

# Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 21 Issue 3

Jan Feb 2016

£1

## CHRISTMAS FAIR



Pictures taken by various photographers at the successful Christmas Fair which raised £795 to help the future hall regeneration



A very special visitor who was given a warm welcome



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](mailto:m.lloyd1@btconnect.com). Special thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue.

**WHAT AN EFFORT**



At Hundred House Show in the beginning of September, Ian Jones set out to raise money for British Heart Foundation Cymru, by completing a sponsored shearing event. He sheared 400 sheep in 8 hours and raised over twelve thousand pounds. The picture above shows Ian with wife Kate, and daughters Ruby and Ellie presenting the fundraising cheque to British Heart Foundation Cymru

Ian has many connections with Painscastle. His mum was brought up at Groesvaen, and he was a member of the Rhosgoch Football team for many years. Ian decided on the challenge in memory of his father, Adrian, who sadly died from a heart condition a couple of years ago.

Ian said "This was a personal challenge for myself and my family as my father, Adrian Jones, suffered a heart condition two years ago and tragically passed away. I was determined to do this challenge in memory of my father. We wanted to support Wales' heart charity, British Heart Foundation (BHF) Cymru to help fight Wales' biggest killer. We have had so much support and we have raised a total of £12,636, so a very big thank you to everyone who helped and donated money.



*Ian hard at work while his daughter, six year old Ruby clears the wool.*



Jean & Ben Griffith with the special guest at their last Christingle service at Bryngwyn in December. We wish them well and hope they are settling in to their new parishes in Kington and district.



Father Christmas keeping the children entertained

**PAINSCASTLE & RHOSGOCH**

**WELCOME TO OUR SITE**

This small and vibrant community of several villages and smaller hamlets is located within the heart of the beautiful and historic Welsh Borders, just a few miles away from the famous second-hand book centre of Hay-on-Wye. This tranquil upland area has been coveted and fought for by Roman legionnaires, Norman knights, Welsh princes and English Kings and has much to entertain the visitor looking for beautiful scenery, peace and quiet and historic delights, such as the ramparts of Offa's Dyke, the legacy of the Drovers and the reminiscences of the Reverend Francis Kilvert. This is our story.

The new Painscastle and Rhosgoch website is well worth a visit and is loaded with information about the local area. The gallery section contains a number of photographs that might encourage readers to get out and about when the good weather comes. More local photographs are always required - so, if you have any, please do not be shy - send them in! Full details can be found on the website [www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk](http://www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk)

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## CULINARY COLUMN

### Tipple 'n' Tiffin in Brecon

Bright and breezy, overlooking Brecon canal, Tipple 'n' Tiffin does morning coffee and cake, and then does its more sophisticated glad rags for evening dining. The tranquil atmosphere is a great start to any event at the Theatr Brycheiniog, and for our evening out we were looking forward to entertainment from the Brecon Jazz club.

When you have small children, evening entertainment has to be very good to tempt you out, as of course you could be blissfully sleeping instead. However, the true test of having got through those sleep deprived early years is when you can sit through a piece of entertainment without falling asleep. Long before Toyota had the idea for their cars, parents have adopted excellent start-stop systems where, when their bodies are sitting stationary for more than 1.5 seconds, their engines are automatically switched off. The jazz was going to have to be very good that night!

The pre-theatre dinner has a much reduced menu but for £8 for two courses it was very appealing. I chose the Moroccan spiced chicken with tabouleh which was very generous and lightly spiced. My Gentleman Friend's cottage pie was tasty with dark green cabbage leaves breaking up the hearty richness. Thanks to us ordering the food when we booked, both dishes arrived at the table as soon as we sat down which added to the warm welcome we had received. The pre-order and the entertainment being laid on upstairs for us gave the evening a very relaxed quality. For pudding I had lemon syllabub and shortbread, which was a great combination of silky creaminess and buttery crunch.

My Gentleman Friend's berry crumble had a cosy comfort-food feel to it which, judging from his request to share my pudding, was improved when mixed with syllabub. Perhaps there is room for the two to be combined maybe syllabub with a berry crumble topping?

After the meal we moseyed upstairs to jazz in the bar where the rather fabulous Donnie Joe's American Swing band was playing their infectious rhythms and witty tunes. Jazz is great in that every instrument is meticulously show cased, and none so well as Heulwen Thomas' wild jazz violin. Our soon tapping toes kept away any thoughts of switching off, although we did need an emergency refuel at the Wheelwrights on the way home.

Tipple 'n' Tiffin is a relaxed friendly place to eat and very convenient before a theatre performance. Brecon's monthly jazz club has a good line up for 2016, and I am sure we will be back.

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

### Mixed berry syllabub crumble

This is a made up recipe that is fun for children to make as an attractive easy pudding to finish off Sunday lunch.

