

# Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 21 Issue 2

Nov/Dec 2015

£1

**WOW!!!! £1,820!!!! MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**



Thank you so much to everyone who helped raise this fantastic amount. Whether it was helping on a stall, baking a cake, donating a raffle prize, or coming along for a cup of coffee!

I'm amazed at how well we all did! It helped having the Red Dragon Endurance Event again and the bacon rolls went down a treat! (Greatly appreciate the loan of the BBQ from Rhosgoch YFC)



Thanks to Becky Whitney, Hey Hair and Oz Pakyuz of OP Software Ltd for sponsoring a couple of the games and to Grace Davies for lending us her scarecrow!

I'm truly grateful to the hall committee for giving us the hall again and for leaving the marquee up for our use. (Although I was unable to use it on the Saturday we were grateful for it on the Sunday!)

Thank you once again, I look forward to seeing you all next year!

Jane Nicholls

## AUTUMN COMPETITIONS 2015



Winners & workers!  
Pictures by Grace



**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS**

Y.F.C. Tractor Run from Rhosgoch



MORE PICTURES FROM THE AUTUMN COMPETITION DAY



Mollie Moore demonstrating rag rugs



On their way again



All back safe & sound

## EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoy the new 'Gossip'. With the introduction of colour, we have had to change the order of some of the pages; the dates for your diary and church and chapel news are now on the centre pages.

There are features on local news and events. Free Ads [P3], Sunday School & Tots [P16], Culinary Column [P5], Farm Focus [P12], Mikey [P13], some contributions from Grace, and news from local clubs and associations. Thanks to all. [m.lloyd1@btconnect.com or 01497-851609]. ML (Editor)

The Rhosgoch Gossip is available at Clyro Shop and Painscastle Farmers Buying Group. It is also 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. Special thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue.



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*'The Holly Bears the Crown' - songs and stories for  
Christmastide.* This Christmas The Village Quire and ac-  
tor Phil Smith bring you songs and stories of wonders and  
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vourites. Tickets cost £7.50 / £5 (u.18s) to include glass of  
steaming mulled wine and a delicious mince pie and are  
available now from **01497 847676** [www.villagequire.org.uk](http://www.villagequire.org.uk)

*This concert does sell out, so please do get your tickets  
early to avoid disappointment!*

\*\*\*

You can also catch us on Saturday 12th December, 7.30  
pm, at New Radnor Community Hall (Music in New  
Radnor). Tickets £8 (£3 u.14s) available from box office  
**01544 350268** - [www.newradnor.net](http://www.newradnor.net)



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## Bryngwyn WI 2015 Programme

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup>** Jeanette Cruse Yule Log Decoration  
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.

## GARDENING CLUB

All meetings at Rhosgoch Golf Club at 7.30pm

**Dec 2nd** AGM  
Monthly meetings (Wednesdays) at Rhosgoch Golf Club.  
For further details contact Edwina 01497-851284 or Pat Harley 01497-851632



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## PAINSCASTLE MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

The AGM in October produced a comprehensive and, we hope, interesting programme of speakers and activities for 2016. Even if you are not a Mothers' Union member, you are most welcome to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

At our Open Meeting in November we welcomed WI and Mothers' Union members from other branches and groups. The talk on the Brontes by Richard Walker was most entertaining and informative. The slides and his commentary gave a real insight into their struggles to become writers and the sadness in their personal lives. We enjoyed the slides of the Yorkshire countryside but decided Radnorshire was best!

### Future Programme:

8<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas dinner at the Roast Ox, 6.30pm for 7pm

12<sup>th</sup> January: No meeting

9<sup>th</sup> February: Animals of the Bible by Ruth Hergest  
For more info contact Fran Shaw on 01982 560480

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## CULINARY COLUMN

### The Old Railway Line Restaurant

Caitlin Moran describes how in November we are in the 'pre-Christmas' or 'Yuletide foreplay' season. We have taken this to heart, and have been embracing Christmas since mid November, while we are un-jaded by mountains of Christmas shopping, and sparkling lights still make us beam. If you need a little nudge into festive cheer then Christmas has been at full swing for weeks at The Old Railway Line Garden Centre. You can step through the wardrobe into an enchanted Narnia, with lights twinkling, snowflakes sparkling and trees laden with beautiful trinkets. We took a family trip to escape the wild stormy weather, and made the children satisfactorily saucer eyed with a glittery sparkly overload. Santa's Grotto is rumoured to have a Frozen theme, just in case any Littlies need further persuading for a trip.

After all the Christmas glitz, lunch seemed almost like an after-thought, but the busy restaurant is a popular post-browsing pit stop.

There is a friendly atmosphere which is perfect for family outings, and the cosy children's corner has plenty of toys which means you really can relax. The food is fresh and homemade, with hearty pies and burgers, or lighter choices such as jacket potatoes and Paninis. There is a good children's menu serving the usual kiddie friendly fare which was tasty, judging from the Little Darlings' clean plates. My gammon and chips was well cooked and a very generous portion. My Gentleman Friend's fish and chips was crispy and the mushy peas and bread and butter were a hearty traditional filler. We were too full for pudding but the delicious looking homemade cakes looked very tempting. I think that in the name of local research we might have to return to check them out with a cappuccino.

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

The Old Railway Garden Centre, Three Cocks, 01497 847055

## WHISKEY CAKE

Christmas food is such a memory laced subject. Recently we found my Granny's fantastic cookery scrapbook with recipes of childhood gems such as German pfefferkuchen, Stollen and this delicious Whiskey cake. At our house there is usually a homemade cake on the go, but if I get caught out then Aldi does a wonderfully dense Holly Lane Irish Whiskey cake that I think is the best value fruit cake around. I shouldn't say it but at £1.49 I am not sure I can make it for less! Homemade definitely has the edge, but for those surprise festive guests that catch you on the hop, it might be worth popping one of these in your trolley too.

375g Luxury dried fruit  
75g Glace cherries  
125ml Irish Whiskey  
175g Butter  
175g Soft brown sugar  
4 eggs  
250g Plain flour  
1 heaped teaspoon Baking powder  
2 heaped teaspoons Mixed spice  
Zest of 1 orange  
75g Ground almonds  
2 tablespoons Demerera sugar

- Soak the dried fruit in the whiskey for 12 hours.
- Pre-heat the oven to 170 degrees, grease a 20cm deep cake tin and line with baking parchment.
- Cream the butter and sugar until pale, add the eggs gradually.
- Fold in the flour, baking powder and mixed spice.
- Add fruit with liquid, zest and almonds and mix.
- Spoon into the tin and sprinkle over the demerera sugar.
- Bake for about one and a half hours.

