

# Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 23 Issue 1

Sep Oct 2017

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## PAINSCASTLE FETE IN COLOUR



### Painscastle Fete 2017

The Village Hall Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for attending this year's annual Fete on August Bank Holiday weekend. The day was filled with activities from start to finish, lots of good food and fancy dress. The lovely weather ensured lots of fun and we all cooled down with an ice cream or two!

Thank you again to everyone that came; the Fete raises well needed funds to help keep the Hall running.

## YFC NEWS

With Shaun Meredith finishing his fantastic year with the YFC dinner, held at Rhosgoch Golf Club on 4th August, the AGM was held at Painscastle Hall on the 10th, and so began my year as Chairman. I'd just like to say well done to Shaun on an amazing year, and well done for carrying us all through with some exceptional enthusiasm.



Thankfully nobody seemed deterred by the change in Chair, and the executive positions were filled by Thomas Lloyd (Vice-Chair), Thomas Protheroe (Secretary), Rebecca Lloyd (Treasurer), with Andrew Ritchie and Meryl Lloyd continuing with their stint as joint-presidents.

The first county meeting of our new year, was the Radnor county AGM, where congratulations must be given to our very own Mr James Poulton, for being voted in as Radnor's new County Vice-Chairman. We know it's been a long time since a Rhos member has occupied this position, but aren't really sure who or when it was, so if anyone knows, please let us know.

After another enjoyable day out at Painscastle Fete, where we got involved in all of the games, the first competitive day for the club was at Kington Show. With all competitions entered, we went in full of optimism. The members' efforts in practicing didn't go unnoticed on the day, with the club gaining a number of first, second and third positions, coming in second place overall, behind the winners Radnor Valley YFC. A very valiant effort never the less, and a great start to the year.



Tom Protheroe's entry at Kington Show 'Ladies Day at Ascot' - second place

On Sunday 24th September, a number of the members took part in Stockjudging day, this year hosted by Edw Valley YFC at the Ddole and Hendy farms. Although there were no winners on the day, all the boys scored well, most agreeing with the judges' placings in at least a couple of categories.

So on to the upcoming events. We have begun practices for workshop skills and sheepdog trails day on the 7th October and Field Day on the 8th, again hosted by Edw Valley. We have a couple of visits booked into our programme this year, and our first one takes place on Sunday 15th October, with a

trip to Gorings', to see their potato harvesting and sorting processes. Our annual tractor run is again being hosted at Andrew Ritchie's, this year on the 29th, so please feel free to come along and bring all your friends for a great day out.

Although the year has started, we are always open to new members and new ideas. If anyone knows anyone who may want to come along, please do invite them. It's a great organisation and I don't think many people say they've regretted being part of the club over the years. If anyone has any queries about anything throughout the year, feel free to contact us in any way.

Richard Meredith: (01497) 820468, 07854 557309, [richard\\_meredith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:richard_meredith@hotmail.co.uk)

Tom Protheroe: 07837 830187, [tom.pro@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tom.pro@hotmail.co.uk)

More photos from the Fete



**FARM FOCUS**

My name is Eva Lloyd, I am 8 years old and I live at Wain Wen, Gladestry with my Dad and Mum, Owain and Suzanne and also my sisters, Mollie who is 6, and Nancy who is 10 months old.

When Dad came home and said Mo had asked him to write the Farm Focus for the Gossip, he said to me it would be a good idea to hear what life is like on a farm from a child's perspective – I think Dad was just trying to get out of writing it!

These are some of the jobs I do on our farm:-

- ◆ Feeding sheep including the tidlings
- ◆ Rounding up sheep
- ◆ Spraying numbers on newborn lambs
- ◆ Writing lamb weights down
- ◆ Going to market (mainly for the food)
- ◆ Collecting up wood.

I like rounding up sheep because one day I want to be an Olympic runner and it is good training.



Living on a farm is brilliant because we have loads of space and Mollie and I can make as much noise as we like without disturbing anyone. I like having a yard because I can ride on my bike and scooter without there being any traffic to worry about. Another thing me and Mollie like to do is play in

the stream making bridges and when Mum comes to see what we're doing we drop the biggest rock we've got in the water to splash her.

On our farm we have:-

- ◆ A herd of cows
- ◆ A Charolais bull called Norman (named after the man who helps us at lambing time)
- ◆ A flock of Welsh Mule ewes
- ◆ A flock of Welsh ewes
- ◆ 2 horses named Freddie and Lucky
- ◆ 2 sheepdogs called Tango and Belle
- ◆ 3 cats named Daisy, Flutter and Pickle
- ◆ 2 toads called Tony and Trevor.

We also farm at The Castle, Painscastle, which has the site of an Ancient Monument that was a Motte and Bailey castle where battles between the English and Welsh were fought – now only the earthworks remain.

The Castle is in Painscastle village and the land reaches down to the Bachowey where legend has it that it ran red with the blood of soldiers after one of the battles, and one of our fields is the graveyard of the fallen soldiers.

Mollie and I like to play hide and seek on the Castle Tumps, there are loads of hiding places. We sometimes find it difficult to find Nanny Iris but Dad says that's because she's so small.

Sometimes Mollie and I ride our Shetland pony called Freddie who is about 26 years old, we've had him about four years, he was with 2 other families before us. We also ride our 50cc quad bike – Mollie doesn't always ride it properly, she does a lot of shouting and tries to do stunts.



I think that's enough from me as this is the most words I've ever written. Bye from: Eva, Mollie and Nancy x



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## TOTAL ECLIPSE USA

Astronomers for many centuries have been able to map the orbits of the Moon and the Earth in relation to the Sun using observational data and mathematics. This information is used to predict, with pinpoint accuracy, the occurrence of the most spectacular celestial event that can be witnessed from Earth, a total solar eclipse.

One such total eclipse occurred on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017. The Moon's 70 mile wide shadow traversed the width of the United States of America from west to east. Eclipses are not uncommon and occur on average twice a year mostly over the sea or inaccessible tracts of land. However, the great American eclipse offered a wonderful opportunity for the largest number of people in history to experience the phenomenon.

