

Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 26 Issue 2

Nov / Dec 2021

£1

RHOSGOCH YFC TRACTOR RUN



MIGHTY HIKE FOR MACMILLAN

A massive thank you to everyone who sponsored the "Pecker Power" team of Aimee Williams, Josie Herdman, Claire Evans, Carol Jones, Mair Morgan, Kate Tarr and Meg Lloyd for their Mighty Hike of 26 miles for Macmillan in memory of the most amazing friend and sister, Ruth Williams.

There were blisters a-plenty, swollen ankles and black toes, but also laughs along the way! We have all been overwhelmed by everyone's support and kindness; the total raised is currently at £10,940 which is such an incredible amount of money that will go a long way to support people with cancer. Thank you again!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peckerpower2021>



A Fairy Ring and other autumn fungi



AUTUMN COLOUR



T. D. LLOYD

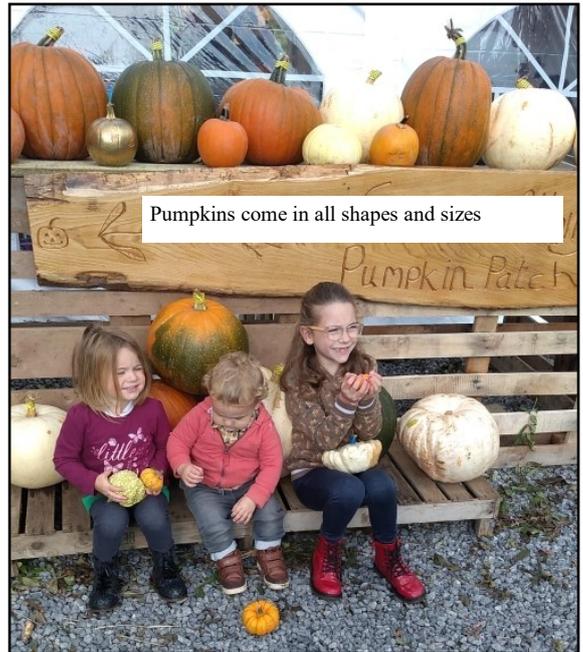
Plastering, Plasterboarding, Rendering etc.

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NATURE NOTES

There seems to be a bountiful autumnal harvest. There were plenty of pumpkins for Halloween, and the fungi have been exceptional. Now the leaves are turning colour and beginning to fall, providing a medley of colour, as the wind twists and turns them on their way to the ground. Can you identify the fungi?



FARM FOCUS

Mo has been asking me for ages to write a farm focus column and I've always thought, we're only a small farm, people won't be interested etc... Well now we've been here 10 years maybe it's time I pulled my finger out to write something, plus she didn't have any-one else for this issue!

We moved to Upper Llandewi from near Cardiff in 2011 (can't believe we've been here 10 years). We are a small farm with a herd of pedigree Dexter cattle, from which we direct market the beef locally. We've also got a large veg plot with a polytunnel, a small orchard and

we grow a bit of wheat. The farm is all registered organic. We both have jobs off the farm and also the kids - Arthur (7) and Anna (5) - which all in all keeps us pretty busy!



This time of year is transition from the summer harvest of wheat, veg and fruit, to getting the cows sorted for winter. Mucking out the shed this week as I write, it always amazes me how much our small cows eat and then poo! But there is goodness in that muck - it fertilises the fields and veg plot, and the cow pats are full of insects like dung beetles. In fact, one reason birds such as swallows are thought to be declining is due to the lack of cow pats in some areas.



We started our Dexter herd in 2013 and chose the small Irish breed as they produce beef with fantastic quality and flavour, with good marbling, and they will finish on grass. They're also the smallest UK breed, so we could have more animals on our limited acreage, which makes a bigger, more sociable herd size which improves welfare. From April to mid-November the cows are out, and we've been experimenting with rotational grazing. We have many small fields so by subdividing some we have a series of 2 acre parcels which they rotate around every three weeks. They're always going into longish grass and come out before it gets too short. This means the plant always has some of its solar panels (leaf) intact and can carry on growing leaf as soon as the cows leave, rather than trying to re-grow from the base, so you get a lot more grass over the year. It seems to be working so far. And of course any farmer will know this is what was done traditionally with stock 'never hearing the church bells twice in the same field'! It's also thought to increase carbon sequestration, soil health, water retention and insect and birdlife.

We are really interested in local food; the pandemic showed the weakness of our 'just in time' supply chains, and the more food we can produce locally the better. So the last couple of years we've been growing old varieties of wheat with the idea to make bread from our land, as was done here in the past, and also to provide flour to local bakers. This year we grew 'Hen Gymro' wheat, the only remaining old Welsh landrace, last seen in Wales in the 1920s. It hung on for so long as it was genetically adapted to growing well in the moist warm climate of south and west Wales, and could produce millable grain in unfavourable conditions on poorer soil. Some clever people recently got it out of genebanks (one line came from Russia) and from a handful of seeds have bulked it up so a few farmers are now growing it. We relied on Micky for the ploughing and drilling, but decided to embark on getting our own combine as getting Micky's combine down our lanes was looking tricky. This year we used a 1980s John Deere combine bought from a neighbour

Andrew Whitley from 'Scotland the Bread' (a collaborate project to grow better grain) being handed a sample in Russia



and got a passable yield of good dry wheat. The long stem of the traditional variety gave a great harvest of straw, about 10 big bales per acre. After harvesting we've drilled a forage rye crop which gives the cows a feast early in the spring before the grass gets going, then it will go into a fertility-building clover ley and the simple rotation continues.