## HEREFORD ARCHIVE & RECORD CENTRE

The new Hereford record office opened on a new site on 4th August 2015. From early 2000 Harold Street was considered not fit for archive storage. National Archives inspections were becoming more frequent with suggestions that they may lose the right to store; the archives would then go to Worcester. The new building at Rotherwas also houses the archaeology department, historical environmental record and biological records. Known as the Hereford Archive and Record Office, it holds the county archive for Herefordshire.

The diocese records are the oldest archives, beginning in 1275 with Thomas Cantilupe. These continue up until 1996. They have gone from parchment to paper and now into digital. Although it is primarily a Hereford archive, there are many documents from neighbouring counties. There are tithe maps, wills, quarter sessions records, workhouse records, estate records, etc.

The city of Hereford archives were kept in buckskin, the oldest of which goes back to the fifteenth century. Hereford newspapers are on microfiche and there is a library of interesting books, mainly on Herefordshire and the neighbouring counties. Readers' tickets are available and photographs for personal records, can be taken, with a charge of £3 per day.

The building was erected in just over a year, on time and on budget, by Architype, a local firm specialising in energy efficiency, and is a very comfortable place to work and visit. The storage building is a highly insulated concrete building, the temperature and humidity are continually monitored. The front public building faces south and, although it does have some background heating is very energy efficient with lots of glass which is triple glazed. The search room encompasses the library and the microfilm and computer area. There are rooms for meetings, as well as the atrium which is also an exhibition space. In the storage building, which has three strong rooms, there is the conservation room with all the latest equipment for conserving. When collections are brought to the building they are first catalogued and then cleaned, if necessary, and prepared for storage in the optimum conditions. They do take on private conservation work, or will give advice on storage of items, etc. The new building has better access for visitors and is more energy efficient, with running costs significantly less because of the leading edge "passivhaus" design. Opening times are Tuesday to Friday, 9.15 am to 4.45 pm, and the second Saturday of every month.

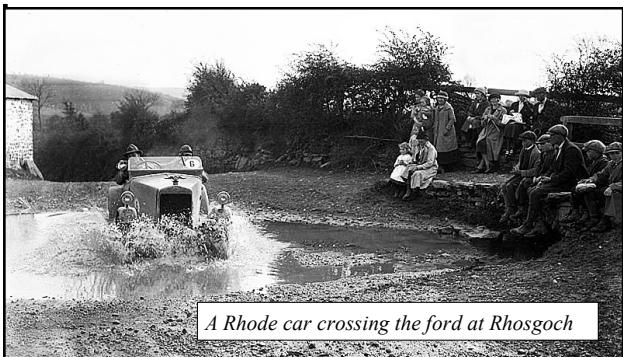
### 1924 RHOSGOCH

In 1924, for a brief moment, Rhosgoch was the focus of attention for the motoring media. Had Jeremy Clarkson been alive he would have been here! The R.A.C. (that organisation that recovers your broken down vehicle) had organised small car trials to see which cars on the market were fit for purpose. Manufacturers of cars under 1600cc submitted their vehicles for assessment over 5 days of gruelling motoring on our then bad Welsh roads. The English motor industry was thriving, such that 20 manufacturers entered cars. Sadly most of these makes are now forgotten.

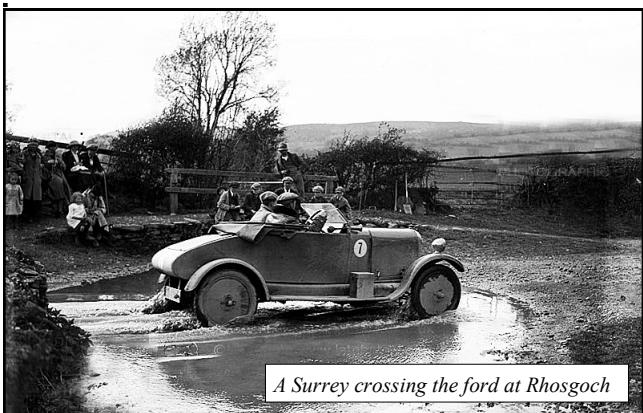
The trials were based at Nortons Garage in Llanidrod Wells. Part of the route on one day brought them up Sunny Bank, along to Painscastle, then Rhosgoch and on through Gladestry. It was recorded by professional photographers. Sunny Bank and Rhosgoch both attracted attention, Sunny Bank for its difficult climb, Rhosgoch for its ford.

Yes, near to where we now have the bridge, there was, in 1924, a ford. The old road which runs just in front of the mill can still be discerned and above the mill was the ford over the leat which fed the mill wheel. Then there was a short steep climb to the chapel.

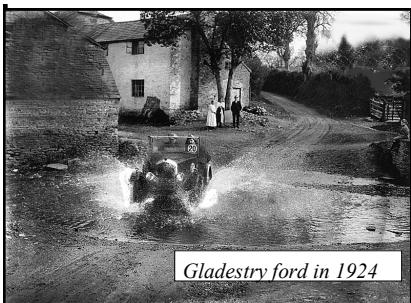
One picture shows a Rhode (no 6) made in Birmingham. The corner of a building may be a part of the mill. The other (no 7) is a Surrey. One of the cars on Sunny Bank is a Gwynne (no 20); it proved best overall, helped by its fuel consumption of 46m.p.g. So much for 90 years of progress! My Ford Focus doesn't manage that! Top speed of the Gwynne was, however, 55m.p.h. Geoff Moore