Taking advantage of a visit to relatives living on the Gulf Islands, west of Vancouver in Canada, we made plans to go to Madras in the US state of Oregon for the event. Madras is situated on a high plain to the east of the Cascade mountains and offered good weather prospects. Thousands of other eclipse chasers had the same idea and hotel rooms, campsites and RV parks were booked years in advance. So, we decided to travel to Portland the day before, stay overnight and make a 100 mile dash early next morning to our preferred viewing site in Cow Canyon near Madras.

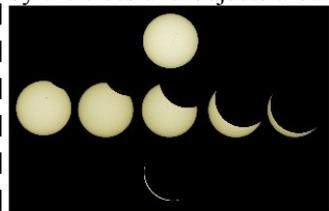
Arriving in Canada, we discovered that, due to really dry conditions in British Columbia and North-Western USA, forest fires were a real hazard and could block our route or the smoke could obscure the view. Horrendous traffic jams were being reported by the local news as an estimated million visitors made their way into Oregon. However, we decided to stick to our plans and drove to Portland. The hotel receptionist recommended that we should set out at 3am to get to Cow Canyon as most of the other hotel guest were leaving at 4am! We took our chances and



left at 5.30am, arriving in good time at Cow Canyon by 7.30am. It was crowded but we were able to park on the side of the road, make our way into the brush and find a quiet area to set up the camera and telescope. The weather was perfect, not a cloud in the sky, all we had to do was wait.

The Moon began its transit of the Sun at 8.05am and would reach totality at 10.20am. We watched the slow progress of the Moon as it crossed the Sun through special eclipse glasses, a fascinating sight.

As time passed more of the Sun became obscured, the temperature began to drop, the light dimmed and the shadows cast by the trees and objects around took on a strange quality with razor sharp edges. Just 5 minutes before totality the sky in the west began to darken dramatically, the shadow of the moon was approaching, the whole area became very quiet, the traffic noise stopped and people sat waiting quietly.



At precisely 10.20am as predicted, the Moon moved in front of the Sun and at this moment many of the spectators began cheering and clapping. The last tiny remaining part of the Sun's disk shone through the valleys at the Moon's edge and this produced a truly stunning sight known as the 'Diamond Ring Effect'.



It took only 10 seconds for the last glimpse of the Sun's disk to disappear behind the Moon and the 'Diamond Ring' vanished; the Sun was now completely obscured. The Sun's tenuous corona (aura of plasma), which extends millions of kilometres into space, became clearly visible as a beautiful and delicate mist of light. The silhouette of the pitch-black Moon against the inky blue/black sky was truly magnificent.

After just 1 minute and 45 seconds (seemed like just a few seconds) the Sun started to emerge from behind the Moon and we were again treated to another 'Diamond Ring'.



10 seconds later, the eclipse had ended and things began to return to normal, the sky brightened and it started feeling warmer.

We decided to pack up and leave asap as we had a long drive ahead. All those who had made their way to this part of Oregon over the previous few days to watch the eclipse seemed to be heading back home en-masse. There were long tailbacks of slow moving traffic on all the roads and so we had the opportunity to leisurely take in the landscapes, farmsteads and small towns of north west Oregon on our return journey.



It had been an unforgettable day. If you fancy experiencing a total solar eclipse then the next one will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019, visible from Chile and Argentina. If you don't want to travel abroad you'll have to wait until the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2090 for the next total eclipse visible from the UK.

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Tuesday 9.30am - Eardisley Village Hall

Tuesday 6.15pm - Booth's Bookshop Studio, Hay

Wednesday 9.30am - Painscastle Village Hall

Wednesday 6.15pm - Clifford Community Centre

Friday 9.15am - Booth's Bookshop Studio, Hay

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## CULINARY COLUMN

### Hay Broth

The children are back in school and the nights are drawing in. Taking the quad round the sheep in just a t-shirt is a memory worth holding onto as days like that are hard to imagine now. Growing up in a town, these cold dreary evenings were sometimes brightened up by getting a takeaway, but living more rurally this is an infrequent treat. Our best takeaway this summer was fish and chips from the Roast Ox, ferried up to the top fields and eaten where we were baling and wrapping. No restaurant table could beat the views of the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons, and below us the field full of shiny wrapped bales.

If you want to venture out from time to time in the evening without the kids in tow, a good babysitter is worth their weight in gold. One that puts up with the kids bickering, tells a good bedtime story, gets the toddler back to sleep when she wakes in the night, and is all smiles and sweetness when you come back home and swears she 'hasn't heard a peep from the kids all night.' Ours has sadly gone to college, and so nights out are on hold. Cue Hay Broth, a local company that cooks up a feast every other Friday which either delivers straight to your door if you are in her catchment, or you can pick up from Clyro petrol station. This week it was Mexican night, and my Gentleman Friend sped off over the hill to return with many interesting looking cardboard boxes. These revealed chargrilled pork, chipotle corn and braised lettuce, and black beans a la Olla, plus blue corn chips, pineapple salsa and red pepper salsa. The pork was flavoursome and there was just the right amount of kick to the corn to make it interesting but not too hot. The classic Mexican beans were tasty and everything was given a bit of a pep from the salsas. A lot of thought had gone into the dishes to make them well presented, colourful and exciting on the plate. Pudding was white chocolate and lime shortbread which was a calm sweet finish to a meal full of flavour.

Hay Broth started as a market stall in Hay last year and does soups, sandwiches and salads as tasty, healthy and thoughtful Thursday lunches. There is a lot of commitment that goes into making this eating experience, from the retro typed labels on the salsas, to the bright splash of cerise tissue paper that the shortbread is presented on. The website is easy to navigate, and it is a playful and different takeaway experience. And if anyone feels like taking on some babysitting so we can venture out of the house again together once in a while, then do get in touch.