- 500g frozen mixed berries, defrosted
- 4 tablespoons caster sugar
- 284ml double cream
- 284ml natural yoghurt
- 8 crushed digestive biscuits

Place the defrosted berries in a bowl and sprinkle with the sugar. Set aside for 5 minutes.

In a separate bowl whip the cream to very soft peaks, and then stir in the yoghurt.

Fold half the cream and yoghurt mix into the raspberry mixture to get a satisfyingly bright pink cream.

Divide between 6 glasses, and gently layer the pink cream, white cream and remaining berries. Make sure the last layer is white cream.

Sprinkle the crushed digestive biscuits on top. Chill for 1 hour.

### PAINSCASTLE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall would like to take this opportunity to thank all who support the hall in so many different ways throughout the year.

Most recently the Village Hall held its annual Christmas Fair on December 13<sup>th</sup>. This day was a popular date with many events happening in and around the local area. The attendance was fantastic; the Local Stall owners displayed their products beautifully and were very creative; the mulled wine was at the right temperature and we can't forget Father Christmas and his two superb Elves who really made it a magical day for all the children. Many thanks again for coming along to show your support. It was greatly appreciated. We look forward to doing it all again next year.

During the AGM on October 19<sup>th</sup> the committee held an Election of Officers: Chair is Beau Herdman, Vice Chair is Geraint Lloyd, Treasurer is Jeremy Rose and Secretary Pamela Lloyd. The committee would like to give a huge thank you to John Abberley and Meg Lloyd for their hard work. Meg steps down from Secretary after six years of service, she has done a lot for the Hall over the years, especially with her work on grants and other projects.

Our next Hall Event – RACE NIGHT with Cheese and Wine on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. We hope you can all attend for our Pre-Lambing night out!!

### PAUL MEREDITH

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£1500 for Welsh Air Ambulance in 2015, a wonderful effort. The first for 2016 is on February 25th so why not come and enjoy an evening, it is free entry, bar open, bar snacks available, cash prizes and raffle with the added bonus of

helping raise much needed funds for charity.

### Bryngwyn RDA – Help Needed

As many of you will know, there is a long established equestrian centre on our doorstep in the shape of Bryngwyn Riding Centre. What some of you may not know is that Bryngwyn is also the home of Bryngwyn Riding for the Disabled Group.

This charity has been giving disabled people from the wider community the opportunity to ride and experience the joy of horses for four years now and parents, carers and volunteers alike have seen the huge difference this makes to our riders.

As with any charity, we are legally obliged to have a management committee including chairperson, treasurer and secretary. Our treasurer is unfortunately stepping down at the end of this financial year so we must find someone to fill this crucial role as soon as possible, otherwise the group will be forced to fold. If you or anyone you know has the necessary skills to take on this task then please contact the group. You can call on 01497 851 360 or email [Bryngwyn.rda@gmail.com](mailto:Bryngwyn.rda@gmail.com)

Or if you would like to offer your services as a volunteer then please also get in touch. No equine knowledge or skills are necessary to be a volunteer or treasurer.

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## POWYS PRATTLES

Just recently news broke that I previously thought I would never hear about any secondary school in Powys - Builth Wells High School has been put in to what is known as 'special measures' by Wales's schools inspectors, Estyn. BWHS now joins Llandrindod Wells and Brecon High Schools in this situation, meaning 3 out of the 4 Mid-Powys high schools are deemed to be operating unsatisfactorily. Only Gwernyfed High School is judged to be operating satisfactorily. How ironic that it is Gwernyfed that is under threat of closure!

'Special measures' means that the running of the school is now subject to regular inspection and intervention by Estyn and Welsh Government officials. Powys County Council, as the Local Education Authority, has to work closely with the school to develop a recovery plan to get it back on track. These developments are of course very significant for the young people and staff at the schools concerned. For me, they are profoundly depressing. Coming back on to the County Council last summer after a break of 8 years, I view them as part of a general, stark decline in the quality of council services that has occurred over that period.

Under-performing schools also have wider economic significance. Eighteen years ago I sat on the board of the Development Board for Rural Wales (DBRW), whose job it was, until its winding up in 1998, to promote the economic and social development of Mid Wales. Much of the Board's effort was aimed at attracting inward business investment in to the region. This was made infinitely easier by the fact that the whole region included first class schools, bustling and attractive market towns, good sporting and cultural facilities and well-maintained, uncrowded roads. Although our main roads are thus far still pretty good, it is more difficult to be positive about anything else on that list. School standards are slipping, our local sports facilities are under threat, local theatre and arts companies are being starved of funds and our market towns feature too many empty shops and closed public toilets.