We are all being asked to eat less meat to help climate change, but actually cattle fed on grass can be part of the solution; the soil locks in carbon, the muck provides fertility for your fruit, veg and grains, and improves soil health. And, crucially, grazing livestock are an important tool in combating the biodiversity crisis, hay meadows and other traditional farmland habitats rely on them to maintain flower and plant diversity.

We'd like to thank all the local farmers who have offered us help and advice over the years- without this support we would have had to learn a lot more the hard way!

Richard Thomas

GARDENING CLUB

We were delighted to welcome over 30 members and friends to the October Gardening Club meeting, the first since March 2020. Our speaker was Sarah Runciman, who gave a very entertaining talk on "My Life With Birds". Sarah talked about her early life, how she became fascinated by wildlife and especially birds, and went on to teach herself photography. She shared some of her secrets for getting a great photo, and revealed that she can take hundreds of photos which are discarded when she finds the perfect shot, or the "keeper" as she called it. Sarah also judged the Room Competition, a nature photograph. There were 15 entries, and Sarah chose a landscape photo by Dawn Richards as her favourite.



Our next meeting is on Thursday 11 November, featuring "Festive Floral Arrangements"; Caroline Meredith and Laura Coombes, from Troflora, will be showing us how to create festive garlands and decorations, one of two of which will be raffled off at the end of the evening. The room competition is "A Decorated Bottle". Our AGM will be on Thursday 2 December. For more information please contact Pat Harley or Allison Joyce.

HAY U3A

Hay U3A have resumed their meetings which are on the third Tuesday of the month. They have hybrid meetings between Baskerville Hall and Zoom at 10am for 10.30 start. The next meetings are:-
Tuesday November 16th
Tuesday December 21st Festive Quiz
For further details please contact Juliet Lewis: 01497 851228 or email: jjlewis@keme.co.uk



TUESDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2021
at 10.30am

Professor
Brian Henderson

Dead or Alive:
The Virus Paradox

Baskerville Hall Hotel, Clyro

ADMISSION: Members £3.00, Non-Members £5.00
For more information phone 01497 851228

<https://u3asites.org.uk/hay/home>

Coffee from 10am

RHOSGOCH YFC

It's been a busy start to the New Year with competitions and events coming thick and fast. The first competition was stock judging day where we were represented by Aaron Bagley, Harri Bird and Thomas Davies. A special mention must go to Thomas who came 3rd in the junior fat lamb judging.

Next on the list was the county quiz where we took two teams up to Newbridge to represent the club. A younger



team of Harri Bird, Jack Greenow, Thomas Davies and Rebecca Lloyd gave it a good go, but congratulations must go to Daniel Price, Bethany Price, Richard Meredith and Thomas Lloyd who only just beat Presteigne to take first place.

It was then onto field day, where it seemed everything was up against us between Covid, illness and people being occupied elsewhere, but everyone who attended gave 100%. Well done to Alfie Jenkins, Thomas Davies and Drew Abberley who competed in the junior fencing competition for the first time, gaining valuable experience.

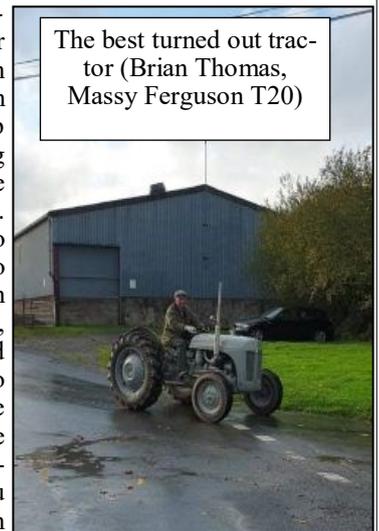
We then joined Presteigne Young Farmers on a trip to Powells Farm Wales - PYO Pumpkins where lots of fun was had finding and carving our own pumpkins.

The next event was our tractor run where we had a great turnout of 57 tractors from all different ages. The John Haydn Meredith Memorial trophy for the best turned out tractor was presented to Brian Thomas for his Massey Ferguson T20 by Pheobe and Katie, John's grandchildren. The route this year took us from Rhosgoch down to Clyro, through Hay-On-Wye then on up onto Hay Bluff, turning down into Llanigon to have dinner at the village hall. After a bowl of soup to warm up, it was then onto the afternoon route which took us down to Glasbury, up onto Ffynnongynydd Common, through to Llowes, then over the Begwyns to Painscastle and back home to Rhosgoch. A massive thank you to everyone who helped on the day and beforehand

getting everything organised and for making the day a huge success. Your support is very much appreciated by all the members at the club. We raised a massive £1,625.44 which will be split between the club and The Bracken Trust, who we will also be raising money for when carol singing this Christmas time.

The hedging match will be held at the Banks Farm, Newchurch by kind permission of the Gore family, on Saturday 20th November.

The best turned out tractor (Brian Thomas, Massey Ferguson T20)



FAMOUS QUOTES

"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory" Dr Seuss

GUY AT RHOSGOCH

In 1605, Guy Fawkes was arrested for trying to blow up the Houses of Parliament. More than 400 years later, the event or non-event, is still commemorated, and none more enthusiastically than this year, as Rhosgoch Golf Club welcomed people to the return of the Annual Bonfire and Firework Evening. Crowds of people made their way to the field alongside the clubhouse where a bonfire was blazing away from the onset of darkness. Families anxious to bring some normality back after eighteen months of worry and restraint enjoyed the splendid display of fireworks provided. In addition, there were hot dogs, jacket potatoes and soup to complete a lovely family evening.