*A Rhode car crossing the ford at Rhosgoch*



*A Surrey crossing the ford at Rhosgoch*



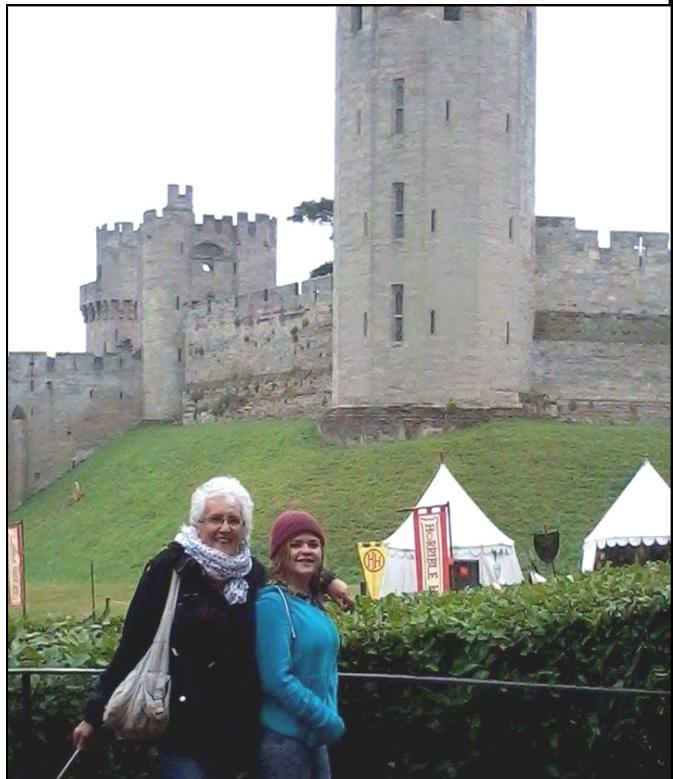
*Gladestry ford in 1924*



*Gladestry 2015*

### TRIP TO WARWICK CASTLE by Grace

Well it was a very wet day for our visit to Warwick Castle, myself, Girlie, Sophie and their friend Julie.



We spent most of it inside the castle learning about the history:- In 914, Ethelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great, constructed a fortification to repel the northern [Danish] invaders. In 1068, William the Conqueror ordered the castle to be built then in 1088 the first Earl of Warwick was created by William Rufus. In 1203, Warwick's jousting licence was granted. [Painscastle was owned by the Earls of Warwick in the 14th and 15th centuries]. In 1604, Warwick Castle was



*The Gwynne [the trial winner] coming up Sunnybank*



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gifted to Sir Fulke Grenville in recognition of his service. The seventh Earl Charles Guy Grenville, distanced himself from the family estate in the 1930s, and became a key socialite in the glamorous society of Edward VIII. Then in 1936, he became the first British aristocrat to star in a Hollywood movie alongside David Niven and Errol Flynn in The Dawn Patrol, 1938. A private cinema screen still exists on the roof today.

Then in 1978, Warwick Castle was sold to the Tussauds group for £1.5 million. The castle has been generously restored to its present glory at a cost of £26 million. Warwick Castle's story, spanning over 1100 years, is one of a quest for survival.

I have taken photos of the great hall. [The magnificent Kenilworth Buffet, created for the Great Exhibition of 1851, is the finest example of Victorian wood carving in the country today.]



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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sat Dec 5th Bazaar with Father Christmas Erwood Market Hall 3-4.30pm
- Fri Dec 11th Messy Church Painscastle Hall 3.45 - 5.15pm
- Sun Dec 13th Painscastle Christmas Fair at Painscastle Village Hall at 3pm
- Sun Dec 13th Bingo at Rhosgoch Golf Club 7.30pm
- Tue Dec 15th Tots' Christmas Party at Rhosgoch Golf Club
- Wed Dec 16th Wednesday Lunch Club at Rhosgoch Golf Club
- Mon Dec 21st YFC Carol Singing in Painscastle
- Tue Dec 22nd YFC Carol singing in Rhosgoch
- Fri Dec 31st New Year's Eve Party Rhosgoch Golf Club
- Feb 15th—20th Radnor County Drama Week, Albert Hall, Llandrindod Wells
- Sat Feb 27th Race Night & Cheese & Wine Evening at Painscastle Village Hall 7.30 pm

## HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH

- Sun Dec 20th CAROL SERVICE at 2.30pm
- Fri Dec 25th Christmas Day Service at 10am
- ALL SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30PM
- Sunday School every Sunday morning 10 – 11 am

## ADULLAM BAPTIST CHAPEL, PAINSCastle

- Tue Dec 22nd CAROL SERVICE at 6.30pm

## MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN

- Services Sundays at 2.30pm
- Dec 13th Carol Service Church
- Dec 27th Penny Robinson

## ERWOOD AND PAINSCastle CHURCHES

Dear Friends,

As you read this, I'm sure that you're already deeply engaged in the hustle and bustle of your preparations for Christmas. Doubtless, unless you're incredibly strong-minded or 'Scrooge', you've been suborned by some skilful piece of advertising to purchase something that you would probably never have thought of otherwise! Isn't it about time that the Church truly woke up to the strategies employed by the advertising industry, after all the good news that we have to share and proclaim truly is "Good News!"

This exciting but also frenetic and stressful time of year is, it seems to me, a good illustration of what a Christian life truly is. As Christians, we're caught between celebrating an event that has already happened, Christ's incarnation, life, ministry, death and resurrection and alongside it and caused by it, the overcoming of the dominance of evil in the world. But, we're also waiting in expectant hope for that moment at the end of time when Christ will return in majestic triumph to judge the world and also to lead the final and total annihilation of the powers and forces of evil. This is the 'now and not-yet' of Christianity. It seems to me that most of us live our lives the same way. We give thanks for events of the past but spend most of the present working, thinking and worrying about the future.

Over the past few months, I've felt that very keenly in my own life. Following some very serious prayer and soul-searching about the Church here and my own place within it, but not I hasten to add my workload, which was never a consideration, I applied, and through the grace of God was appointed, to the post of Vicar of the Kington Parishes. As I write this, we've begun negotiations with removal firms and begun the

process of packing up one house and working out how the contents will fit into another one. But our move, although imminent, hasn't happened yet. In common with so many, we are indeed planning for the future but living in the present. At the same token, however, we shouldn't waste precious moments of now dreaming of what never could be or grieving for what never was. We're called to give thanks and praise to God for the precious gift of now, as the old saying puts it. "The past is history, the future's a mystery but the time now's a gift which is why they call it the present." Maybe part of the enduring appeal of Christmas among those of little or no religious belief is that it's probably the only time in the year when we all put that into practice.

As we prepare to hear again the timeless words of peace and hope for all people in all places, let's continue to honour and learn from the past; prayerfully and carefully plan for the future but, above all, rejoice in the present because I truly believe that is what God desires for each and every one of us.

As Jean and I prepare to take our leave and make that long awaited move to Kington, I'd like to close by assuring you of my prayers and good wishes for wherever the Lord is leading you.