Food \*\*\*\* Service \*\*\*\* Value \*\*\*

**Hay Broth, Telephone Number 07958779052,**

[www.haybroth.com](http://www.haybroth.com)

### White chocolate and lime shortbread.

#### Ingredients

300g plain flour  
200g unsalted butter  
100g caster sugar  
A big handful of white chocolate chunks  
Zest of two limes

#### Instructions

Preheat the oven to 160°C and line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.  
Mix together the butter and sugar until combined into a paste.  
Gently mix in the flour, white chocolate and the lime zest until they are just together but not over mixed.  
Chill the dough in the fridge for half an hour.  
Roll out the dough to about 1cm and cut into shapes.  
Prick them all over with a fork.  
Chill the shaped biscuits in the fridge again for half an hour.  
Bake for about 10 minutes or until beginning to brown.  
Cool on a rack and then decorate with more melted white chocolate for extra appeal.

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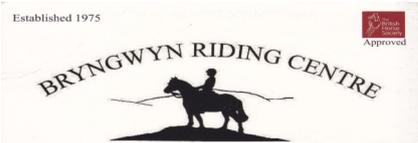
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**MIKEY'S DIARY**



Well summer is over! Actually Mo says it was over in June, but then humans are always looking for things to complain about. Unlike us dogs - we only complain when there is a need, such as when everyone leaves me 'home alone'! I like helping Mo go and move the tiddlers and take the dogs for a walk. I also help her on the computer, sometimes my just being there helps, well I think it helps, although she doesn't often say so. Sometimes I sit on her lap to help her press the right keys on the keyboard - you can probably tell that she doesn't always get that right either!

One day a few weeks ago it was very quiet at 'Lundyville', everyone seemed to have disappeared but I could hear a lot of noise down in Painscastle village. I could hear Beau shouting and it didn't sound as if he was shouting at his dogs or his sheep but it was very loud. So I thought I had better go down to the village to investigate. Well there were lots of people in Roy's field, Beau was there talking into a long lead with a blob on the end! Some of the people were playing with a bat and ball and then running around some posts! While other people were sat on chairs watching them. I had never seen anything like this in Roy's field before, I checked everyone out, picked up any leftover food—wherever you have a crowd of humans you can have quite a feast on their leavings! After a while they gave up playing Rounders and several of the boys started to play football. This was more like it, I am a professional at football, it wasn't easy to see who was on whose side but I didn't let that worry me too much. I went for the ball. We had a really good game, but I am not quite as fit as I used to be so after a while I let them get on without me.

It appears that it was Painscastle fete day, Beau was the commentator and people dressed up in funny clothes. They had lots of running races, competitions and Mo even helped with the dog show. She hadn't told me about a dog show or I could have gone down before. I am sure I would have won a prize, well I would have, if the judge was any good. I did meet woolly Jackie, Mo called her that because she is making woolly Painscastle which is Painscastle in wool! It does sound very strange but she has promised that I can be in it as well.

This is the time of year when Ken and Matthew are playing with the sheep almost every day. Matthew, Pam and Abbie were washing them the other day! The 'boys' as Abbie calls them weren't very impressed. I'm not surprised as I don't like being washed too often either. Mo seems to think that, just because I have had a bit of fun rolling in things, she should give me a bath. Of course as soon as I get out I go and roll again, you would think she would learn and not bother in the first place. I think I have said before, I don't think humans are very bright, but we dogs have to humour them.

One good thing about playing with sheep is that Mo sometimes gets to ride on the quad and she will take me with her. I have a basket on the front for me to ride in, but now they have put carpet on the back carrier. This is for the other dogs. I am quite glad really because one day I had to share with Gyp and there just wasn't enough room for both of us and I nearly fell off, so it is much better if she has her own place to sit. I like being on the front 'cos I can see where we are going, sometimes when I get excited I shout but then I get told off. I don't know why humans get cross when I show enthusiasm. When things are fun I like to tell them.

Ozzie and Bailey live next door, and they have a special enclosure to spend the day. They get very excited when Kate comes home from work and looses them out. In the evenings they often watch telly, and I sneak in to keep them company, after all you have to be good to your neighbours.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat Sep 30th	MacMillan Coffee Morning 10am -12.30pm
Sat/Sun Sep 30th /Oct 1st	Red Dragon Endurance Equine Event
Thr Oct 5th	Quiz at Baskerville Arms, Clyro, 8pm in aid of Bryngwyn Church
Sat Oct 21st	Autumn Craft Competitions
Mon Oct 23rd	Hall AGM at Painscastle Hall 7.30pm
Th/Sat Oct 26-28	Utopia Limited,,Lady Hawkins, Kington 7.30pm
Sun Oct 29th	YFC Tractor Run from Rhosgoch
Tue Oct 31st	Tots Group Halloween Party Painscastle Hall 4pm
Fri Nov 3rd	Race Night & Cheese & Wine in Painscastle Hall for Llanbedr Church 7.30pm
Sun Nov 19th	Evening of Entertainment at Erwood Market Hall 7.30pm
Sun Dec 3rd	Christmas Fayre Painscastle Hall

### ADULLAM BAPTIST CHAPEL, PAINSCASTLE

Wed Oct 18th Harvest Thanksgiving 6.30pm

### HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH

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Sunday School every Sunday morning 10 – 11 am

Thr Oct 5th Harvest Thanksgiving 7pm Revd Chris Gillham

Sun Oct 15th Mission Sunday Service & talk by rep of Mercy Ships 2.30pm

Sun Oct 29th United service at Moriah

### MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN

Services Sundays at 2.30pm

Oct 1st Harvest Rev Andrew Wyton

Oct 15th Communion Rev Robert Thomas

Oct 29th Communion Rev Ifor Williams

Nov 12th Joint Rev G Bingham

Nov 26th Communion Rev B Reardon

Dec 10th Carol Service LG Church

### LOCAL CHURCH NOTICES

Quiz at Baskerville Arms on Thursday 5th October at 8pm in aid of Bryngwyn Church.

This year's Harvest Service for the Group will be on Friday 6th October at 7 pm at St. Michael's Bryngwyn.

Race Night in Painscastle Hall on Friday 3rd November with Cheese and Wine to raise funds for Llanbedr Church

### Bryngwyn WI 2017 Programme

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> The History of Police Dogs

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> AGM

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Di, Sue G and Wendy – Let it Snow!