FAMOUS QUOTES

Banksy - "When you get tired, learn to rest, not to quit."

Theodore Roosevelt - "Believe you can and you're halfway there."

Albert Einstein - "Life is like riding a bicycle, to keep your balance you must keep moving."

And a similar theme, Confucius - "It does not matter how slow you go as long as you do not stop."

CONGRATULATIONS

Mollie Gibbons and Aaron Nicholls had a baby boy, Toby Frank Nicholls, on Friday 22nd October. The first grandchild for Jane and Steve Nicholls, Upper Pentre. Best wishes to all the family.



Rhosgoch Golf & Leisure Club

Open Tuesday to Sunday
10am - 11pm

Food 12 - 2.30pm and 5-9pm and
Sunday Lunch 1—3.30pm

TAKEAWAYS: Fri & Sat evenings & Sunday Lunchtime

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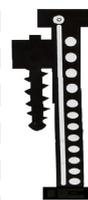
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FAMOUS QUOTES

Dolly Parton - "The way I see it, if you want the rainbow,
you gotta put up with the rain."

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TIM'S TONGUE TWISTERS

Continuing with the series of tongue twisters which Tim East sent. Perhaps a worthy challenge for Christmas afternoon games.

We all know this one:- She sells sea shells on the seashore, the shells she sells are sea shells, I'm sure. For if she sells sea shells on the seashore, then I'm sure she sells sea-shore shells. *But it doesn't make it any easier to say!*

Frivolously fanciful Fannie fried fresh fish furiously.

The sixth sick sheikh ate six sick sheep.

Seventeen slimy slugs in shiny sombreros sat singing short sad songs.

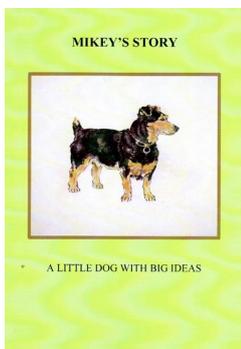
Ken Dodd's dad's dog's dead.

RIDDLES

1. What can you catch, but not throw?
2. What needs to be broken before you can use it?
3. When I'm young I'm tall when I'm old I'm short. What am I?
4. I'm so fragile that saying my name breaks me. What am I?
5. What can run but never walk, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?
6. Always hungry and need to be fed, but whatever I touch turns to red. What am I?
7. What has lakes but no water, mountains but no stone, cities but no buildings?
8. If you have me you want to share me; if you share me you no longer have me. What am I?
9. Light as a feather but no one can hold me for long. What am I?
10. I can be cracked, made, told, or played. What am I?

Answers on Page 12

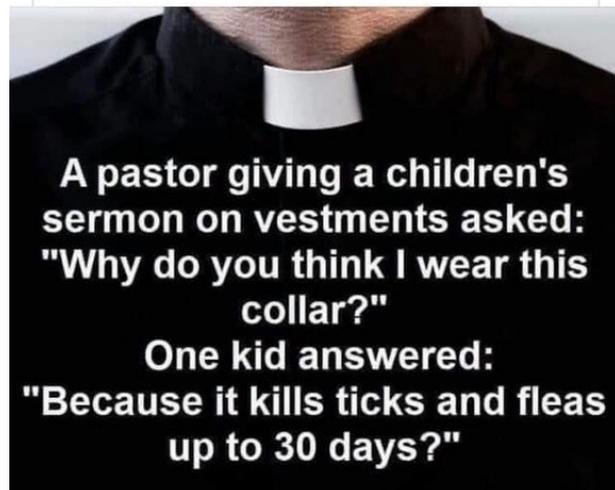
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This was something sent to me this week which I found amusing.



I can hear some parents saying 'if only... as headlice remains a problem in schools!

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SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30pm
Sunday Dec 19th 2.30pm Carol Service
Saturday Dec 25th 10am Christmas Day Service

MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN

Sunday Nov 14th Joint service with Church Rev Gordon Bingham
Sunday Nov 28th Communion Penny Robinson
Sunday Dec 12th Carol Service in Church

EBENEZER CHAPEL, NEWCHURCH

Sunday Nov 14th 3pm Remembrance Day Service led by Brian Reardon
Sunday Dec 12th 3pm Carol Service
A warm welcome is extended to all

ERWOOD & PAINSCASTLE CHURCHES

Dear All,

How quickly the year has gone. This year has heralded the many challenges of adapting to a world of continuing disease and danger. We pray so much for those who are still in distress and all who are bringing some light into the darkness. May we all be blessed in our lives through the presence of God in Christ who was born to suffer with us. He endured hurt, pain and he conquered death to carry our humanity to his Father. Through the union of God the loving Father and God the human Son, all our sorrows rest within God's loving embrace forever; a divine embrace that is embodied and fulfilled through the work of all those who heal us, all those who defend us and those who inspire and care for us in every way.

As we carry any uncertainties and fear into another winter, let us remember that Christmas begins the story of true hope through the birth of the Babe who is Emmanuel - God with us. The real essence and beauty of the Incarnation of Our Lord is that it is our story; a complete gift to us. Heaven and earth are now inseparable and we always stand at the point where they meet, carrying our humanity through this veil of tears. We are the Babe in the manger, always being born anew, often helpless but always divine. We need to rejoice in this story now.