Jean joins with me to wish you a happy and blessed Christmas and God's most abundant blessings throughout 2016 and beyond.

With my love and prayers  
Ben.

### Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December: Refugees Day

#### St. Teilo's Church, Llandeilo Graban 10.00-11.00am

Come and join us as we join in the national commemorations of Human Rights Day. A simple service of prayers and candles as we pray for those who've been among the huge numbers seeking asylum from Syria and other countries.

### Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December: Advent 2

- 9.00am: Holy Eucharist: Newchurch  
9.30am: Holy Eucharist: Llanbadarn y Garreg  
11.00am: Morning Praise: Llandeilo Graban  
10.30am: Mattins: Newchurch  
(followed by refreshments at Rose Cottage)  
11.00am: Holy Eucharist: Gwenddwr

### Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> December:

- 3.45-5.15pm: Messy Church: Painscastle Hall  
7.00pm: Carol Service: Aberedw

### Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> December: Advent 3

- 9.30am: Holy Eucharist: Aberedw  
11.00am: Morning Praise: Crickadarn  
2.30pm: Carol Service: Llandeilo Graban  
6.00pm: Christingle Service: Bryngwyn

### Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December: Advent 4

- 9.30am: Holy Eucharist: Llandeilo Graban  
6.00pm: Carol Service: Gwenddwr  
6.00pm: Carol Service: Llanbedr

### Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December

- 7.00pm: Carol Service: Llanbadarn y Garreg

### Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Eve

- 6.00pm: Crib & Christingle Service: Aberedw  
11.30pm: Midnight Eucharist: Bryngwyn  
11.30pm: Midnight Eucharist: Crickadarn

### Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day

- 9.30am: Holy Eucharist: Gwenddwr  
10.30am: Holy Eucharist: Newchurch HJF  
11.00am: Holy Eucharist: Llandeilo Graban

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> December: St. John the Evangelist**  
10.30am: Group Eucharist: Llandewi Fach

*Dear Friends,*

Isn't it a good thing that we don't know what lies waiting around the corner? If someone had told me in July 2014 that Jean and I would be off on our travels again at the end of 2015, I'd doubtless have laughed out loud! I wonder if you know the following? Question: "What do you do if you really want to make God laugh?" Answer: "You tell him your plans for the next five years."

Over the time that we've been here, both Jean and I have been both deeply moved and hugely excited by the warm welcome that we've received from so many people. It's been a huge pleasure and an enormous privilege.

There is, I hope, no reason now to explore the circumstances which meant that our sojourn here has been shorter than any of us expected; suffice it to say that the cause was a number of decisions made by senior staff in the Diocese that left me feeling convinced that to remain was untenable. A decision which was rendered much more complicated through the warmth and affection showed by so many people here; a warmth and affection that Jean and I completely share and reciprocate.

The good news is that we're not going very far, you really can't escape, even if you wanted to, as we're only moving down the road to Kington Vicarage, actually geographically nearer if you live in Rhosgoch or Newchurch than Aberedw is!! If you're a patient at Kington Surgery you may even see either of us there. If you're passing Kington Vicarage any time after the middle of December, please do feel welcome to call in and say hello, we'd be delighted to see you.

As we prepare to leave, please do know that the Painscastle Communities and their churches will always hold a special place in our affections and that the precious months here among you will continue to be a bright glow of fond joy for all of the years that lie ahead.

Finally, I'd like to close with my own rejoinder to the saying that I quoted earlier. Question: "how does God make you laugh?"

Answer: "He tells you what his plans for you are for the next five years!!"

I can wholeheartedly subscribe to that!

With my love and prayers to you all as always

*Ben.*

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### SPONSORED RIDE FOR MARIE CURIE

Aimee Sullivan, a comparatively inexperienced rider, decided to do a long distance sponsored ride to raise money for the Marie Curie charity after her grandfather died from cancer in March 2013. She was accompanied by her father on a pushbike.

Delboy is an ex racing 16 year old American Standardbred and the ride began at Margam Park, Bridgend and finished at Painscastle, a distance of approximately 80 miles. As Aimee says, a few days before the ride she researched on 'Google Earth' for a place to park the trailer to take Delboy back home and The Roast Ox, what better place, became the focal point for the three day journey.

The first day was 37 miles through Bryn to Neath Port Talbot, then with long delays due to construction works, cattle grids and kissing gates via Glyn Neath, Pontneddfechan and to their first overnight stop at Ystradfellte.



The second day was spent following the 'Sarn Helen' bridleway over the Brecon Beacons, across the river Usk and, despite numerous punctures, they eventually arrived in Lower Chapel for their second overnight stop.

The final day provided the fewest complications, other than a broken bridle, when they appreciated some well maintained bridleways and forestry routes and completed their journey to Painscastle.

The aim was to raise £1000, which has already been exceeded with £1755 the current total.



### PAINSCCASTLE RECYCLING

Don't forget the local recycling station at Painscastle Hall for your paper, glass, tins and plastics. All the money from this project goes to the local hall association, for the benefit of local people.

## POWYS PRATTLIES

### MOBILE 'PHONE WOES

One of my recent posts on Facebook about the prospects for improved mobile 'phone coverage in this area – sorry, this has become something of an obsession of mine but, hey, it is important – provoked an almost ill-tempered online debate amongst some local Facebookers. I admit to having been somewhat taken aback by this, having not meant to poke the proverbial stick in to a hornets' nest!

The nub of the issue was the response I got from our local MP, Chris Davies, about what is known as the MIP project, to be found at <http://www.broadbanduk.org/2013/08/01/dcms-and-arqiva-reveal-locations-of-mobile-infrastructure-projects/>.

This scheme, launched amid fanfare in 2013 by the then and current Minister for Culture, Media and Sport at Westminster, Ed Vaizey MP, pledged £150m to fund the installation of the mobile 'phone infrastructure, masts and the like, needed to fill in the many 'not spots' across the UK. Powys was to be in the first rank for the work. Since then, nothing has happened. However, Mr. Davies's response said that '*the current Conservative UK Government has done a £5bn deal with the main network providers, to run alongside the £150m MIP project, 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.*' On the face of it really good news, if it actually happens, and of course the issue for us here is whether we will actually be part of the 98% to get a 4G signal. Considering most people round here can't even get a 2G one at the moment, this is quite a pledge to make! Time will tell, but in the meantime I'll keep pushing and the debate will rage on, hopefully in a civilized way!