This gradual decline seems to be matched by an increasing inability of the County Council and other agencies to arrest it; and appears to me to be accepted by too many people in positions of responsibility with a shrug of the shoulder. What can we do, they say, in the face of years of annual reductions in funding from central government? They have a point, in that many years of real-terms reductions to Powys County Council's rate support grant from Welsh Government, which makes up 70% of its annual budget, is culminating in possibly another 4% reduction in 2016/17. Why? Well, in part because the local government funding formula in Wales disadvantages rural areas. But every time the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Westminster cuts funding to local government in England it has a proportionate effect on the annual block grant to Wales. Either the Welsh Government has to pass on that reduction to Welsh councils, or it has to make up the shortfall from elsewhere. Cuts in England do generate cuts in Wales.

But, whatever the funding difficulties, this is a decline we simply have to find a way of reversing. It may have to be that local government does less in the future, but does what it does much better. Whatever happens, I believe people should say to me and my colleagues on the County Council that they will not accept second-best any more; that complacency will not be tolerated; and that residents of rural areas like ours still deserve good quality services in return for their council tax. The challenges are serious, but they can and must be overcome.

Contact James on 01497 820434 or 07971048737 or at [cllrjgw@powys.gov.uk](mailto:cllrjgw@powys.gov.uk) at any time. James Gibson-Watt

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

A very happy new year to you all! I do hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are not feeling the January blues as we begin 2016.

Even at Christmas there is never a silent night in Brecon and Radnorshire. In December, I met with local people to discuss the closure of the HSBC banks in Builth Wells and Rhayader, and would like to thank all of those who met with me and signed my letter to oppose the closures. I hope the bank will now review their decision and ensure that adequate provision is provided in our towns.

In other news, I am sorry to say that we in Brecon and Radnorshire are to be hit by a cut in our local council settlement from the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff – for the 10th year in a row. This means even less money for the local public services we regularly rely upon. A great disappointment to say the least.

We all know that when money is tight, difficult decisions have to be made. But slashing our services for 10 years in a row means only one thing – we are being forgotten by the Welsh Assembly.

There are two reasons why this might be. Either our AM has had a weak, quiet voice in the Welsh Assembly that has not been listened to; or she has not understood the needs of those of us in Brecon and Radnorshire. Perhaps being in Cardiff, focussing on her party's prospects in the forthcoming Assembly elections has ensured that this issue has fallen further down her priority list – but those of us on the ground are really feeling the pinch.

What frustrates me most is that she abstained from voting on the local government settlement that has so harmed our local services over the last number of years. With great difficulty, I could have tried to understand her voting for the settlement – but to be so disinterested as to have abstained to me is very disappointing.

I am sure that this is not how any of us wanted to start the year. I feel we deserve better. What I believe we are asking for is a strong voice for Brecon and Radnorshire in the Welsh Assembly – one that will be listened to rather than side-lined, heard rather than ignored, and vocal not silent. Or is that too much to ask?

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!

Chris Davies

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Mr Richard Ball, 2 Hermon Villa  
Vice-chairman, Philip Lewis, Llandeviron  
Robert Tyler, Lower Pentrecaeau  
Monty Graham, 2 Castle Meadow  
Treena Davies, Lettypiad  
Deri Jones, Portway  
David Nicholls, Castlefield Close  
Mrs Jenny Smith, Penrhiw

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month.  
Agendas and minutes for meetings are posted on the notice boards in Painscastle, Rhosgoch and Llandeilo Graban.  
Clerk: Richard Price, Trewyrlod 01497-851244

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

## Y F C NEWS

Having started the ball rolling on organising our Christmas events, we started December with the Radnor County Hedging Match followed, in the evening, with the County Pool & Darts competition. Due to poor weather conditions, the Hedging match was postponed (we are still waiting for it to be rearranged), however the Pool & Darts competition was a great success.

Our newest member, Penney George, who has joined us from Kington YFC, won the Ladies singles darts. James Poulton then won the Mens singles darts for the fourth time in 5 years! James Evans and Carys Bate were then beaten in the mixed doubles darts semi-finals. Josh Nicholls and Rhiannon Price entered the pool mixed doubles and were sadly beaten in the semi-finals. Charlie East was then also beaten in the Mens singles pool semi-finals. Sadly we had no-one entered in the ladies pool singles, but I must say that we did enter this competition very last minute and so credit must be given to the members that gave it a go at such short notice!

We must also say thank you to Kate Redford Lloyd and Bethan Davies for stepping in as Elves for the Painscastle Christmas Fair on behalf of Rhosgoch YFC!

Before we knew it, it was time for Carol Singing. This year we continued our tradition of raising money for Wales Air Ambulance and managed to raise over £350 which is the most we have managed to raise in a long time! Thank you very much to everyone who sponsored, fed and watered us, it really is very much appreciated!

With Christmas out of the way, we held our New Years Eve party at Rhosgoch Golf Club. The night was a great success with over 130 people in the clubhouse by midnight! Thanks very much to all who attended and made it such a great evening!

We had no time to rest after NYE, with Bethan Davies cracking the whip and making sure we knuckled down for Drama practice. Bethan has suitably earned herself the nickname of "The Dictator" for her drama practice regime alongside her wingman John Meredith.

