith

It seemed that the next twelve months would be in the hands of the Meredith and the Protheroe families. Let's hope that we are still friends at the end of the year. Aaron Bagley then took over the role of Junior Secretary to give the younger members a voice.

Week 2 – Stardate – 8/8/16

Tom Protheroe, James Poulton and I began this week by writing a short questionnaire on what the members would like to do over the next 12 months. We then got in the car and drove round the club leaders/ vice presidents to give them the letters. We hit a snag however because we decided to go to Clive's first and didn't leave until 9.30, a bit late for anywhere else.

At the meeting on the Thursday at Painscastle village hall, we discussed Kington show competitions and did the quiz we had written earlier in the week. There were a few silly questions at the end of the quiz including a question about cheesy chat up lines, the best was from Rebecca Lloyd which was 'let's rearrange the alphabet and put U and I together'. On the Friday Tom and I continued with our tour giving out the letters which turned out to be a far more successful night. Our first stop was Colin Bagley - we somehow got lost and ended up at John Abberley's chicken shed. As we realised our mistake John turned up so we asked him to be a club helper. We then went to see Ed Evans where we were invited in for a cup of tea and I have to say Ed made one of the best cups I've had for a while. His role as chief tea maker at panto practices has been firmly sealed after this discovery.

Week 3 – Stardate – 15/8/16

This week started with a Hall meeting about Painscastle Fete which was attended by me, Tom Protheroe, Rich Meredith and Carys Bate.

On the Wednesday night Tom P and I went to see Delyth Jones to ask her to be a club leader. It was then on to Andrew Richie to discuss the tractor run and have a general chat which ended up with cider and an in depth Game of Thrones discussion.

We had another meeting on the Thursday night at the hall where we discussed the fete and tractor run. After the business end of the meeting was done we cracked out the board games and horse racing.

On the Friday Night a group of us ventured up to Rhayader for the Radnor Chairman's Ball. I must say Adam Rees of Howey YFC put on the best ball Radnor has seen for a very long time. From what I remember it was an amazing night!

Week 4 – Stardate – 22/8/16

The County AGM was on the Tuesday, it's safe to say it was a long night. We had a strong show of support from our members. The meeting was officially closed at 10.30pm but it was well worth it. Rhosgoch won the Trevaughan Challenge Cup for most attendance at county meetings. Carys Bate and I also received certificates of achievement from National.

On Wednesday James Poulton, Tom P, Charlie East, Ben Stevens and I went up to Painscastle Village Hall to cut the hedge behind the hall. Once we started it became clear that this was not going to be easy. Luckily Iris allowed us to dump the

hedge cuttings on her fire pile. Several dumpy bags full of rubbish later the rear of the hall has become accessible once again.

So the weekend of the fete was finally here. The Saturday morning started with James Poulton, Rich Meredith, Ben Stevens, Aaron Bagley and his cousin meeting at the Poultons. Signs, games and stands were to be built ready for the fete. We had to head back to Hay to get some paint and cleaning products. We then had a wheelbarrow to paint and a BBQ to clean. So the big day had arrived and after a cooked breakfast it was up to Painscastle to set up. As more and more people arrived we started selling the chicken drop game which we sold out fairly quickly. The chicken was placed on the board and after 10-15 mins it appropriately pooped on the name Mary Bird. As the day went on we had a darts competition which was won by Andrew Lloyd.

It was then on to the night fun & games which were organised by the hall committee. First the wheelbarrow race into which we entered four teams. It was won overall by Mark Bowkett and Aaron Bagley. They then had a nail hitting competition and a bale toss. The main event was by far the pig racing. No one knew what this entailed until one by one Beau Herdman, James Lloyd, John Abberley and one other came out dressed as pigs to race on their hands and knees across the hall. Bets were then put on the pig you thought was going to win. This went on for a couple of hours with a YFC lads and a YFC sows race which was won by Tom Protheroe and Lauren Poulton.

All in all the fete was a very successful and enjoyable day. Can't wait for next year!

Week 5 – Stardate – 29/8/16

On Thursday Rebecca Lloyd organised for Ian Price, Ty Mawr to come and do a stockjudging evening for the members. This allowed a practice for Kington show and a bit of fun for the ones who just wanted to see what stockjudging was all about.

Week 6 – Stardate – 5/9/16

It had dawned - the week of Kington show so it was all hands on deck. There were 3 county committee AGMs this week as well which we attended. Josh was Chairing his last Youth Forum Meeting, he has done an excellent job over the last twelve months. James Poulton also took over as Social and Fundraising Chairman.

On the Thursday we had a meeting to build the scarecrow and junior vegetable animal for Kington Show. We decided to do a scarecrow of Andy Murray. After we had made a mess building the scarecrow there was little time for the vegetable animal so Emily Bagley kindly offered to take it home to do.