### GWERNYFED HIGH SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

Well, all options do now seem to be back on the table for consideration, which is good. My over-riding concern is that, so far, consultation with local communities and their councils has been non-existent. To me it seems plain wrong for the Council to proceed any further with its analyses of the various educational options without carrying out a comprehensive community impact assessment **at the same time**. When you have a school at which so much community activity takes place (over 30 community and sports clubs use the site outside school times), to not consider at an early stage in the review process the likely wider social and economic impacts, should a major change in school provision take place, seems perverse and even reckless.

I have already made this point very strongly to the Council's Cabinet Member for Schools, Cllr. Arwel Jones, and shall go on making it! If Cllr. Jones would commit himself and the Schools Service to wide-ranging and meaningful community impact assessments for each of the options proposed, this would represent a major step forward in regaining the trust of the communities in this area that Powys County Council has so badly lost in recent months. Please contact me anytime at [cllrgw@powys.gov.uk](mailto:cllrgw@powys.gov.uk) or on 01497 820434 or 07971048737.

James Gibson-Watt

### CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to Tim and Carly Banks, on the birth of a little girl Romy Mila, born in Cardiff on 15 September, a little sister for Arlo Finley Banks.

Congratulations and best wishes to James & Meg Lloyd, Pendre Farm, on the birth of a little girl called Alys Isabella on November 12th a little sister for Griff (2½ years).

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

Hello from Westminster! It has been another busy month of events and action here in Brecon and Radnorshire.

I'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to all those who organised the Remembrance Day services I attended in Brecon, Glasbury, Hay-on-Wye and Builth Wells. Each service struck exactly the right tone and I was honoured to lay wreaths to remember those who fought and fell in the service of our country.

As many of you will know, lamb prices are still low and this is hurting our farmers. However, there is a market that we are currently not utilising as we could, the military. Our armed forces procure around £1 million worth of lamb each year and I want to see this market tapped. That is why I met with the Minister for Procurement in the Ministry of Defence, Philip Dunne, to push him to put more Welsh lamb on our armed forces' table. The Minister was very receptive and will now push more military facilities to buy more local produce where they can.

The Minister's desire to see more Welsh lamb being fed to our servicemen and women is hardly surprising, as in Brecon and Radnorshire we know how to produce great produce. Indeed, when I questioned the Secretary of State in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Liz Truss, about our lamb, she described Brecon and Radnorshire as a "food powerhouse". It is great to see our area being recognised in this way in the highest echelons of government.

Notably, she is not the only cabinet Minister to be recognising our area. Speaking to the Chancellor this week, he brought up how much he enjoys canoeing on the Wye and wandering the bookstores of Hay-on-Wye. So next time you pop in to pick up your next bestseller, don't be too surprised to see the Chancellor doing the same!

I will keep on working to put Brecon and Radnorshire back on the map and if you want to contact me on the above or any other issue I would like to hear from you. You can e-mail me on [chris.davies.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.davies.mp@parliament.uk) or call me on 01982 559 180. If you see me out and about do stop and say hello!

### COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Mr Richard Ball, 2 Hermon Villa

Vice-chairman, Philip Lewis, Llandeviron

Robert Tyler, Lower Pentrecaeu

Monty Graham, 2 Castle Meadow

Treena Davies, Lettypiad

Deri Jones, Portway

David Nicholls, Castlefield Close

Mrs Jenny Smith, Penrhiew

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, Trewyrlod 01497-851244

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

### COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Volunteers needed for different aspects of the website. If you are part of an association or business and would like a page or a link please get in touch @ [www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk](http://www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk)

## YFC NEWS

We've had a very busy start to the new YFC year, following from our Kington Show success we then had no time to rest on our laurels as we got underway preparing Cefn-y-Blaen ready for Rhosgoch YFC to host the Radnor County Stockjudging Day hosted by kind permission of the Lloyd family. The day was a great success, with two members of Rhosgoch YFC, James Poulton and Thomas Lloyd, earning themselves places to compete on behalf of Radnor at Bingley Hall for the English Winter Fair.

Just two weeks after hosting the stockjudging, Rhosgoch then played host for the Radnor County Efficiency with Safety Day and Field Day weekend at Trewyr-lod by kind permission of the Price family. The club put in a great effort and came 6th overall!

A massive thank you must be given to all the supporters for stewarding the competitions and the car parking, it was very much appreciated!

Following on from Field Day, we then held our club Tractor Run at the end of October. With 47 tractors taking part the day was a great success with participants (and tractors) of all ages. Thank you to the Ritchie family for all their help with organizing the event.

Our very last competition for October was the County Quiz, which we entered two teams for. With 20 teams entered overall, we were VERY surprised that team B came 8th overall and team A won! Team A are now through to compete at the national quiz competition finals to be held next April in Blackpool.

So far in November Carys Bate and James Evans both entered the Radnor County Senior Member of the Year competition, followed by being joined by Richard Meredith to enter the Senior Debating competition and coming 8th overall.

We then held our annual club hedging match, hosted at Llwyngwilliam Farm by kind permission of Theo Layton. Although the day had to initially be postponed by a week due to the weather, it then turned out to be a great success. We must thank our supporters, competitors, mem-



Hedging Match presentation

b e r s ,  
T h e o  
Layton  
and es-  
pecially  
A f a n  
Jones for  
making  
the day

so successful (Even though the weather was freezing!).

On 22nd November, Thomas Lloyd and James Poulton travelled to Bingley Hall to represent Radnor in the stockjudging competition at the English Winter Fair. We are delighted to say both came second overall!

Our focus is now on entering the Radnor County Hedging competition and Pool & Darts competition on 5th December. We have also already started the ball rolling in getting our script together to enter the 2016 Drama competition.

Our Christmas campaign is underway, and the dates for our Carol Singing this year will be Monday 21st December for Painscastle and Tuesday 22nd December for Rhosgoch. Our chosen charity that we shall be raising money for is Wales Air Ambulance.

Rhosgoch YFC will also be hosting a New Years Eve party at Rhosgoch Golf Club that will be open to all, there will shortly be more information posted to Facebook about this but it would be great to see as many people there as possible from the community.

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### Timetable for 2015 / 2016

Monday 9.30am - Booth's Bookshop Studio, Hay  
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

My classes last for one hour, are suitable for all ages and fitness levels and are charged on a pay as you go basis.