Meetings are held in Painscastle Village Hall, at 7.00pm, unless otherwise stated. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please contact Mollie Moore (851296) or Edwina Griffiths (8512824) for more details.

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### ERWOOD & PAINSCASTLE CHURCHES

#### Sun Oct 1st Trinity 16

9.30am	Harvest Eucharist	Llanbadarn y Garreg
11.00am	Eucharist	Gwenddwr
11.00am	Morning Prayer	Llandeilo Graban
3.00pm	Eucharist	Llanddewi Fach
6.00pm	Harvest Eucharist	Aberedw

#### Friday Oct 6th

7.00pm	Harvest Eucharist	Bryngwyn
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#### Sun Oct 8th Trinity 17

9.30am	Eucharist	Aberedw
9.30am	Eucharist	Crickadarn
11.00am	Eucharist	Llanbedr

#### Sun Oct 15th Trinity 18

9.30am	Eucharist	Llandeilo Graban
11.00am	Harvest Eucharist	Newchurch
11.00am	Eucharist	Gwenddwr

#### Sun Oct 22nd Trinity 19

9.30am	Eucharist	Bryngwyn
9.30am	Morning Prayer	Crickadarn
11.00am	Eucharist	Aberedw

#### Sun Oct 29th Last Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Eucharist	Gwenddwr
11.00am	Eucharist	Llandeilo Graban

#### Thurs Nov 2nd All Souls

7.00pm	Eucharist	Bryngwyn
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#### Sun Nov 5th All Saints

9.30am	Eucharist	Llanbadarn y Garreg
11.00am	Eucharist	Gwenddwr
11.00am	Morning Prayer	Llandeilo Graban
3.00pm	Eucharist	Llanddewi Fach

#### Sat Nov 11th Armistice Day

10.30am	Memorial Service	Crickadarn
10.45am	Memorial Service	Newchurch

#### Sun Nov 12th Remembrance Day

10.30am	Eucharist for the Fallen	Aberedw
10.30am	Eucharist for the Fallen	Llanbedr

Evening Prayer Aberedw at 6.00pm Tue to Fri excepting Wed, when there is a midweek Eucharist at 6.30pm

Dear Friends in Christ,

Autumn is now with us. Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness! It is good to feel the resonance of that phrase of Keats from his Ode to Autumn – I learned it as a boy and, perhaps unfortunately, the poem stayed in my mind to return every year at this time. Now, as we have been home for a year, it seems obvious how absurdly picturesque is Keats' view of Autumn, especially for many of us who live in Wales - I enjoy the seasonal mists of Radnorshire! I like to live in the clouds.

October is a pivotal month. We thank God for the season of growth with our continuing celebrations of Harvest. Then we rest in the month as the tone of the season deepens in colour and emotion, drawing our hearts toward the sombre atmosphere of November that begins with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls at the beginning of the month; the entry into darkness before the exciting Advent of the Light of the World at Christmas.

Sadly, already the Christmas goods are in the supermarkets but let us be the ones to revel in the joy of the present moment and not pre-empt the end of the year. We await Autumn's offering this year and hope that she may be kind to us. Let us remember that Harvest symbolises the gathering in of all the summer sunshine that still we may store in our hearts and barns to keep us fed and watered throughout the colder months in our northern climes of the world. The exotic array of produce that is now available in our shops all the year round has diminished the idea of seasonal foods. How lucky we are. Many of us remember the change from old to new potatoes, truly summer fruits and, at this time of the year, the return of rabbit to the pot. Let us strive

to hold the same potency of feeling in our gratitude to God as when, even earlier, the lands and the lives of people depended on the success of their crops.

There is something very profound in remembering that God made Man from the soil of the ground (Genesis 2: 7) and so through this heritage of our birth we are all literally part of the earth. It follows then that to cherish and nurture the land and her creatures is more than just accepting and honouring God's gift for us; we are fulfilling our own destiny and living in a sacred way that also honours ourselves. In ancient times the King of the people was always identified with the Land over which he ruled and, in this role, would always be prepared to sacrifice himself for the well-being of the land and its people. This is echoed in Biblical terms through King David, who gives us the model of a King who is more than just a warrior and becomes God's chosen representative of the people from his humble first appearance in the scriptures as a shepherd boy. It is an enlightening thought to consider the role of the Shepherd as a sacred vocation and it has been an enduring idea for thousands of years. 600 years before Jesus, the Prophet Ezekiel tells us that God sees himself as a shepherd to his people: **As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among the scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep and I will make them lie down says the Lord God. I will seek the lost and I will bring the strayed and I will bind up the injured and I will strengthen the weak. (34: 12-16.)**

So, if it is the nature of God to care intimately for the land and its people, then for us also it must be a truly natural and Godly task; the Creator and created living in harmony.

It follows then that, in this close relationship between God's people and his world, giving thanks for the goodness of the earth may never be separated from giving thanks for all those people who make it possible to enjoy such an overwhelming choice of nourishment from the fruits of the earth: the farmers and all involved in agriculture, the fishermen, the drivers, the people who work in factories and shops and those who support these people. The list is endless. Also, let us hold firmly in our prayers those who do not receive their full share of the earth's nourishment and pray always for those who covet too much at the expense of others.

It is fitting in the Harvest season that we commemorate St Francis on the fourth of the month of October. Francis was always motivated by the joy of seeing God's creation in all things. It is appropriate to share some words from his well-known *Cantic of the Creatures*:

**Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun,**

**Who is the day and through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness of you, Most High One.**

**Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.**

**Praised be you, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation.**

**Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.**

For Francis, all was inseparable from God. The Father gave us his Son and entrusted His creation to us; all the insecurity of the human condition and our free will are God's gifts to us. Let us, like Francis, hold the warmth of the sun's goodness in our hearts throughout the winter months as we remember that it is the warmth of the Son's goodness that lies at the heart of all creation.