Penney George, Ed Evans, Claire Meredith, Charlie East, James Evans, Shaun Meredith, Josh Nicholls and Carys Bate will all take part in the 2016 Drama competition, with Rhiannon Price, Rebecca Lloyd, James Herdman, Dan Herdman, Emma Evans and Emily Bagley taking part in the 2016 One Plus competition which is being produced by Andrew Ritchie.

We are hoping to put on a concert of our performances in March - Please keep an eye out for more information.

Due to so many members taking part in the Drama and One Plus competition we have had to hold off from our meetings planned within our programme as we have no time! We will go back to the programmed events after Drama week is over (15th - 20th February).

We do however have a quiz to be held at Rhosgoch Golf Club on Friday 5th February! 7pm for 7.30pm start, maximum of 5 people per team, £2 per person!

Radnor YFC are also hosting a night at Clyro Court on Saturday 27th February, £7 entry, 9pm til late - Everybody welcome! (Over 18's only).

If anyone is interested in tickets for the Drama and One Plus, please call the office on 01597 829008 / 824096, tickets go on sale Saturday 23rd February. The One Plus is on stage on Wednesday night and the Drama is Friday night.

Finally, thank you all for your support in 2015! See you at our quiz on February 5th!

## RHOSGOCH YFC CLUB PROGRAMME 2015-2016

15th – 20th February 2016 Albert Hall Llandrindod Radnor County Drama week

### March

3rd March 2016 Painscastle Hall 7.30pm Club careers evening

17th March 2016 Painscastle Hall 7.30pm Club social evening – either a talk or a demonstration

31st March 2016 Painscastle Hall 7.30pm Club social – Members to decide

### April

14th April 2016 Farm TBA 7.30pm

Lambing live – members to visit a farm during lambing

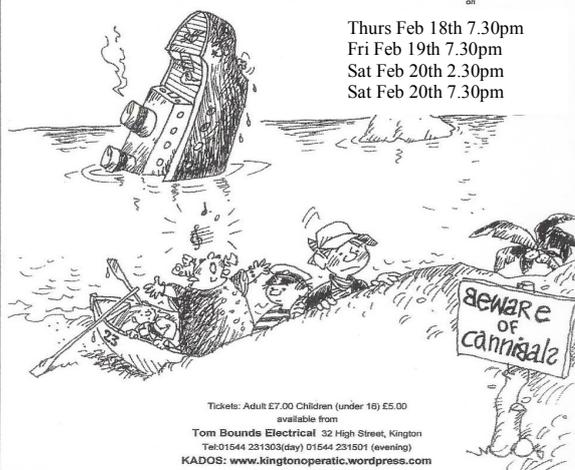
24th April 2016 Painscastle Hall 10am Rhosgoch YFC Funride

6th – 8th May 2016 at Blackpool National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs AGM

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### Timetable for 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 Half Term on Friday 12th February and for Easter on Thursday 24th March return week beginning Monday 4th April.



### CHIPS FOR EVERYONE!

We had a happy reunion at Hay Vets this January. A local lady arrived at the practice with a stray cat who had been hanging around her garage looking for food. She brought him into us at the practice and our first step was to check whether he had any means of identification. Happily when veterinary nurse Leanne Davies scanned him she found a microchip and immediately contacted the 'PetLog' register.

To everyone's surprise the chip was registered to an owner in Wiltshire! When we phoned the owner she was VERY surprised. It turns out that Alfie had been missing for over 3 weeks. No one knows how he made the trip to Hay, but by the time he arrived here he must surely have had quite an adventure. Alfie returned home after a couple of days R&R at the practice – hopefully he'll stay closer to home from now on.

This story underlines how important a microchip is to keep pets identified. From April 6<sup>th</sup> the law will change and all dogs in England & Wales must be identified by means of a microchip. It's vital too that the chip is registered to the central database, with the owner's correct name and address.

A microchip is inserted quickly and easily by means of a needle under the skin. Once in, the chip doesn't bother them and acts as a permanent means of identification. Virtually any animal can have a chip inserted safely and quickly. If you would like to have your pet chipped please call Hay Veterinary Group on 01497 820863 to book an appointment.

### PAINSCASTLE 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.

### PAINSCASTLE MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian membership organisation. Our four million members work with people of all faiths to promote stable marriage and family life. Members do this by offering friendship, support, prayer and raising funds and awareness.

Painscastle Mothers' Union is a small group of dedicated members. We meet during the autumn and winter months on the second Tuesday of the month. Our meetings start with a short service to pray for members and their work worldwide and for ourselves in this community.