If you are interested in any of the above classes please call me on 07702 241725 or [emma@pilatesemma.co.uk](mailto:emma@pilatesemma.co.uk)

[Www.pilatesemma.co.uk](http://www.pilatesemma.co.uk)

I will be breaking up for Christmas on Friday 18th December and the full class timetable will resume on Monday 4th January.

I thank you all for your continued enthusiasm & support and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Emma

## RHOSGOCH YFC CLUB PROGRAMME 2015-2016

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Radnor County Hedging match 9am

Radnor County Pool & darts competition 7pm

Dec 10th Painscastle Hall 7.30pm

Club Christmas themed social; Christmas cake decorating; Demonstration on how to make a Christmas wreath

Dec 19th TBC 7pm

Club Social – non-members welcome Secret Santa; Mulled Wine and Mince Pies; Best Christmas jumper competition

Dec 21st & 22nd 7pm

Carol singing around Painscastle and Rhosgoch

December 31st Rhosgoch Golf Club 7pm

Rhosgoch YFC host a New Years' Eve party

### January

Thr Jan 21st Painscastle Hall 7.30pm Club games night

Fri Jan 29th Painscastle Hall 7pm Rhosgoch YFC Film and Entertainment Evening

4th February 2016 Painscastle Hall 7.30pm

Young members evening – a meeting to be run by the young members



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## FARM FOCUS

Having just returned from Berlin and Dresden on a Wye Valley Grassland study tour, we realized that we could not put off the writing of this farming column for the gossip any longer.

We unfortunately missed the YFC Field Day, which was held on the farm on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October. Luckily the weather was fine, if a little on the cold side. Many thanks to everyone who supported the two day event and helped Steve before and on the two days. Sounds like Rhosgoch YFC members had a good time as well as a successful weekend. Luckily Grace, our local photographer, was on hand to record all the various activities, so we will be able to watch the DVD to see what went on in our absence.

There were many competitions: cookery, floral, cake decorating, a mock auction and others. One of the main competitions on the Sunday was fencing, where teams of 3 YFC members had to erect 12 metres of fence. Unfortunately for them the digging was quite hard and they did find a few stones! All 17 teams made an excellent effort putting up the fence, but as soon as it was judged they had to take it down.

We keep a flock of pedigree Clun Forest sheep which are put to the rams early in October. Our flock of mule ewes are put to the rams later in October and this gives us more room in the sheep shed during lambing, which starts in the middle of March. Many farms in the area would have had a Clun flock 50-60 years ago, but as with fashion farmers started keeping the mule ewe, which is a cross between a Blue faced Leicester ram and either a Beulah or Welsh ewe. Now we are one of the few pure Clun flocks in the area, but the breed is growing in numbers with flocks all over the UK and in other countries. Two years ago we exported 2 Clun ram lambs to France. This was an experience in just how many forms have to be filled in, by us and the vet. We said never again, but after being contacted by a lady living near the Alps we went through the whole process again and 2 ram lambs and 4 ewe lambs are now on a skiing holiday in the Alps.

We have help in looking after the sheep; Ce is in training in the management of the ewes but fails to answer to the whistle, so we have Evan, a blue merle sheep dog, who is well known around the village and surrounding area as a keen and energetic worker. Jimmy our other dog, while keen to help, is still on probation and under tuition.

With the weather turning wet in the last couple of weeks we have housed the cattle, so the winter routine of feeding has begun. With our first grandson Samuel born in July we can spend more time visiting and playing with him and forget the problems that farming is facing at the moment.

Richard Price, Trewyrlod

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## 2015 AUTUMN COMPETITIONS

Rhosgoch and Painscastle Craft Club took over the organising of this from Rhosgoch YFC.

We did not know how it would go, but with having 287 entries we were very pleased, the hall was bursting at the seams!

We would like to thank all our sponsors and people who donated draw prizes, all the people who entered, also our judges Mrs Sheila Meredith and Mrs Marion Guthrie.

In the afternoon Mrs Mollie Moore gave us a demonstration on 4 ways to make Rug Rags, which we found interesting. Some of us had a go, which brought back memories of how our mothers use to make them.

Cup Winners were:

- Class 1 Open Ruby Bagley Cup      Gaynor Price
- Class 2 Open Grand parents Clyro Court Perpetual Cup      joint winners Joan Hughes, Edwina Griffiths, Christine Rose and Mary Coates.
- Class 4 Open 7 years and under Mrs T Herdman Cup      Ellie Pugh
- Class 5 Open 12 years and under Val Price Cup      Jamie Farmer
- Class 6 Open 16 years and under Mrs G Jones Cup      Rhys Davies
- Sheila Meredith Rose Bowl Best Floral Exhibit      Val Price
- Estyn Meredith Cup Best Victoria Sponge      Daniel Price

The handicraft section Saturday October 22nd 2016 is as follows, so you can get busy on these dark winter nights:-

### Open Competition

- Knitted Christmas article
- Photograph – Winter Wonderland
- Homemade Christmas tree decoration
- Jar of Jam
- Homemade Christmas card

### Grandparents Class

- Jar of Marmalade
- Crochet/knitted article

### 12 years and under

- Drawing of an animal
- Item of jewellery
- Finger Puppet

### 18 years and under

- Any craft item
- Photograph – Friends

On behalf of Rhosgoch and Painscastle Craft Club I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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## MIKEY'S DIARY

Mo tells me it is time for the 'Gossip' again, so I must update you with all my news. I am feeling a lot better than I was when I had very sore feet. It is not very nice having sore feet, as I keep telling the humans, they only have two that can hurt, while it is much worse for me, as I have four. Mo does try to help me, she gives me a tablet which she wraps up in cheese. I do like cheese and she often keeps some specially for me in the fridge but the other day Abbie came in and took it out of the fridge and ate it! Erin also seems to like her food, she went in our fridge and found a lump of cheese, she tried it, but couldn't eat it all, the teeth marks helped Mo with the detective work! No food is safe at the Lundy, but we usually blame TD when something goes missing, though maybe now he has some accomplices!

Another treatment I had for my sore feet was to put them in this dark brown liquid which they called iodine. Mo got a jar of it and put my feet one at a time in the jar. Afterwards I had chestnut feet, Mo thought I looked really smart, she said it was a fashion statement, while I was not so sure!