*May the abundance of God's new life in Christ always fill your hearts. All Blessings Father Paul. X*

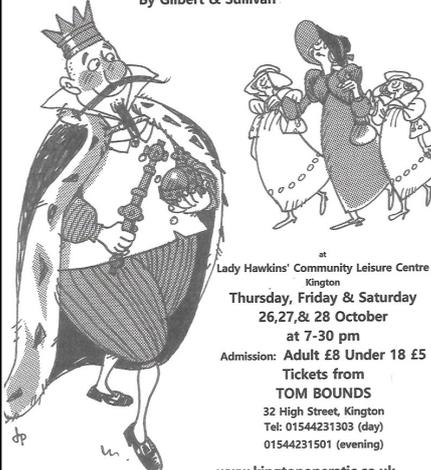
## BRACKEN TRUST

*Bracken Trust is a Cancer Care unit which is self funding. They are collecting old stamps and bras to raise money. If you have any t o d o - nate, please put them in the box at Painscastle Bus Shelter.*

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## PAINSCASTLE MOTHERS' UNION CREAM TEA

When you decide in April for an event in the summer you don't think about the weather until nearer the time. Painscastle MU was lucky, and the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup> July was dry and warm, for the Cream Tea at Blaenhow. The event was to raise much needed funds for Faith in Families, part of the Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility. Currently, because of a major shift in policy by the Welsh Government, the very existence of some of it's work, as well as the livelihoods of staff members, for families, children and older people in disadvantaged communities is under real threat.

Another worry we had was 'would people come?' Our thoughts were about a dozen people, perhaps twenty. In the end forty plus people came to sample the delicious scones and cakes laid out. A farm walk was organised by Kate Shaw. The deer were delighted with the extra attention and ewe nuts and stood quietly to be stroked and photographed. Unfortunately they also expected the same attention and treat the following day!

Thank you to everyone who supported us and to our small group of Mothers' Union members who worked so hard to make the afternoon a success.

Our meetings begin again in September and you are most welcome to join us.

14<sup>th</sup> September – Deanery Festival, 2pm, Trinity Church, Llandrindod Wells

10<sup>th</sup> October – AGM and Planning for 2018

14<sup>th</sup> November – TBC.

12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Dinner

Meetings are held at Painscastle Village Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Tuesday of each month in the winter. For more information contact: Fran Shaw – 01982 560480

## EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. 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).

It is now a new year for the 'Gossip' so subscriptions and adverts need to be renewed. The Rhosgoch Gossip is available at Clyro Filling Station & Painscastle Farmers Buying Group. It is available by annual subscription (due in September), £6 for delivery in Rhosgoch and Painscastle and adjoining areas, £12 posted. E&OE.

## POWYS PRATTLES

### by COUNTY COUNCILLOR JAMES GIBSON-WATT Groundhog Year in Llandrindod Wells

Those who've seen it will recall that in the film Groundhog Day 'our hero' Bill Murray gets up each day, somewhere in small town America, to find the same things happening as happened the day before. Well, that's exactly how it feels to me in Powys County Hall these days, only it's Groundhog Year, not Day. The budgetary chaos of last year is in danger of re-occurring, with the same services (social care in particular) projecting year-end overspends of several million pounds; and the new Independent/Conservative Cabinet appears no more able to keep things under control than the previous purely Independent one.

To be fair, it's not easy. Nearly ten years after the near-collapse of the whole global financial system in 2008, followed by the deepest economic recession for many a decade, the resulting squeeze on public spending in the UK continues to hit local councils like Powys very hard. This is compounded by the fact that Powys has for some years had both an ageing and reducing population. Two-thirds of Powys County Council's £250 million annual budget is grant aid received via the Welsh Government, calculated on a formula based on population and weighted on the number of school-age children in the county. So, despite the funding 'floor' negotiated by our AM Kirsty Williams, which limits the cuts to Powys' and other rural local authorities' budgets that the formula would otherwise produce, year on year for the past 10 years Powys has received less money. That's partly why our Council Tax goes on rising while some services are reduced or withdrawn.

But, and it's a very big But, Powys County Council still has a big budget. Services can and should operate within the funds allocated to them. Last year millions had to be used from reserves to balance the budget. This year's includes the planned use of millions more of those now-limited reserves. There is little left to draw on if the council overspends again. As worryingly, local members like me are receiving reports of sub-standard service delivery in social care and more of our schools are slipping in to deficit positions. The onus is on the ruling Cabinet to both fix the budget problems and any service failures; but its response thus far? – to produce a Vision 2025, promising better everything - better schools, better job opportunities, better housing. Well, unless they stabilise the budget, none of that can happen and as Leader of the largest opposition group (the Welsh Lib Dems) my job is to keep up the pressure on them to do just that.

Talking of pressure, back in the autumn of 2015 I challenged our local MP, Chris Davies, about the fact that most of Glasbury Ward still received no mobile 'phone signal at all. He told me that 'the current Conservative UK Government has done a £5bn deal with the main network providers to ensure that 'by 2017 90% of the UK landmass and 98% of UK citizens will be able to get a 4G mobile 'phone signal.' Hmm.

Well, to be fair, what signal there is has indeed been upgraded to 4G. Problem is the signal coverage is still as it was – rubbish or non-existent. I think we are entitled to ask what has happened to that £5bn of our money? It's time they delivered.

Please contact me at any time about any issue.

Tel. 01497 820434 or 07971048737 or at [cllrjgw@powys.gov.uk](mailto:cllrjgw@powys.gov.uk)

## ASSEMBLY NEWS

I hope all *Gossip* readers had a nice summer. Throughout my time in the Assembly, increasing the number and quality of jobs in this constituency has been one of my top priorities.

I recognise that small businesses are the driving force behind the economy here in Mid Wales. In fact, 93% of the businesses in Brecon and Radnorshire have fewer than 10 employees, so it is vital we support and nurture these small businesses.

When I speak to business people in the constituency, one of the top issues that keeps coming up are the business rates they have to pay. According to figures I have obtained from the Valuations Office Agency, the total number of businesses in Breconshire and Radnorshire that have been subject to a business rates valuation is 3,813.

So it will interest many of you that the Welsh Government is currently consulting the public on proposals for a new permanent small business rates relief (SBRR) scheme for Wales. The new policy will be in place for April next year. It aims to more effectively target support for small businesses.