This may be followed by a speaker, practical activity or to discuss the work of the Mothers' Union. The evening ends with tea, coffee and a chat, helping us to keep in touch with our local area. New members are always welcome. Please join us for our next meetings on:

9<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in Painscastle Hall – Ruth Hergest "Animals in the Bible"

8<sup>th</sup> March – Charmian Pugh "Cake Decorations"

Our Christmas Dinner on 8<sup>th</sup> December was a happy, but also a sad evening. Happy because members and friends enjoyed a relaxing and delicious meal at the Roast Ox. Sad because we were saying goodbye to Ben & Jean Griffiths. In the week before their move to Kington we were so pleased to welcome them to our Mothers' Union celebrations. Ben kindly said Grace, crackers were pulled, funny hats worn and groans uttered at the silly jokes.

Ben & Jean had been with us for such a short time but achieved so much. Thank you for your hard work, support and friendship. Our best wishes for a happy living in Kington.

For more info contact Fran Shaw on 01982 560480

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri Feb 5th Quiz at Rhosgoch Golf Club 7pm for 7.30  
Sat Feb 6th Clyro Village Hall 7pm An Evening of Musical  
Delight, Marathon Fundraiser for Save the Children  
Sun Feb 7th Pub Quiz at Rhosgoch Golf Club [part of the  
World's biggest pub quiz] in aid of Welsh Air  
Ambulance 7.30 pm  
Feb 15th—20th Radnor County Drama Week, Albert Hall,  
Llandrindod Wells  
Mon Feb 15th The Selfish Giant Puppet Show by Sea Legs  
Puppet Theatre at Rhosgoch Golf Club at 11am  
Thr—Sat Feb 18th—20th Pantomime at Lady Hawkins Centre  
Thr Feb 25th Bingo at Clyro Court 7pm  
Sat Feb 27th Race Night & Cheese & Wine Evening at  
Painscastle Village Hall 7.30 pm  
Sat Feb 27th Radnor YFC Night at Clyro Court 9pm til late  
Sat Mar 12th Easter Bingo at Rhosgoch Golf Club 7.30pm  
Thr Mar 24th Easter Bingo at Clyro Court 7pm  
Sun Apr 24th Rhosgoch YFC Funride Painscastle Hall

### HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH

ALL SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30PM

Mar 25th Good Friday Service Revd M Powell 7 pm

Sunday School every Sunday morning 10 – 11 am

### ADULLAM BAPTIST CHAPEL, PAINSCASTLE

Wed Mar 23rd Resting at Bethany Service

### MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN

Services Sundays at 2.30pm

Feb 21st Rev Brian Reardon

Mar 6th Brian Lopezx

Mar 20th Church with us Ruth Hargest

Mar 25th Sankey Evening

Mar 27th Rev G Bingham

April 10th Penny Robertson

April 24th Rhosgoch Chapel

May 1st Painscastle Reunion

May 8th Special Service Rev Meredith Powell

May 22nd Rev Robert Thomas

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### CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to Russell and Tracey Bowkett, The  
Fferem on the birth of a baby boy on 5th January 2016,  
Edwin Jack a little brother for Evelyn who is nineteen  
months. Congratulations and best wishes to all the family.

### ERWOOD AND PAINSCASTLE CHURCHES

7th Feb. - 9am Newchurch HC;  
1030am Morning Service  
10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Ash Weds. 7pm Aberedw (Philip Morris)  
14<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 9am Aberedw (HC);  
11am Llanbedr (HC). (Philip Morris)  
21<sup>st</sup> Feb - 9am Crickadarn (HC);  
3pm Llandewifach (Fr. Hook)  
28<sup>th</sup> Feb - 9am Llandeilo Graban (HC);  
11am Bryngwyn (HC)  
6<sup>th</sup> March, Mothering Sunday, – 9am Newchurch 1662 HC,  
1030 am Morning Service;  
11am Gwenddwr (HC)  
13<sup>th</sup> March – 9.30am Llanbadarn-y-garreg (HC);  
11am Llanbedr (HC)  
20<sup>th</sup> March, Palm Sunday, – 9.30 am Bryngwyn (HC);  
11am Crickadarn (HC);  
2.30pm Joint service in Chapel, Llandeilo G  
3pm Llandewifach (Humphrey Fisher)  
24<sup>th</sup> March – Maundy Thursday – 7pm Aberedw  
25<sup>th</sup> March – Good Friday – 9am Bryngwyn Morning  
Prayer & Litany  
27<sup>th</sup> March, Easter Day, - 9am Aberedw (HC),  
1030am Newchurch (HC);  
11am Gwenddwr (HC),  
11am Llanbedr (HC) (Philip Morris)  
3<sup>rd</sup> April – 9am Newchurch 1662 HC,  
1030 Newchurch Morning Service,  
9.30 am Llanbadarn-y-Garreg (HC),  
11am Gwenddwr (HC);  
11am Llandeilo Graban (Morning Prayer)

**WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE** to be  
held on Friday 4th March at Bethesda Evangelical Church,  
Hay on Wye (This is the Church opposite the old Doctors'  
Surgery on Oxford Road which has been newly refurb-  
ished). The Service will take place at 7.30 pm, the  
Speaker is the Rev. Gordon Bingham and all are wel-  
come. Refreshments will follow the Service which has  
been arranged this year by the women of Cuba.