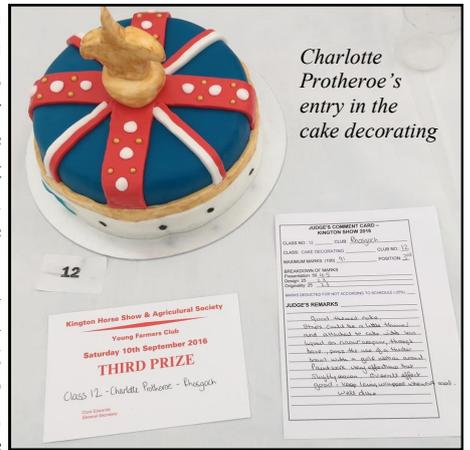
The Friday night was Brecknock Chairman's Ball which was held in Hay. So naturally there was almost a full contingent of Rhos members - the only problem being that they were all competing the next day at Kington Show.

The big day had arrived and apart from a few sore heads everyone was ready. The day started very well with the poster,



metalwork, scarecrow, scrapbook and afternoon tea competitions bringing in early points. Claire Meredith had a first in the afternoon tea. Then the floral, cake decorating, cookery and pot luck competitions were next on the agenda. Charlotte Protheroe and Carys

Bate placed in the cookery and cake decorating. As midday drew near it was time for the stockjudgers to get on their ties and white coats. The Britain's Got Talent had begun on the stage with Rhosgoch getting called up first. So James Poulton,



Tom Protheroe and Sophie Protheroe made their way up there. They put on an excellent routine with Sophie singing Upside Down by Paloma Faith. James and Tom were suited up providing backing dancing for the song.

It was then time for the Scavenger Hunt and Dressing Up



competitions. The Scavenger Hunt saw Rebecca Lloyd and Dan Herdman running around the show ground like lunatics searching for ridiculously random items. In the Dressing Up Emily Bagley and Emma Evans had to dress up an adult as a royal family member. Phillipa Bagley had drawn the short straw for this one haha. The final comp was the Egg Whisking which saw me and Emma Evans on the stage in a timed event cracking eggs into a bowl to get the yolks out. Then we had to whisk the whites as fast as we could and then once it had stiffened up we had to hold it over our heads for three seconds and if any came out the time was disqualified. Emma was really good at this finishing fairly quickly. I had a slight problem however because there was yolk in the bowl so it would not harden up. In the end I just had to put the bowl over my head which saw the entire contents pouring over my head. After I had cleaned myself up all there was to do now was wait for the final results. In the stockjudging Rhos were first and second. We were also second in Britain's Got Talent. We had come third overall - a large cheer erupted. So all the hard work practising and stressing in the weeks leading up to it had been well worth it. All in all it was a fantastic day with everybody pulling together and enjoying themselves.

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FARM FOCUS

Hello from the Jones Family. September is a busy time for us here getting the sheep and cattle ready for autumn/winter months. We have been getting our Welsh Rams ready for the NSA Sale in Builth for the middle of the month, hopefully they will sell if trade is good, as we need to buy a couple more tups. We are hoping to buy a Suffolk tup this year to put to some of our welsh ewes. Also we will be sorting through our ewe lambs to see which ones to keep out of the Welsh to go on their holiday for winter. Also we sort out the mule ewes to go the tup, then to sell them as couples in the spring, hard to think we are thinking about lambing already, but it is that time of year!!

We have now put our bulls in. After a busy summer out with the cows, it's time for them to have a rest and put their feet up for winter. Also on the farm we are busy altering the cattle sheds and improving the farm. We have put in for an efficiency grant for farm improvements and have been accepted so this is helping us to make and alter the farm buildings better for us. Andrew has started the alterations by pulling one shed down and starting again as he says it is going to make it easier for him to feed the cattle, but it seems to be a bit of mess at the moment and he hasn't got a long time left until the cows come in. We try to keep them out as long as possible and hopefully this year the weather won't be too bad for a while. When the cows come in for the winter we wean the calves. We have got 35 this year so there will be a lot of noise in the sheds for a few days. The end of September sees us gathering the hill to get the ewes back in after the summer out on Llanbedr Hill. We go through them, to see if we have anyone else's sheep from the hill as they seem to wander, but we expect some of ours have strayed over the hill too, so will have to go collecting and dropping off or phoning round to say we have got sheep here for other farmers. Then we sort out our ewes into different bunches mark them with a different colour dot on their shoulder to tell what tup they go to and it's easier to tell when lambing which tup the lamb is by.

The other morning, we dropped the girls off for the bus as we told them we were going on a little trip for the day to collect something, and off we went to Bala, as Chunky says "it's not that far". We were going to pick up a new Welsh sheep dog as our dog Bill is getting old and we need something that will take over from him. She's a lovely dog, called Sianne, but she's only been used to Welsh commands, so its a steep learning curve for her and us. But she is getting better at listening to our English commands and she is getting to know where the sheep are to go and what to do. She has settled in well to her new home and our girls are enjoying taking her for walks after school and getting her used to the farm surroundings, Chunky has now got another girl to deal with here at Penlan!!