The consultation proposals include: limiting relief for businesses qualifying for SBRR across multiple properties, reviewing current and future exceptions from SBRR, increasing support for eligible small businesses, providing additional relief for certain sectors which support wider government objectives and what are the longer term considerations for the scheme.

You have until October 13th to submit your comments. It would be great if as many people from Mid Wales as possible took part, so that the views of people in rural areas like ours are heard loud and clear.

If you would like more details of how to take part in the consultation, please contact my National Assembly office on 0300 200 7349 or email me at [Kirsty.Williams@assembly.wales](mailto:Kirsty.Williams@assembly.wales). If you would like to discuss these, or any other, issues with me, please contact me at [Kirsty.williams@assembly.wales](mailto:Kirsty.williams@assembly.wales), or call my office on 01874 625 739.

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## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

The first week of September back in Westminster was one of the busiest I have experienced since first being elected in 2015.

As well as other smaller pieces of legislation, MPs voted on the extremely important EU Withdrawal Bill. This is probably the most important constitutional piece of legislation since the European Communities Act of 1972 and it's about transferring all of EU Law that affects the UK into UK law. Giving our Parliament the power to be able to rid ourselves of the regulations and laws we believe are unnecessary for the country and to keep the regulations and laws that help our nation prosper.

I am extremely dismayed that the Labour Party, Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats have all said they will be opposing the bill. We all know that the vast majority of Liberal and Labour MPs support staying in the European Union and wish we had never held this referendum in the first place. They need to wake up and realise that they can't stop Brexit and that the democratic will of the British people must be respected. If they refuse to respect the referendum result, then they would be undermining the very fabric of our democracy, putting centuries of parliamentary advancement at risk.

A number of Labour MPs defied their whips and voted in favour of this bill as they realised the electoral significance of this vote. Many of their constituencies voted in favour of Brexit and they must represent the views of their constituents in the aftermath of a referendum result. It's sad to see hypocrite Jeremy Corbyn, who privately supports Brexit, being pushed to reject the bill by his pro-EU MPs. He should stand by his beliefs no matter how unpopular in his own party.

However, the Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru voted en masse against the bill in a cynical attempt to delay Brexit.

I hope to see leading figures of the Brecon and Radnorshire Liberal Democrats condemning their MPs' behaviour in the coming weeks and months.

If you would like to discuss a local issue or campaign, please contact my office at: Office Number: 01982 559 180  
Website: <https://www.chrisdavies.org.uk>

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Deri Jones, Portway  
Vice-chairman, Jenny Smith, Penrhiw  
David Nicholls, Castlefield Close  
Becky Miles, The Cwm  
Iris Lloyd, Caemawr  
Sian Powell, Lletycoed  
Andrew Ritchie, Castle Brook  
Bruce Evans, Lwr Pentre

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: Marion Hughes, Waun y Pentre 01497 851628

Agendas and approved minutes are also on the Painscastle-Rhosgoch website: [www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk](http://www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk)

## PAUL MEREDITH

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## RHOSGOCH & PAINSCASTLE AUTUMN COMPETITIONS

Saturday, 21st October, 2017

At Painscastle Village Hall

Open for entries 9.30 - 10.30am

Open to public at 2.30pm

Free Entry: Prizes £3, £1.50, 50p

Competition theme for 2017 is children

### Section 1 - Open "Ruby Bagley Cup"

1. 5 Butterfly cakes
2. 5 Cheese straws
3. A jar of chutney
4. 3 Hen eggs
5. Homemade Toy - any medium
6. Hand-held fresh floral item suitable for a child to carry at a wedding
7. Floral exhibit depicting a Nursery Rhyme - no greater than 18 inches in any direction
8. Homemade child's birthday card
9. Any craft not otherwise specified
10. Limerick - "When Larry went down to the Fair"
11. Poem - When I was a child
12. Photograph - Childhood fun with a caption
13. My favourite tin
14. Homemade item suitable to be hung in a child's bedroom - any medium

### Section 2 - Open grandparents class - Clyro Court Perpetual Cup

1. 5 Butterfly cakes
2. Jar of Jelly
3. My favourite childhood item with a description as to why it is your favourite item
4. Item of knitted clothing for a baby

### Section 3 - Open - Pre-school children Mrs G Jones Cup

1. Picture of "Baa Baa Black Sheep" - any medium
2. 3D model of "3 Men in a Tub" - any medium
3. Wee Willie Winkie Lantern - any medium
4. 3 "Old MacDonald Farm Animal" Biscuits

### Section 4 - Primary School Age Mrs T Herdman Cup

1. 3 Decorated Rice Krispie Cakes
2. Homemade Invitation to my party (not to be done on the computer)
3. Homemade Birthday card - any medium
4. Edible Necklace

### Section 5 - Craft Club Members only Mrs Val Price Cup

1. 5 Butterfly cakes
2. Cushion - any medium
3. Item made out of felt

### Section 6 - Men only Grace Davies Cup

1. 5 Butterfly cakes
2. Craft any medium
3. Photograph - Animal/Animals with a caption
4. 5 Rock cakes

Estyn Meredith Cup for best Butterfly cakes

Sheila Meredith Rose Bowl for best floral exhibit

Craft Club Cup for the best craft exhibit

Note: Exhibit to be at Painscastle Village Hall by 10.30am

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 to 5pm

Exhibits must be removed by 5.15pm

Judges' decision is final

Any exhibit which has been awarded a prize card previously should not be entered again at these competitions

Any queries please contact Mrs G Gore (01497 851264)

For your interest this year we have prepared an informal quiz to identify some historical objects

### PAINSCASTLE HALL

Painscastle Hall Committee will hold their AGM on October 23rd at 7.30pm, the meeting is open to all to attend so please feel free to come along.



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### VISIT TO THE GOATS



A group of us went to Cwrt y Cribben to see the goats being milked. They are lovely friendly animals, they trotted into the parlour and then when they had been milked the front part of the stalls lifted up and the goats went out underneath. We went to see their shed where they are in groups, the older ladies who are milked, then the teenagers who will have babies next year and then the kids that were born at the beginning of the year. In the far part of the shed were the billies, with their impressive beards and their strong smell!