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### 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 [P8].

There are features on local news and events. Sunday School [P15] & Tots [P16], Culinary Column [P3], Farm Focus [P12], Mikey [P13], and news from local clubs and associations. Thanks to all. [m.lloyd1@btconnect.com or 01497-851609].  
ML (Editor)

### WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB

Next dates for Rhosgoch Wednesday Lunch Club are:-

February 17th

March 16th

April 20th

For more details contact Wendy King 01497-851229

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### MOBILE LIBRARY

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

### BRONLLYS WELL BEING PARK

Our bid for Stage 1 funding was accepted and on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> February we meet our new Community Land Trust Technical Advisor, Ian Crawley. Ian will support us with the next steps needed to make the Well Being Park at Bronllys happen. Two members of our Steering Group will also be attending The National Community Land Trust in London at the end of January.

So we are still on track to make the Grounds of Bronllys Well Being Park reach it's potential for it to be a flagship Rural Development Project with the provision of NHS community services complemented by a number of activities including:

✿ Economic development ✿ Transport ✿ Rural Affairs  
✿ Housing ✿ Planning ✿ Sustainability ✿ Education  
✿ Health ✿ Tourism as identified by Val Whiting for Welsh Assembly Govt), to benefit our local community. Officials from Powys County Council and Powys Teaching health Board have been and will continue to work with the Steering Group to make all this happen around our much loved Bronllys Community Hospital.

**PH&WB Action Group:** The Bronllys Park Subgroup has completed the Business Plan which will see an appropriate Community Benefit Organisation legally take over the hospital grounds and run the Well Being Park. In August we became Members of the Community Land Trust which has supported over 150 or so similar projects successfully for their communities throughout the UK. The CLT's help, funding and advice will add to our own team's skills and expertise. Thanks must be given to all who have contributed so much of their own time and energy at their own expense to get the Well Being Park proposals this far. However from now on the Fundraising effort is beginning in earnest. We now have a fundraising subgroup set up and all donations and grants will be gratefully received. In September we appointed a pro bono Certified Auditor to assist with financial oversight of the project development.

**Health and Well Being in our Communities: Bronllys League of Friends-** published "Memories of Bronllys Hospital" in August and copies are still for sale in the Hay and Talgarth Surgeries, Boughrood Stores and Talgarth Tourist Centre.

**Veterans at Bronllys Hospital** added an "At Ease" Garden to their Woodland Walk in the grounds. The official opening was on the 17<sup>th</sup> July, the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Official Opening of Bronllys Hospital by King George V.

The Bronllys Well Being Steering group is purely voluntary, no one gets paid even expenses.

They are however looking for secretarial back up, so if you feel you would be able to help please get in touch with them.

**Contact: Teg Fan, Church Lane, Llyswen, Powys, LD3**

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### DOWN MEMORY LANE

(This article was originally published in the September/October 2000 edition)

#### Report on the Roundabout on the Begwyns

The start of the project to rebuild the Roundabout after the deprivations caused to it by weather, people and other animals started about February 1985 with an inquiry by Painscastle Community Council about its origins to the Maesllwch Estate.

In 1987, to celebrate Prince Charles' wedding (apparently *not* the Silver Jubilee), positive action was taken by Rhosgoch Young Farmers building a stock fence within the old walled enclosure covering about a third of the area. Trees were provided and planted within this fence by the Maesllwch Estate (Major W. De Winton).

In February 1997, the stock fence was extended, in bitter weather, to take in a larger proportion of the ground within the circumference of the wall. About 200 Corsican Pines, provided by Powys County Council, were planted in March within this extended area. Some Beech, Rowan and Ash were added in the gaps left by failed trees in April 2000.

#### The Wall

In 1995/96, Painscastle Community Council decided to investigate whether the wall could be rebuilt and this culminated in a site meeting in May 1996 involving The National Trust, Mentor Powys, The Prince's Trust, Graziers Association and Rhosgoch YFC. From this meeting, a plan of the site and the outline for a rebuilt wall were produced through Powys County Council.

In 1997, the Community Council decided, with the full approval of the National Trust, to try and raise money to rebuild the dry stone wall at the Roundabout as a Millennium Project.

Fortunately, by late 1998, the finance had been raised through The Manifold Trust (the largest proportion), Powys County Council and The Prince's Trust. It was thought that it would take two years to rebuild the wall.

Local volunteers started to clear up the site, dig out fallen stone around the wall and expose its footings in about March 1999.

Rebuilding of the dry stone wall started on 5th July, 1999 by a team of wallers and apprentices (termed volunteers), led by Mr Stuart McDonnell of the National Trust.