Abbie and Erin are Mo's two grandchildren, I'm not sure why they are called grand children, they don't look very grand to me, but everyone says that is what they are, so I don't argue. However I have started helping them with their education. The first thing to teach anyone of course is that they have to learn to throw a stick for me to play with. They do seem to try but their efforts are a bit feeble to say the least. I suppose I should realise by now that human children are going to take a long time to learn things, after all the adults seem to have very limited senses. When I am teaching them to throw sticks, I bring it to them and wait, and wait, and wait, eventually they pick up the stick, and I still have to wait, by now Mo is usually telling me to be patient!!! Then they throw it, well actually it is more accurate to say it drops about 5 inches from their feet, I often have to jump out of the way or it will land on my head, so then I pick it up and it starts all over again. I understand that humans take a long time to learn skills, but it does stretch my teaching skills to the extreme!

One of the advantages of 'little people' in the house is that sometimes their food lands on the floor. Every time I go in I check for special bits, usually it is around the high chair, but it can be anywhere. I think Abbie and Erin are probably well fed little humans as they don't mind sharing with me, they offer me all sorts of things, although I am not keen on grapes, oranges and apples.

Lately Mo has been making a lot of welsh cakes, but she was hiding them before Jade could find them. Lindsey has been having them for her visitors. I don't know why Mo gives them to Lindsey's visitors, because if you visit the Lundy there are never any left. Kate came in the other day when Mo was making them and said she would test them for her. She shared them with me, she gave me all the currants, because she doesn't like dried fruit. I quite liked them actually and Mo thought it must be good for me, saying something about five a day.

Of course the Lundy is like everyone else, they are working up towards Christmas. I sometimes wonder why they have to spend so much time and effort arranging things. There are big discussions of who will be here, who will be somewhere else, then they will talk about what they want to eat, then should they buy each other presents or should they have a secret Santa? I am not sure who a secret Santa is really, but it seems to take them ages to make up their minds about him, so whether he will be coming to the Lundy or not I really can't



say, but if he does I'll tell you next time. I hope you have a good Christmas and please try not to eat too much!

Mikey

Does anyone recognise anyone in this picture which was taken at Portway Farm, Rhosgoch in December 1943?



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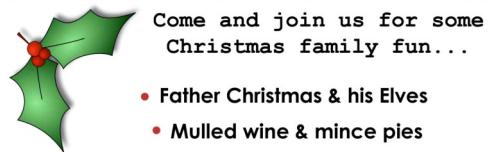
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be calling so  
make sure you  
help him  
choose your  
present

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3PM PAINSCASTLE VILLAGE HALL

## OUR HONEYMOON IN PERU

In September this year Kate and I went to Peru for our honeymoon. We flew from Heathrow, via Madrid to Lima, which took about 17 hours in total. Lima (the capital of Peru, which has a population of 10 million) is a city on the west coast of South America. We arrived early in the morning and the first thing we noticed was the misty haze which sits almost permanently over the City. We were also told that it hasn't rained in Lima since 1997. We spent a day in Lima looking around the shops and the following day we flew to Arequipa. Arequipa is a City which is closer to the mountains of Peru and sits at 2,300m above sea level. It is called the white City because a lot of the buildings are made of the local white volcanic rock. It is surrounded by 3 volcanoes and is a beautiful City. The hotel we stayed in was small and centrally located and set within a walled garden. Kate and I spent a couple of days enjoying looking around the small shops and visiting the markets. The reason for staying in Arequipa was to try to acclimatise to the altitude and when we were here we noticed that the air was thinner and it didn't take long for us to get out of breath when walking up hills. We left Arequipa in a minibus and travelled into the mountains to visit the Colca Canyon, stopping to view Lamas and Alpacas on the way. This canyon is twice as deep as the Grand Canyon and on the first day we travelled to a height of 4,200m above sea level. We visited the hot springs and spent about an hour relaxing in the naturally heated water. That night we slept at 3,600m above sea level and woke up early in the morning to travel to the Condor pass. This is where we had to wait for the early morning flight of the Condor (where they fly close to the walls of the canyon to pick up the thermal air and glide around the canyon). We managed to see some in the distance but the weather wasn't perfect for them so we didn't get to see them up close.

We then travelled through the Andean Altiplano (High Plains) to the City of Puno, stopping at the highest point of our trip (4,900m above sea level). The villages we drove through were made of shack type houses where the people are largely self sufficient with a few animals and small amount of crops. The ladies in this region still dress very much in the traditional style.

Puno is a city next to lake Titicaca, which is a massive lake with man-made islands made out of reeds where local people still live. The day after arriving in Puno we visited these islands and had a tour around them, meeting the local people and being shown how they make the islands. Unfortunately for us our hotel room was situated on a cross roads and the Peruvian drivers like to beep at every bend or junction and just at each other in general. So we didn't get much sleep whilst we were there, Kate resorted to stuffing socks underneath a headband to try and block out the beeping!!

From there we travelled to Cusco, the second largest city in Peru (population of half a million) and the touristic and ancient capital. Cusco is a very friendly city and contains the highest Irish pub in the world (which luckily was showing the World Cup Rugby matches). We spent a day in Cusco then got up very early to travel to the start of the Inca Trail. We started along the trail and spent that night camping en route, however due to Kate and other members of our party being very poorly it was decided we had to turn back. They have what are called rustic toilets, which are basically just a hole in the ground, pretty smelly to say the least! To return we had to get a local minibus which should have sat 10 people but the driver managed to squeeze 25 people and 1 dog on, it was very cosy... My legs went numb as Kate de-

cided she had to sit on my lap to make room for a lady and her baby to sit down. We spent a very uncomfortable but funny 45 minutes squished into the minibus. That night was spent in Ollantaytambo in a hostel and we then got up early yet again, to get the train to Aguas Calientes. From there we got a bus to the incredible Machu Pichu. This is an amazing Inca city built on top of a mountain for protection against enemies. Although now we refer to the ancient race as Incas it was actually the King that was the Inca and nobody knows what the actual people were collectively called. We explored Machu Pichu for the day and then boarded the train back to Ollantaytambo and onwards to Cusco.