November prepares us for **Advent and Christmas** through showing us that much of our life on earth is bound up with thoughts of heaven and helps us acknowledge that there is a world of living hope that complements our physical lives. **The Feast of All Souls**, on Tuesday, the second of the month, is a time when we come together for a Eucharist to celebrate and commemorate the lives of the departed, many of whom we love and miss. This is an important celebration when we open our hearts to acknowledge the presence of our ancestors and also the angels who bring a touch of heaven to us in our lives. **Remembrance Sunday** falls on the 14th of the month and reminds us that our capacity for noble sacrifice is an intrinsic part of our nature. At our very best, humankind is always truly Christ-like. The Celebration of **Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe** on Sunday the 21st is the climax of our Christian year and leaves us in no doubt that he rules over all with his healing divine love.

This same healing power of God will embrace us as we encounter the Christmas Crib. The Christ-Child radiates his golden, divine light into the stable, beyond his parents, the shepherds, the wise men and into the world. The birth itself is the light! It is our light! Let us carry the light into the world? In this light, all our earthly troubles may then be seen as the shadow of a restless world that is searching for a new life of increased love, unity and fellowship. Embrace this new birth, then all the fear and danger will be balanced by an increased

peace and goodwill to all people. Think on this and you will always be carrying a prayer for those you love and those for whom Christmas may be one of pain and sorrow. This Christmas, there will be many children of God born to homeless families in stables, caves, hovels and makeshift shelters; through them the Christ-child is born again to redeem the suffering of his created world until we share his burden, realise our own divinity and turn our world to paradise once more.

The Blessings of the Christ Child be with you and those you love this Christmas and always.

Father Paul and Carolyn XX

SERVICES IN ERWOOD AND PAINSCASTLE

Thurs 11th Nov	Armistice Day	
10:30am	Crickadarn	Memorial Service
10:45am	Newchurch	Act of Remembrance
Sun 14th Nov	Remembrance Sunday	
10:30am	Bryngwyn	Requiem for the Fallen
10:30am	Aberedw	Requiem for the Fallen
2:30pm	Moriah Chapel	Remembrance Service
Sun 21st Nov	Christ the King	
10:30am	Crickadarn	Eucharist
Sun 28th Nov	First Sunday of Advent	
10:30am	Gwenddwr	Eucharist
10:30am	Llanbedr	Eucharist
Sun 5th Dec	Advent 2	
10:30am	Aberedw	Eucharist
2:30pm	Llandewi Fach	Eucharist
Sun 12th Dec	Advent 3	
10:30am	Llanbadarn	Eucharist
2:30pm	Llandeilo Graban	Carol Service
6:30pm	Aberedw	Carol Service
Fri 17th Dec		
6:30pm	Llanbedr	Carol Service
Sun 19th Dec	Advent 4	
10:30am	Newchurch	Holy Communion
6:30pm	Crickadarn	Carol Service
Fri 24th Dec	Christmas Eve	
2:30pm	Aberedw	Christingle Carols
11:30pm	Bryngwyn	Midnight Mass
Sat 25th Dec	Christmas Day	
10:30am	Llandeilo Graban	Nativity Eucharist
Sun 26th Dec	St Stephen	
10:30am	Gwenddwr	Eucharist
Sun 2nd Jan	Epiphany of our Lord	
10:30am	Aberedw	Eucharist
Sun 9th Jan	Baptism of Christ	
10:30am	Llandeilo Graban	Eucharist

The Church in Wales is still taking a cautious approach to opening our churches.

Thanks to all who keep the churches readily maintained with respect to the regulations. It is quite a responsibility and people, though willing, cannot always be available for the necessary cleaning and monitoring. **We are remaining circumspect and reviewing things regularly; the future is still uncertain and services may be subject to change.**



W.I.

Bryngwyn WI have returned successfully to monthly meetings in Painscastle village hall. On October 4th our speaker was Bronwen Jenkins who brought all her wonderful machine embroideries. They were beautiful and showed such skill as well as being botanically accurate. Her 3D embroideries of lichen were amazing, even after she had let us into her secret of how they were made.

The speaker at our November meeting was our own dear Mo, talking about Ireland Moor, a subject close to most of our hearts. On December 6th we will be having a Christmas crafts evening, and our Christmas dinner at the Roast Ox will be on 13th. The new year will kick off on January 3rd with willow weaving with Cherry Williams. February will be sheep farming and wool with Heather Pink and March will be cookery with Sue Ievers. New members will be very welcome, for further info call Helen on 01982 560492.

GLADESTRY NEWS

Pop-Up Café at Gladestry Village Hall every Monday 10.30 to 11.30 am

FAMOUS SECONDS

1. Who was the second man to walk on the moon?
2. What is the world's second highest mountain?
3. Who is Great Britain's second longest reigning monarch?
4. Who was the USA's second president?
5. What is the UK's second largest city?
6. What is the second letter in the Greek alphabet?
7. What is the name of the second Harry Potter Book?
8. Who was the second wife of Henry VIII?
9. What is the second largest country in the world, by area?
10. Which country won the second ever World Cup?

Answers on Page 12

QUIZ TIME

Erwood Quiz has resumed after its summer break. Each Wednesday the questions are sent by email and if the answers are emailed back by 'bedtime' they will be marked, but there is no shame and blame, and if you prefer not to send in your answers that is fine. The correct answers are emailed out on Thursday when you can of course calculate your own scores. This really is a fun quiz with different quiz masters each week so there is no chance of boredom.

If you would like to join the email list please contact Pam Banks email:- pamela.banks1@btinternet.com

This is a really fun – and free! – quiz... 😊



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Tablet foils recycling, the bin will be on my doorstep at Squirrels Nest, Rhosgoch

26-29th November and 7-10th January 2022

Trisha East

EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. Thanks to so many people who have sent contributions in. Special thanks for all the photos. Gradually, as restrictions ease, I think there will be more opportunity for news and articles, which are always welcome.