The weather, in general, was kind during the building period though there were wet and windy days.

Many people visited the site whilst work was in progress, including Rhosgoch School who were given instruction at the site by the Wallers, and it is hoped that they enjoyed the few hours in the open out of their classrooms. It was a delightful day.

Visitors were most encouraging and complimentary of the work being done, a boost to morale!

The 298 yards of stock proof stone wall (min 5ft 6ins high), a magnificent structure using about 25 tons of imported walling stone, plus two stiles were completed on 28th September, 1999.

A very creditable effort.

This Millennium Project was completed within time and cost.

#### The Seat

The seat, to a design by Mr Richard Harris, The Castle, Rhosgoch, was dug out on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2000 by Mr Afon Williams of Clyro, using pegs laid out by the designer. Mr Williams had to squeeze his mini digger through the opening left after removing one stile.

Building the seat started towards the beginning of

June and was completed by its designer and inspiration Mr Richard Harris with the National Trust wallers under Mr Stuart McDonnell on 23rd June 2000.

This seat is most effective and enhances the project adding to the wonderful sculpture. The Community is extremely fortunate to have such talent in its midst and such a public spirited one.

The simple plaque was placed in position by its inscriber, Mr Panico Theodosiou of Penpont, Sennybridge, on 3rd July, another enhancement.

As much as possible of the old stone was incorporated in the wall, although 40 tons of additional walling stone were used in the whole project, not including the seats made out of 28 slabs at £20 each, which were additional. Some of these slabs had to be cut in half and man handling them into position required at least four men and some needed six.

All the imported stone came from a quarry near Tredomen, Llangors, owned by Mr AK.Jones, Powys Plant Hire, of Ponde.

At least 1650 hours work were put in by the community, a display of the public spirit and commitment given to the project by the local community. They helped by preparing the ground, routing out old stone, taking stone to the site when deliveries could not get up the hill, cleaning up, excavating the seat site and even walling.

The cost of the project was £6263.98; however, this does not include the cost of the wallers, who were provided through the NT, nor the time given by volunteers, or their machinery and fuel.

Painscastle Community Council is extremely grateful to The Manifold Trust, Powys County Council and The Prince's Trust for their financial support without which the project could not have been undertaken.

Very many thanks are due to the numerous souls that encouraged, helped, provided equipment, mended punctures, lifted stone, carried stone, laid stone, cleared stone, sat on stone, laughed, got wet, gave advice, produced ideas, were happy, whinged or were just useful.

The Bronze Age Persons must welcome the return to peace. A COMPLETED PROJECT THAT EVERYONE CAN BE PROUD OF.

*Finis. Sed nunc ad alia*, (but now to other things)

Many ask what are the purpose and origins of the Wall. There is no positive answer. A number of suggestions were mooted; amongst these are:-

A beacon site

A defensive structure for animals or even people

A folly

A safe haven for witches

What a nice place to have a Roundabout.

Mr Pat and Marion Griffith, Cwmbach, gave the following information about the Roundabout:

"Major de Winton, at the time of the Prince and Princess of Wales' wedding, was prepared to donate trees for the Roundabout provided an area was fenced off.

A stock fence was put up by the YFC, under the direction of Mrs Brenda Meredith (Nee Lewis), and Lodgepole pine, Scotch Pine, Beech and Rowan were planted within the new enclosure.

The previous trees had been European Larch but they had been rather reduced by the Home Guard during WW2 when this position was occupied as a lookout post. Wood was used to help keep the lookouts warm!

The German Luftwaffe flight path appeared to use

Llangorse Lake as a marker before turning on a course to Liverpool and the Home Guard were part of a system that tracked the bombers' path.

Mrs Griffith has a photograph of her family having a picnic in front of the wall when her Mother was 16 -18, and therefore was probably shortly after the 1st World War. (This wall is very similar to that which has replaced it, although the present wall may be a bit higher.)

A wall was constructed by the Maesllwch Estate, which covered about 23,000 acres at this time, for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, or certainly by her Diamond Jubilee 1897. The first sale of land from the Estate took place between 1923-26.

There were no openings in the old wall.

The Estate built three pools, one to the SE of the Roundabout and another at Kilkenny Dingle. The location of the third is not known. The pools were used for fishing." Mr Sam Price, Priory Wood, Clifford, added the following: His father had told him that the trees at the Roundabout were used to make a bonfire at, probably, Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee (1887) or perhaps Diamond Jubilee (1897). Trees were replanted within the Roundabout after this event.

#### **Comment**

This seems to confirm that there was something at the Roundabout many years before the start of the 20th Century as the trees burnt in 1887 were probably at least 30 years old or even older. This could be supported by the Tumuli noted on a map dated 1843.

Because the site is clearly visible for miles, it is said that seven old counties can be seen from the Roundabout; it would have been an excellent choice as a beacon site.