We spent the next few days in and around Cusco taking some tours to a local salt mine, where there are 3000 small pools which salty water runs into and evaporates to leave the salt. We also visited an ancient laboratory called Moray, this is a series of concentric terraces where the temperature differs on each level and ancient people used this to test what plants grew best under different conditions. We also took a walking tour of Cusco, which is supposedly built in the shape of a Puma. The walking tour was very interesting and took us to many different parts of the city starting at a huge statue of Jesus which is the head of the Puma and working our way down. On our last day in Cusco it happened to be Kate's birthday, which I may have forgotten about but she didn't hold it against me – much!

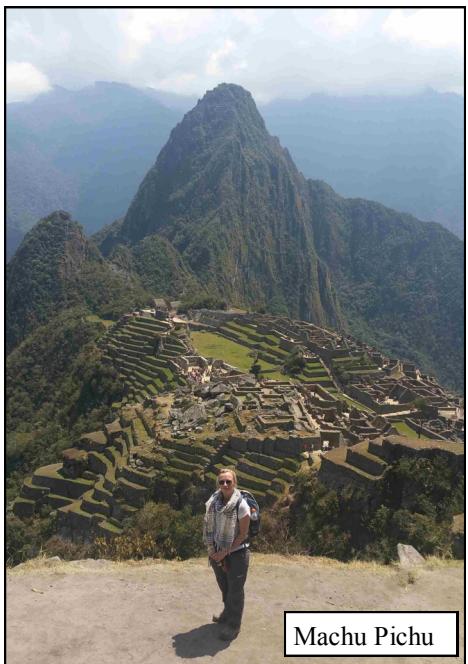
On leaving Cusco we flew to the Amazon jungle to the town of Puerto Maldonado and went straight by boat up river for 2 and a half hours to our jungle lodge. This was a remote eco lodge, having only solar power and cold showers. Our first night was spent taking a night walk through the jungle, where we saw a mother tarantula and her babies, Kate wasn't very keen on getting too close to her! We also saw crickets, lizards, snakes and birds. The following morning was a 4am start to go and watch the Macaws as they feed on the clay licks at the edge of the river banks. There were hundreds of brightly coloured Macaws and Parrots feeding and it was a wonderful sight. After we returned to our lodge we decided to take a swim in the river, It was very brown and not exactly pleasant looking but was a welcome relief from the immense heat, even though the river has piranhas and caiman! After a nice afternoon lying in hammocks outside our lodge we went caiman spotting in the evening and saw plenty lining the river banks.

The following day we returned by boat to Puerto Maldonado and that afternoon took another boat trip to a jungle fresh water lake called lake Sandoval. We paddled around the lake spotting monkeys and birds. That evening we met up with some Belgian people who had been at the Eco lodge with us and had a nice evening in the town. In the middle of the night there was a tremendous storm and as our hotel did not have windows, just mesh across the windows, it was very windy and incredible to watch. The next day we had a well deserved day relaxing by the pool.

Our next stage was onto Paracas where we stayed in the poshest hotel of our trip. Our suite had direct access onto the pool and was beautiful. We stayed in Paracas for 3 days and took a trip around the Ballesteros Islands, locally known as the mini Galapagos, where we saw many sea lions and penguins and thousands of birds. These islands are historically where they regularly harvested Guano (bird poo) to use for fertilizer. This is now much more managed and is only collected every few years. Paracas regularly gets sand storms and unfortunately most afternoons there was a storm. However, we managed to find a lovely bar to hide in and met some wonderful local people who kindly let us watch the

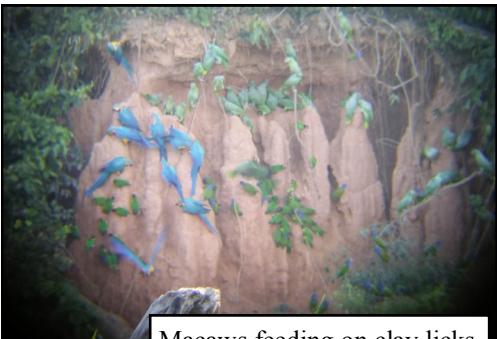


Andean Altiplano



Machu Picchu

n't really to our taste. That afternoon we went sand boarding in the massive sand dunes and to get to the top we took a



Macaws feeding on clay licks

dune buggy with big V8 engines. They looked a bit like something from the Mad Max film! Returning to Paracas rather sandy we went to our favourite bar again for quite a few drinks!! The next day was spent on a (luckily) luxury coach back to Lima to



Sea lions on the Ballesteros Islands

journey home.

If anyone is thinking of visiting Peru it is an incredible Country with a huge variety of different climates and terrain, and the people are very friendly and welcoming. Geraint Lloyd

## HERMON CHAPEL NEWS

Rhosgoch's Hermon Chapel holds the Harvest Festival very close to its heart as a celebration of the beautiful gifts given by God to us all. To mark the occasion, every year the Chapel flower group spends time to make the latest celebration even better than the one before.

Pictured after the recent Harvest Festival are our group who did so much to beautify the Chapel. From



left they are: Doreen, Ruth, Elizabeth, Carol, Maureen, Brenda and Val. Apart from the produce so wonderfully arranged in the picture, there was also a range of stunning flower displays individually designed and crafted by the ladies, using flowers from their own gardens, lovingly tended throughout the year.

There were two Harvest services on separate days, the first conducted by the Rev Gordon Bingham of the Bethesda Evangelical Church in Hay on Wye, and the second by Chapel Minister, the Rev Geoff Cable. Following the services, the produce and flowers were distributed amongst the congregation.

Noted for its informality and friendliness, Rhosgoch Chapel has a lively and engaging congregation which welcomes all who come through the doors.

Mike Head, Member



Snack time in front of Tots' Notice Board

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## TODDLER NEWS



We organised a very successful Halloween party at the golf club. There were lots of games, pumpkin carving and dressing up competitions. A big thank you to the golf club for hosting the event and providing some scrummy dinner. Also a huge thank you to all who came and supported us.

We entered the Autumn ploughing match competitions and our display board has many of the entries the children made for all to see. Thank you to all involved and we look forward to entering again next year.

Our group meets on a Tuesday morning at Painscastle village hall from 9:30-11:30. There are toys, a healthy snack and a sing song for all children under school age with tea and coffee and friendly chat for the adults. We hope you can join us soon.



Here are some of the cards we have created for Christmas



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
We were successful in our recent community tree application from the Woodland Trust. The trees arrived in early November and have been planted by the Hermon Chapel Sunday School children behind the chapel. We hope the trees will grow and add to the community's haven for wildlife for generations to come.

Kath Jackson