Thanks to the Pugh family for welcoming us, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



### Herdman Coaches

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### WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB

We meet between 12:30 and 1pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, usually at the Rhosgoch Golf Club. The dates of the next two meetings are :- October 18th & November 15th for further information contact Wendy King 01497-851229

### BELL BANK CLUB

#### for the blind and partially sighted, Hay-on-Wye

Our club have recently applied to Hay town council for the purpose of installing a seat in memory of Eileen and departed members. The favoured position is on the pavement opposite R.M.Jones Chemist, adjacent to the Cheese Market and Red Cross Shop.

Members enjoyed a lovely meal, as always, at Castlefields, Clifford. Many thanks to Jane and Ruth, our helpers and Dial-A-Ride for making this possible.

Aileen's audio archive of the Bell Bank Club Round up reports are still bringing forward some interesting subjects, including a report of the Three Tuns Auction in 2006 (For sale again in 2017), visions of the Virgin Mary at Capel-y-Fin monastery, including one to Father Ignatius during the 1880's (reported in 2006, the Bell Bank Club isn't that old). Eileen's own account about her invitation and attendance at a Buckingham Palace garden party in 2007. At other meetings, Judith read "I'm Fine Thank You" with a smile (preaching the practical benefit of positive thinking) Anne read some local stories and poems written by her late mother Vera Fairfax, which came from a rare book published for her family, Anna read about her experiences in Italy when she was 23, Aileen told us some jokes from her Bambi magazine, Dorothy narrated one of her favourite poems about a squirrel, John read out details of some up and coming events from local magazines. Eleanor informed us how she met her husband under the mistletoe!! A couple of our members have been nurses and they related some of their interesting stories and experiences.

A more recent meeting included members relating their first memories, guesses of who's who from photos of members as children also provided some fun, members were almost 100% accurate as well!

For the third meeting in September we have been invited by Shân Egerton to a garden party at Penmaes, Hay. Visually Impaired Brecon (VIB.) have also been invited. Now all we need is some fine weather to enjoy our afternoon tea and cakes.

Eileen's brother, Trevor Jones has mentioned the possibility of a visit to the College for the Blind in Hereford, which can hopefully be arranged for the near future.

If anyone knows of any visually impaired people in the Hay area who would like to contribute to our club, please ask them to consider attending our weekly meetings at the Conservative Club, Hay on Thursday afternoons, Hay and District Dial A Ride can help with transport. John Price

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## Not Just a Lift, a Lifeline!

If you can drive from A to B, and pick up Mrs C, Mr J and Mrs P in the right order at the right time, and take them to the right place, we'd like to hear from you.

Hay Dial-a-Ride relies on volunteers to drive the minibus and adapted car to provide a Monday to Friday transport service for its 300+ members. It's a responsible job and requires some training but it's a great thing to do for the local community. You can do as little as one day per month and we'll work around your other commitments.

Why not spend a few hours out and about on the buses to see what it's all about? It's so much more than just a transport service. Don't want to drive? We are also looking for passenger assistants to help out on journeys.



If you'd like to find out more, please ring Lesley on 01497 821 616 for a chat and an information pack.

All appointments are subject to DBS and reference and other checks.



Find us on Facebook



### Hay & District Dial-a-Ride

**Award** - Hay & District Dial-a-Ride has just been awarded the Community Transport Association's Quality Mark. The testing covered all aspects of governance and good practice right across the organisation. This is a tremendous accolade for Dial-a-Ride, and we are just the third scheme in Wales to be successful. This is a great time to join our team!

**Drivers Wanted** - we are looking for more volunteer drivers to join our team, both for our minibuses and using your own vehicle, for which a rate of 45p per mile is paid. No experience is necessary and we will provide all the training you need for the minibuses. You don't have to commit to a regular day; we would welcome as little input as once per month. All appointments are subject to references, DBS and other checks.

**Fundraising & Events** - A big thanks to everyone who helped with our Jumble Sale and Coffee Morning in September which raised £434. Our next event will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm in Cusop Hall - Local History in the Media, where John Price will show clips and photos to tell the story of local characters and places. Entry is £6.50 to include tea and cakes.

Get involved! Call Lesley on 01497 821616.

Find us on Facebook for up-to-date information on our service and events.

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## GARDENING CLUB



Neville Harley receiving the overall prize at the Painscastle Gardening Club Show on August 17th. The judges were Pam & John Bufton.

### PROGRAMME

Thr Oct 12th Norma Olds - The Wool Trade & being a Shepherdess

Thr Nov 9th Paul Hanson - Alpines

Thr Dec 7th AGM

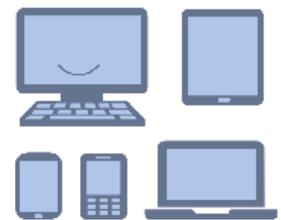
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## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to Lois Morgan & Sam Morris, Garth Farm, Llandeilo Graban on the birth of a daughter Bernadette Morgan Morris on August 2nd 2017.

Congratulations to Steven & Chloe Jones, Lower Lloyney, Newchurch on the birth of Martha Elizabeth on 15th September 2017. A little sister for Evie (5) and Albie (4).

**GROWN AND SPUN IN PAINSCASTLE!**

Before-



After-



Just 3 months after launching Woolly Painscastle, thanks to the enthusiastic and committed response of the community our giant knitted map of the village and surrounding farms is taking shape. Almost all 140 background squares that will make up the fields and sky have been knitted by over 25 volunteers and work has started on the houses and other embellishments with our latest experiments with needle felting proving a great success.



With the donation of fleeces from the village we have also started to produce local wool which is being used in the map – the sheep here were knitted with fleeces from Pendre Farm.



The extra balls of wool that we produce will be sold in aid of the Village Hall in due course. It's still a slow process as we learn to wash, card and spin the fleeces but immensely satisfying. The parts of the fleece that cannot be spun are washed and used as stuffing for the small animals on the map, so nothing is wasted.