I hope by the next issue we will be able to re-instate our 'Dates for your Diary' so, if you know of events that will be happening, please send them in. Also any reports from places you have visited, or events you have attended, are much appreciated. Pictures are especially welcome, you know the saying - a picture is worth a thousand words.

I would like to thank our delivery team for their outstanding efforts. Please continue to send articles, news, etc, all comments are gratefully received. Deadline for next issue [Jan/Feb 2022] is 31st December 2021. [mlloydundy@outlook.com or 01497-851609].

Subscriptions run from September each year and are £6 for local delivery, £12 if posted or pick up a copy from Clyro Filling Station or Boughrood Shop.

Articles are the opinion of the respective writers. All errors and omissions excepted (E&OE).

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POWYS PRATTLES

People often ask me how Powys County Council makes decisions. Well, not easy to explain, but here goes.... The council has a Cabinet of 8-10 councillors. They are responsible for taking all major decisions, except one – the council's annual Budget and Council Tax rate, which is voted on by the whole council. The Cabinet is led by the council Leader, usually (but not always) the leader of the largest political group on the council. He or she appoints the Cabinet members from his or her group or a coalition of groups if no one group has a majority. At the moment the council is governed by an Independent/Conservative coalition. The Leader of the Opposition leads the largest of the 'opposition' groups. At the moment that's me, the leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat – Green Group. My job is to provide political challenge to the Cabinet's actions. Councillors not in the Cabinet sit on Scrutiny Committees that examine decisions already made by the Cabinet or matters that are shortly to be considered by the Cabinet; or on one of the 'regulatory' committees, such as Planning & Rights of Way or Licensing.

A really frustrating feature of being a 'non-Cabinet' councillor is regularly seeing big policy and spending decisions announced by the Cabinet in the local media before the rest of the council membership have been informed or even consulted. For example, there was a big splash in the local media about a month ago about a scheme called the Mid Wales Growth Deal, which promises to bring tens of millions of extra pounds to Mid Wales from the UK and Welsh Governments over the coming years, to fund economic and social development projects across the region. The information released to the media described the business case being put to both governments and mentioned specific projects and even the many millions involved. Yet no councillor outside the Cabinet had any prior knowledge of the projects and none of us had been consulted. We learnt of them via the local 'online' press. Inevitably local county councillors were contacted by residents asking what on earth was going on and had to admit they didn't know! When challenged about why it had been done in this way council officers said the projects were still just draft ideas, much more work needed on them before they become firm proposals, no final decisions taken, etc., etc. None of that excuses the lack of consultation with local councillors; and anyway, if the proposals were in a form fit to release to the local press they were surely fit to be discussed before that with county councillors from the areas affected, not least to take advantage of their local knowledge.

Unsurprisingly, a bit of a row has ensued. However, this is just one example of many decisions being taken behind elected councillors' backs recently. It really is no way to run a democratic council. Things really must change.

by County Councillor James Gibson-Watt

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Sian Powell, Lletycoed
Vice-chairman, Bruce Evans, Lower Pentre
David Nicholls, Castlefield Close
Jenny Smith, Penrhiw
Becky Miles, The Cwm
Iris Lloyd, Caemawr
Andrew Ritchie, Castle Brook
Russell Bowkett, The Fferm

Clerk: Marion Hughes, Waun y Pentre 01497 851628

Minutes are on the Painscastle-Rhosgoch website:
www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

I begin with the sad news of the loss of two wonderful colleagues. James Brokenshire was an adored Member of Parliament, taken from us far too soon. The appalling murder of Sir David Amess is a hideous crime. He was exactly what a Member of Parliament should be – kind, hard-working. I am absolutely horrified at what has happened. We will miss them both so much.

I want to thank those who have got in touch with concerns for my safety. I will of course be reviewing the security arrangements around the office, and that of my wonderful team, but I want to make it absolutely clear that I will not be conducting this job from behind a screen, or with police presence. Brecon and Radnorshire is my home. It is a genuine pleasure to chat to people as I do my shopping or wait at the Post Office. As shocked and disturbed as I am, the answer to an attack on democracy is not less democracy. It is essential that Members of Parliament are available to their constituents as much as possible. I will continue to hold surgery meetings around the constituency and my office will always be open to those who want to come and discuss whatever is important to them.

During the autumn reshuffle, I was promoted to serve as the PPS to the Secretary of State at Defra, George Eustice. Farming will always be the beating heart of the constituency and it is a real privilege to have the chance to work closely with ministers as they shape policy. James Evans MS and I are both determined to do all we can to promote and protect the farming community in Brecon and Radnorshire.

There are two exciting events coming up. The Hay Festival Winter Weekend returns on November 24th until the 28th and I am very excited to be seeing one of my heroes, Henry Blofeld, talking about his new book. Just a day later is the return of the Winter Fair at the Royal Welsh Showground 29th- 30th November. The Winter Fair is a fantastic occasion and I am looking forward to seeing competitors and fabulous livestock back at Llanelwedd.

I can be reached on Office 029 2233 8545 Mob 07515-034124 or Email Fay.Jones.MP@parliament.uk Please stay safe. Fay Jones Member of Parliament for Brecon and Radnorshire



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November 15th November 29th

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LOCAL INTEREST GROUP

Since September, LIG has held hybrid meetings in Painscastle Village Hall on the last Thursday of the month.

In September we held an AGM for the 'Gossip', as well as a review and planning meeting for LIG. Several ideas for the winter programme were suggested as well as plans for our summer visits.