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Bryngwyn WI Open Meeting

Date: Tuesday 4th October 2016

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Painscastle Village Hall



Exploring Kilvert Country

Our speaker this year is Chris Barber, MBE, FRGS. Chris is a well-established author, having published thirty books, including one on "Kilvert Country"; he is also a skilled photographer.

This promises to be a most interesting and informative talk. **Everyone** is welcome. We would love to see you there!

As always, refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle.

Bryngwyn WI 2016 Programme

Oct 4th Chris Barber – Exploring Kilvert Country

Nov 1st AGM

Dec 6th Diana Balm – A Fun Christmas Activity

Meetings are held in Rhosgoch Chapel at 7.00pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please contact Mollie Moore (851296) or Tracey Martin (851711) for more details.

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Rhosgoch and Painscastle Tots Group Halloween Party

Where: Painscastle Village Hall

When: Saturday 29th October 4pm

What's on: Lots of children's games, bottle stall, best pumpkin carving competition, best fancy dress competition, gruesome feely boxes, **FOOD SERVED**, organised trick or treating £3 per child, food and drink extra



RHOSGOCH CHAPEL NEWS

SANKEY AT RHOSGOCH CHAPEL

The recent Sankey service at Rhosgoch Chapel was so popular that the Chapel ran out of hymn books so many had to share. Sankey is a type of service called after the great American Hymn composer Ira Sankey, whose hymns are noted for their rousing choruses and moving narratives - in other words, they are good to sing. There are many hymns in a Sankey service interspersed with appropriate texts which define the songs' relevance in the programme. This year's Sankey was the third organised by congregation members Enid and Margaret – they get better every year.



A highlight of the service was the beautiful harmonic voices of guests Sarah Butterfill (on left) with John and Annis Jones from BUILT WELLS. John and Annis have been ministering in song for many years and are always a very welcome asset to any service. Their many friends in Rhosgoch were delighted to see and hear them once again, especially with Sarah. We look forward to next year.

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RHOSGOCH AND PAINSCASTLE TOTS

Rhosgoch and Painscastle Mums and Tots have had an action-packed summer. We have been out and about for walks and picnics on Llanbedr Hill, Glasbury playground and on Painscastle Castle mounds. We raced snails with Suzie from Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, which was really good fun, although the snails all went off in different directions! One of the highlights of the summer had to be the messy play session which involved rather a lot of spaghetti, cornflour paste and jelly and a big sheet of plastic... and needless to say quite a lot of very sticky, slimy and happy tots and their big brothers and sisters! We are looking forward to our Africa themed Autumn term. As part of our theme we will be going on a sponsored 'Tots Toilet Toddle' around Painscastle village, raising funds to twin the toilet in the village hall with one which will be built in a community in Africa where there is poor sanitation.. Donations are welcome, please contact Kate 01497851665 or Sarah 07931701840. TOTS is every Tuesday from 9.30-11.30 and everyone is welcome to come along for a play, snack and a drink.

Our group will be running every Tuesday 9.30am till 11.30am. We are open to all babies and toddlers.

At a cost of £1 per child we provide a healthy snack for the children along with a range of activities and a tea or coffee for the parents.

Please come and join us - everyone is welcome!

Tuesday 6th September Paper mache shakers

Tuesday 13th September Painting the shakers

Tuesday 20th September African Cichlid paper fish

Tuesday 27th September African drum

Tuesday 4th October Handprint lion

Tuesday 11th October Paper plate elephants

Tuesday 18th October Textile print with comb and potato, and printing wrapping paper

Tuesday 25th October Sponsored toddle – Toilet Twinning

Tuesday 1st November Decorating stockings

Tuesday 8th November Hand and foot print Christmas cards

Tuesday 15th November Decorating willow stars

Tuesday 22nd November Snowmen Note change of venue Sian's house

Tuesday 29th November Felt tree decorations Note change of venue Karen's house

Tuesday 6th December Christmas trees Note change of venue Kate's house

Tuesday 13th December Christmas Party 10.30am at Rhosgoch Golf Club

For further information please contact Kate 01497 851665 or Siân 07747402200

PAINSCASTLE OLYMPICS - Snail racing



This topical event was led by Suzie, our People and Wildlife Officer. It was a beautiful sunny day and finding snails was not difficult as they had climbed up docks and were hiding under the leaves! The children even caught a dragonfly resting in the shade. About 20

competitors were soon rounded up and a wet paving slab provided so the snails could move more easily. Then the tense wait for the gastropodal athletes to come out of their shells. About 8 snails decided to



enter the sprint! Start and finish lines were drawn and they were off, although it was rather like the sketch from Monty Python's Flying circus - as they set off in very different directions! But in the nail biting end there was a winner that took gold just a tentacle ahead



of the others. The leading snails were awarded a podium tribute to enthusiastic applause.



All hard at work when Radnorshire Wildlife came to visit

Opposite - all the excitement of a snail race.