Monthly workshops are held in the Village Hall with details posted in the bus shelter. The next workshop is Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm if you'd like to get involved or see the work in progress, all welcome! Jackie Stephens

**WALK TO TWO STONE CIRCLES**



Pic c/o Richard Harris

On the last Friday of August a dozen walkers set out to walk to the two stone circles on Ireland Moor. The weather was lovely and the heather was a glorious sight. The picture shows some of the group standing by 'their' stones at the 'Six Stones' near the source of the Glasnant brook. Some of the stones are steadily disappearing under the growing heather. After a short lunch stop we moved on to the Stone circle on Cefn Wylfre. Here the heather was shorter, but finding these stones, which are only inches above the ground, is quite challenging. The Cefn Wylfre stone circle surrounds a bronze age burial mound ample evidence that the area has been occupied for many millennia. The walk was just over seven miles, but relatively easy walking, with only two or three steep sections, and good paths to follow.



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## RHOSGOCH AND PAINSCASTLE TOTS GROUP

After the AGM we have a new committee. We thank Sian Powell for all her time and effort in tots this year as Treasurer, and wish her luck as she is stepping down from the committee to focus on new and exciting projects. Congratulations to Karen Torres as the new Treasurer, and Sarah Emmerson as the Secretary. I will remain chairperson for my last year in tots, and hope I do a good job!

We would really like more people to join the committee in whatever capacity you are able to: a minute secretary would be very useful and just involves writing down the goings on of each meeting. The meetings are always in the pub and we have a good chat as well as doing the tots business. Message me or have a chat on Tuesday if you are interested.

Katheryn Tarr

## PAINSCASTLE CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY



Another enjoyable anniversary service with entertainment by Barry James, Michael Labett, Catherine Hughes and Nigel Dodman with accompanist John Meredith.

Erwood community groups proudly present  
at 7.30pm on  
Sunday 19 November  
in Erwood Market Hall...

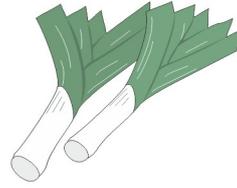


Tickets £5 including refreshments

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The Library bus comes on the third Tuesday of the month.

# RHOSGOCH CHAPEL COMING SOON



Harvest Festival  
October 5 at 7pm

Mission Sunday  
with Mercy Ships  
October 15 at 2.30pm



## VILLAGE QUIRE

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30 pm at the historic Maesyronnen Chapel, Glasbury on Wye, HR3 5NJ. The Village Quire and Phil Smith will be performing their show **Back to the Garden** (based on real life letters from local gardener William Bevan sent back from the trenches to his employer, Sir John Stanhope Arkwright). Tickets cost £8 and are available from Jane Ricketts-Hein on 01497 847391 / email: [jrickettshein@gmail.com](mailto:jrickettshein@gmail.com) Proceeds to the Glasbury, Clyro and Painscastle appeal for the Urdd National Eisteddfod 2018 / Elw tuag at Apêl Y Clasar-Wy, Cleirwy a Chastell Paen ar gyfer Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2018. ***This concert will also launch our new Back to the Garden CD. We had a lot of fun recording this show (with recording 'whizz' Paul Cobbold) and are really pleased with the result!***

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 7.30 pm. The Globe, Newport Street, Hay on Wye HR3 5BG. **The Dancing Floor – Dancing the World into Being** (Lyn Webster Wilde and the Dancing Floor Group). The Dancing Floor Group performers will offer the chance to visit the otherworld and meet the ancient gods of these islands in an extraordinary creation myth dance, constructed from clues in the Mabinogion. With specially composed music from the Village Quire, who will also perform an introductory set of songs of life and death. Further details from the Globe – visit [www.globeathay.org](http://www.globeathay.org)

## MOORLAND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Thursday 19th October 10.30am to 3.30pm  
At Painscastle Village Hall

Simon Thorpe (Heather Trust) heather management  
Hilary Kehoe (PONT) integrated grazing - FREE  
Booking essential:- Catherine Hughes, 07815 103855 or  
email: [catherine@thebridgehay.co.uk](mailto:catherine@thebridgehay.co.uk)

## PAINSCASTLE RECYCLING & RUBBISH COLLECTION

The next three weekly rubbish collection dates are:

5th October 26th October 16th November 7th December

## RHOSGOCH AND PAINSCASTLE TOTS GROUP

Well it has certainly been a fun-filled summer as Tots expanded to welcome the 'bigger ones' for the summer holidays! We've been lucky enough to have some special visitors, including Suzie Fraser from Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, who came and did some magical worm charming with us! It was such fun and the worms really gave us a run for our money. We made some beautiful bugs from recycled bits and bobs and also had an extra special outdoor session with Hattie Duke from Firelight. We sat around a campfire, each made our own star from a piece of willow, learnt a native American song and even cooked popcorn over the campfire! Yum. Not even a burst of torrential rain could dampen our spirits.

At Painscastle village Fete at the end of August we were a lot luckier with the weather. We really enjoyed ourselves, thanks to everyone who came, played, and helped on the day. The grand finale of the summer holidays was, of course, the famous messy play (the mere mention of those words sends mums running for a spare change of clothes). And safe to say it didn't disappoint. Fingers squigged into jelly and socks were flung aside with abandon as toes wriggled into spaghetti and slime. The sound of squeals of disgust and shrieks of delight could be heard in equal measure. What better way to see out the summer!

Rhosgoch and Painscastle Tots group is every Tuesday from 9.30 – 11.30 and welcomes all babies and toddlers. New parents and tots are always welcome. A session costs £2 per child, which includes a healthy snack for the children along with a wide range of activities and a tea/coffee for the parent.

Our theme for the Autumn term is nursery rhymes.

3rd October Baa baa black sheep cork printing picture (for autumn competitions)

10th October Rub-a-dub-dub 3 men in a tub picture (for autumn competitions)

17th October Wee willie winkie's lantern (for autumn competitions)

24th October Pizza making and soft play



### Rhosgoch and Painscastle Tots Group Halloween Party

**Where:** Painscastle Village Hall

**When:** Tuesday 31st October 4pm

**What's on:** Lots of children's games, best pumpkin carving competition, best fancy dress competition, **FOOD SERVED**, organised trick or treating.

£3 per child, food and drink extra