The evening was completed with two films from John Price, one based on the Bachawy from its source to where it joins the Wye near Erwood. The other film was based on the Gladestry and Newchurch area from 1969. This really was a look back to the past creating so many memories.

The October meeting was again a hybrid meeting, the speaker in the hall with an audience, as well as a Zoom audience for the people who were not able to come to Painscastle. This is only possible due to our resident 'techie maestro', John Price, who is always ready to respond to a digital challenge. The subject was 200 years of hill farming based on Radnorshire, which illustrated the ups and downs of farming since 1800. These 200 or so years have witnessed more changes in farming than the 2000 years previously - changes due to mechanisation and industrialisation as well as the fluctuating economic and political changes which have affected farmers' lives over the last two centuries.

At our next meeting on the last Thursday of November we will log on to the launch of a new book on medieval Welsh history by Dr David Stephenson, who is pushing the boundaries of our knowledge of Welsh history during the 11th to the 14th centuries. We will then have our own Zoom meeting with one or two wildlife and local interest films.

Next meetings: All at Painscastle Village Hall at 7.30pm

November 25th Book launch & films

December 30th No meeting

January 27th Local wildlife films Stewart Roberts

February 24th The Tuck family - Cherry Williams

All our meetings are open to everyone, either in Painscastle Village Hall or via Zoom. For more information please ring Mo: 01497-851609 or email mlloydlyndy@outlook.com

The aim of the group is to investigate and record anything of interest in the local area either past or present and all contributions are welcome.

ANSWERS to Quiz on Page 9

1. Buzz Aldrin (after Neil Armstrong)
2. K2 (after the surveyor's mark) / Qogir (from original Balti name) / Godwin Austen (after Henry Godwin Austen, an early explorer of the area)
3. Queen Victoria (since September 2015)
4. John Adams succeeded George Washington in 1797
5. Birmingham with about 1.1 million residents. Greater London has about 8.6 million residents.
6. Beta or B and β
7. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. Released in 1998. The first was Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. It became the 7th largest-grossing film of all time.
8. Anne Boleyn in 1533, after Catherine of Aragon. Anne was beheaded in May 1536.
9. Canada, at 3.85 million square miles total area, including water, after Russia at 6.6 million. China is the second biggest after Russia by land area.
10. Italy in 1934, who beat Czechoslovakia 2-1 in Rome. The very first winners were Uruguay in 1930.

RHOSGOCH GOLF CLUB CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PLANS

Children's Christmas Party with games, bouncy castle and food. Date to be arranged.

New Year's Eve Party with live music, fireworks and food. Theme:- Music icons



National Garden Scheme –

For immediate release

Contacts: Helen Anthony (North Powys) or Gail Jones (South Powys)

E: helen.anthony@ngs.org.uk

gail.jones@ngs.org.uk

T: Helen 01686 941795

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME - NEWS

Are you one of those who believes in taking time out to appreciate what is around you? Is November a time to appreciate the beauty of autumn and winter without feeling compelled to 'do stuff'? We're pulling together the autumn/winter programme of online talks to include Sarah Mead from Yeo Valley Organic, who swept the boards with awards at RHS Chelsea this year. Join us online or live at the Royal Geographical Society on Tuesday 16th November at 7pm for our annual lecture 'My Garden Saved My Life' with Robin Hanbury-Tenison in conversation with Rachel de Thame. Two extraordinary survivors discuss the critical role that gardens played in their recovery: Robin from Covid-19 and Rachel from breast cancer. Tickets from ngs.org.uk/annual-lecture-my-garden-saved-my-life/

If you want, you can keep busy and warm in the garden; there is no doubt that now, the autumn, is the best time to plant trees, as they can get their roots settled and established through the winter. If you buy bare-rooted trees, then they should be planted while they are dormant – between now and March. Discover more great tips in our monthly round-up and get your garden ready for winter at <https://ngs.org.uk/get-into-gardening/>

To support the National Garden Scheme our charity Christmas cards and calendar are for sale or pre order the Garden Visitor's Handbook 2022 see ngs.org.uk/shop/

The National Garden Scheme has been raising millions of pounds for nursing and health charities by opening private gardens across England and Wales since 1927. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the charity to close its garden gates from April to June - its key fundraising months – for the first time in its history, leaving a shortfall in funding for its beneficiary charities. As the single largest funder of Marie Curie's work, the longest standing partner of Macmillan Cancer Support and a key funder for Hospice UK, Carers Trust, Parkinson's UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute, this shortfall is having a major impact on these key nursing chari-

ANSWERS to Quiz on Page 7

1. A cold
2. An egg
3. A candle
4. Silence
5. A river
6. Fire
7. A map (or Atlas)
8. A secret
9. Breath
10. A joke

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RHOSGOCH JUBILEE CLOTH PROJECT

I am sorry to say that I have had to postpone the monthly Rhosgoch Cloth workshops. The first workshop went very well with enthusiastic support, expect some very colourful cloth! I hope to resume in the Spring. In the meantime, do get in touch if you have any questions or would like to prepare your own dye garden ready for a Spring/Summer harvest of colour. I'd recommend as a start any of the following: coreopsis, marigold, dyers chamomile, weld, cosmos and dahlia. But many plant materials will dye cloth, including nettles and tree bark. Contact: Jackie.stephens@me.com

Jackie Stephens

The Lure of Gold Down Under.....Continued

Previously I wrote about John and David Lloyd from Nantmel and the Australian gold rush. Moving on a generation, their nephew, James Philip Lloyd, followed in their footsteps.

In c1860 James Lloyd, brother of John and David Lloyd, moved from Gelynen, Nantmel, Rads with his wife Ann and six children to Cwmgwenddwr, Gwenddwr. One further child was born in Gwenddwr.



In 1872 it was James and Ann Lloyd's (my great, great grandparents) eldest son, another James, aged 24, who set sail from Liverpool to Melbourne, Australia on his voyage of discovery. The sailing ship, the John O'Gaunt, left Liverpool on January 26th 1872 and arrived in Melbourne May 12th 1872. Can you imagine what an experience that must have been?

I don't know what sort of life he had when he first arrived but I know that he worked the gold fields, rising through the ranks to mine manager. Records show that in 1875 he was a "miner" at the Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh Company Mine at Pitfield Plains. He got married in 1876 in Victoria and had 3 children. Sadly his wife died in 1881 when she was just 26. In 1883 he married for a second time and had 3 more children, however, his happiness was not to last and his second wife died in 1887. He married for a third time in 1889, his new wife being a sister for his second wife and together they had 2 more children.

From the records, I have seen that James and his families always lived in Ballarat and that in 1905 he was recorded as a "well known Sharebroker and member of Ballarat Stock Exchange, Sebastopol Plateau No.1 Company Mine." Today, Ballarat is the third largest city in Victoria and inland Australia, its prosperity built on sustained gold yields well into the 19th century. (A bit of information for fans of "Strictly Come Dancing" fame, Ballarat is where Craig Revel Horwood was born and grew up).

I know that James did return to Gwenddwr a couple of times and I have a photograph of him sitting astride a horse, with his mother Ann standing alongside him, on what turned out to be his last visit. James died March 10th 1906, Pleasant Street, Ballarat, Victoria when he was 59 years of age and his occupation at that time was "Sharebroker." His descendants live on in the vicinity and for years I was in contact with James's youngest granddaughter living in Melbourne.

It must have been a sad time at Cwmgwenddwr as James and Ann Lloyd had now lost three of their children, David in 1876, William in 1896 and now James in 1906. In 1910, following his father's death, James's youngest son (from his 3rd marriage) visited his grandparents in Gwenddwr and

when he left he took with him his 18 year old cousin, son of his late Uncle William. William settled in Canberra, married and had 6 or 7 children. Many generations of Lloyds live on in that area. William did not seek gold but worked in agriculture and horticulture, running Canberra's market gardens for many years. It appears that in 1926 William won a ballot to run Canberra's market gardens and during the depression years he continued to grow vegetables, sometimes giving them away to families who could not afford to buy them.



All Lloyds mentioned in the last issue and this one belong to my Granny Edith Lloyd's family. She was a Lloyd pre marriage and married a Lloyd, living at New House, Painscastle between 1930 and 1950. In my younger years I spent a lot of time with Granny and surprisingly I never once heard her talk about her relatives in Australia.

The Lloyd gene does live on in the Painscastle area and beyond and just maybe someone will read this and want to know more about their forebears.

Cherry Williams (cherryw@keme.co.uk)

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Old printer cartridges are also required for re-cycling, to raise money for the Centre of Alternative Technology. It must be a virgin cartridge ie an original cartridge eg HP, Lexmark; a cartridge that has not been refilled previously and a cartridge that does not carry any other branding than the original (Cartridge World, Tesco, Asda not allowed). For more details please email Lucy Trench: lucy@66sg.net

LIFE AT LUNDY

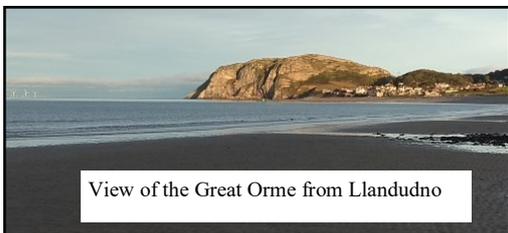


As I am the 'yard dog' at the Lundy, Mo often has long discussions with me on various subjects. We don't often talk about the weather as everyone else does that, although she does commiserate with me when it is raining as my house roof is not completely waterproof. In fact if she hadn't found some old tin sheets and recycled them by putting them on the top of the walls I wouldn't have had a roof at all! Matthew was dog-house builder, he put up walls for three dog kennels side by side. Unfortunately he forgot that they actually need a roof, but also doors. To be fair he has made a door for my apartment, well I wouldn't stay indoors otherwise would I? His idea was that we three dogs, me, my mum Gyp and 'boss' Joe, would all sleep in a suite of kennels close to the yard. But it is a work in progress as Mo says, I live in the new accommodation, Gyp lives up by the cars in the corral and Joe has his 'tin shack' under the trees the other side of the house.

This time of year the sheep want a lot of attention, Mo and I really believe that sheep always need a lot of attention, but there seems to be a lot of coming and going just now. Joe and Gyp bring them off the hill. This year there was a little extra excitement as they missed a few and when Mo and Gyp went back for them Mo lost the wheel off the bike. This was pretty much a disaster, as she is not often allowed on the bike, it is Ken's property. I blame the bike really, and Mo agrees, I think it is just accident prone. Back in the summer, when Ken was moving the electric fence for the cows and calves, he returned to the bike only to find the key had disappeared. Ken then blamed the calves so the bike was on the side-lines for quite a while. I have learned that machines are not like animals which go when they want to, and at whatever speed they like. Machines have to be encouraged by turning a key, and then encouraged some more, by pressing levers and handles, and sometimes I have noticed they just don't want to cooperate. No amount of treats or biscuits will have any effect. I have also noticed that threats and shouting is also a waste of time!

Once the sheep are off the hill they then have to be sorted and I am allowed to help - sometimes! It is quite fun driving them through the race and then the footrot bath to wash their feet. Then the ewes are taken to different fields and a few days later the boys (rams) go to join their harem. I often wonder if they are happy with the choices that Ken and Matthew make for them, but I have never heard them complain, so perhaps farmers do know what they are doing?

Ken and Mo disappeared for a few days, apparently they went on the Grassland trip to North Wales. Mo told me they went to see a few farms. One of the farms kept Bison, apparently they are bigger and wilder than cattle - I bet I could have fun chasing them! She said she had a Bison Burger and it was very good, so obviously it would be worth catching one. They also went up the



View of the Great Orme from Llandudno



The only goat Ken found on the Great Orme

Great Orme looking for goats but they didn't see any, I am not sure why they were looking for them, but they were disappointed when they didn't find any!

Pam also disappeared, a few days after Mo and Ken went, so I was beginning to wonder if all the humans were going

to leave, and then who would feed us? A few days later Abbie's grandad flew in from Ireland and he wanted to try out Abbie's new hoverboard. This is another machine which humans ride on, or at least that is the idea. Abbie and Erin soon got the hang of it, as did Matthew, so 'Grandad Fonty' thought he would have a go. Unfortunately the machine did not like him and so he fell off and hurt his back. His Hoverboard Holiday was not a total success!

Pam has now returned home so we are back to normal. Real normal actually: as Abbie is back in school, Paige and Conor go to nursery sometimes, Matthew tells everyone he is off to do some work and Ken plays at his farming. Of course he can't manage without us dogs. We all have our individual skills - Joe loves to gather the sheep in a field, but he gets a bit tired these days and if they are at the far end he can't always be bothered. Ken then gets annoyed and eventually, after several verbal high-volume outpourings, Joe usually complies. Gyp doesn't think she wants to be a 'gathering dog' so she waits for Joe to gather the sheep together and then she likes to drive them to a new field. I like to show everyone just how fast I can run and I do like to make sure we don't lose the sheep so try to keep them in a nice tidy flock.

This weekend we have another duty. We have to look after Bowie,

apparently she is a Patterdale terrier which seems to mean she is completely mad. When she sees us she runs round and round us, until we feel giddy. Gyp gets cross and tries to discipline her, but it is a complete waste of time, she is just wild. I generally run and she runs after me, which Mo thinks is a good thing as it will tire her out and then she can go back to her house, and lie down. She lives with Geraint and Dionne but they have gone away for the weekend, probably to get

Sweep



Abbie on the dangerous Hoverboard



Gyp, me and the mad neighbour



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IN YOUR GARDEN

It's the tail-end of the calendar year, but the beginning of a magical season. Winter possesses hidden charms, many of which we have to look at carefully to appreciate: a profusion of lichen varieties on branches and rocks, small fungi on fallen twigs, branch architecture on bare trees and shrubs. Ivy comes into its own this time of the year. It's a much maligned plant. Unlike honeysuckle, it does not 'strangle' trees. It can make weaker growing specimens top heavy and more prone to breakages, but whilst it can become over-enthusiastic in its race to cover everything, it is easily removed. Its dense evergreen foliage is ideal for roosting and nesting birds. It makes good ground cover in difficult shady places, and will soften or hide concrete or breeze blocks. But its flowers are an often overlooked bonus. They provide a good late source of nectar for a whole range of insects, have an elusive, delicate, fragrance, and the resulting berries provide much needed sustenance for thrushes and blackbirds in late winter. There are a number of named varieties, some shrubby, others with even more eye catching leaves; Fibrex nurseries, near Evesham, have a good range. Cut back any herbaceous plants that may cover weaker growing adjacent ones, but try not to be too tidy. In spite of what the books say, it rarely seems worth pulling up carrots or celeriac for storage. Unless we have a particularly cold spell, they are usually safe and, along with parsnip, lifted when required. (A highly recommended winter root is scorzonera; easy to grow and a lovely earthy flavour.) Cut down runner beans, and tie up the canes before they decay at the base. Check over stored fruit and potatoes. Getting the right place for storage is important: too warm and dry and they'll shrivel; too cold and damp and they'll rot or get frosted. And then there's the pleasant task of perusing all those seed and plant catalogues and websites, letting your imagination run riot. May the rabbits be with you (not!).

John the Gardener



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CHAPEL NEWS

Anne Cook becomes a Member of Hermon Chapel

Anne has many friends and family locally and before she moved to England was a regular visitor. Her closeness to the chapel is reinforced as her son's grave in in the churchyard alongside her Mum and Dad. Her Mum used to play the organ in worship and was a helper at the Sunday School.

In the Congregational Federation, of which Hermon Chapel is a part, members play a full part in the decision-making of the church as they are equal to each other and have the same say as the Minister. To join God's family of being a church member is an understandable ambition because it is a lifetime membership. Becoming a church member is to accept Jesus Christ as part of one's life. The ceremony is based on a statement of faith in Saint John's gospel, chapter 3, verse 16. It is a passage of scripture summarising the basis of the Christian faith and says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The candidate of membership is asked to declare their faith in a series of questions from the Minister. If the candidate answers these questions satisfactorily, the right hand (right elbow these days) of fellowship is extended to the candidate as a welcome by the Minister and other members.

The membership service is usually ended with a communion and in some churches it is the custom for the new member to be served first. According to Minister Geoff Cable, "We had great pleasure installing Anne as a member of Hermon Chapel as we are sure she has the calling required."

Picture (from left): Minister Geoff Cable, Member Maureen Meredith, Treasurer Ruth Nicholls, Anne Cook and Secretary Carol Sheen.

Mike Head, Deacon



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