Also, the river Wye was readily navigable to Glasbury certainly up to 300 years ago allowing access to marauders and, of course, this was border country with different interests attempting to secure control over the area. So a beacon, lit from wood collected adjacent to the site, could have acted as a warning to a wide area, in good weather!

There is evidence of Bronze Age tumuli and medieval habitation on the Begwyns found in a study carried out by Aberystwyth University for the NT. So some sort of farming would have been taking place for millennia on these hills, and positions for domestic animals which were defendable from bear and wolves would have been needed. A defendable enclosure with a clear 'field of fire' would have made tops of hills a natural choice, so it is possible for the Roundabout to have a long history. Also, in these earlier times, the valleys would have been nearly impenetrable as they would have been bog or heavily forested. The Begwyns would have been an obvious choice for a defensive position.

There is no clear evidence as to when the Wall was actually built, although it is likely the Maesllwch Estate was involved at some time. There are, after all, walls delineating the Begwyns common and the Roundabout might have been part of this, but.....

A H Alexander

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## FARM FOCUS

For those of you that don't know me, I live with my wife Jo, and two children Hannah and Frances, at Lower Hengoed. I am a fourth generation farmer on this farm which lies on the English Welsh border along the banks of the River Arrow.

Historically we have kept suckler cows and breeding ewes with all their offspring sold through Kington Market. We have grown sufficient corn to feed the livestock in the winter and allow us to improve the grassland through reseeding after the corn.

In the past there appeared to be a political will to provide targeted support for the upland farmers. Schemes such as the HLCA recognised the importance of these farms to the rural economy in these areas. The gradual erosion of the support for this type of farm and the reliance of livestock farms on payments received from the RPA lead me to explore if we could reduce our reliance on these payments. We decided to see if we could put the resources on the farm to additional uses.

One of the rooms in the farmhouse has been converted into a beauty salon and Jo has been developing her beauty business offering a wide range of treatments from manicures and pedicures to state of the art anti-aging facials. I also work part-time for Farmplan developing agricultural computer software. We looked into cider fruit, mushrooms and chickens, but we decided to try cherries when the opportunity arose to grow the trees with the expertise of a company that was already growing cherries in the area.

The soil and location are very important when selecting a site for cherries. Cherries need plenty of light and do not like their roots wet, they also need the soil to have a neutral pH. One of the most critical times in the year is when the blossom is out; therefore you have to avoid locations that are susceptible to frost.

After putting temperature monitors around the farm in 2011 we arrived at 4 fields that were suitable for growing cherries. These were also fairly flat and not too exposed so that the tunnels that cover the trees won't get blown away.

We planted the first two fields in 2012 and the second two fields in 2013. Along with planting the trees, the trickle irrigation system was installed and the tunnels constructed. This was only the start however.

The varieties of cherry that we have planted here are standard trees but they are grafted onto dwarf rootstocks which is what keeps them smaller. Because the farm is at 650ft the fruit are naturally ripe two weeks later than the same varieties grown at sea level. In addition we are growing late ripening varieties in order to target the late season market.

In order to produce large quality cherries, the pruning and maintenance of the trees is very important. In order to get maximum light to all parts of the tree you want a tree to be shaped like a Christmas tree, which you achieve by pruning. Vigorous vertical stems do not produce much fruit so these are all tied down so that they grow horizontally.

We cover the trees just before the blossom comes out as it helps to protect the blossom from frost and give the bees a better environment; however it's always a worry when we get a windy night!

We use both honey and bumble bees to pollinate the cherries. Honey bees tend to fly to a flower and then back to the hive whereas bumble bees move between the flowers so pollinating more. The bumble bees also fly at lower temperatures than the honey bees which is very important if we have a cold spring, as no pollination means no fruit.

After the flowers have been pollinated and the soil has dried out we use a trickle irrigation system to irrigate the trees. The cherry trees do not like rain or being too hot so we also lift the side of the tunnels that are over the roadways so that the air stays cooler and rain will fall on the tracks rather than the trees.

From mid-July we start picking the fruit. It is all picked by hand and cooled as quickly as possible to improve its shelf life. We aim to have 95-97% class 1 fruit which is supplied to the major supermarkets.

The trees take 5 years to reach full maturity and we expect them to last another 15 years after that, so ask me in a couple more years whether we made the right decision to diversify into cherries. It is said you only regret what you haven't tried rather than what you have!

Richard Hammond

## GARDENING CLUB

**All meetings at Rhosgoch Golf Club at 7.30pm**

- Feb 4th Annual Dinner at Castlefields
- Sat Mar 12th EASTER BINGO
- Apr 7th Lewis Goldwater—Beautiful creations in wood
- May 5th or 12th Visit
- Jun 9th Sue Hamer—Flowers for fun

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

## Bryngwyn WI 2016 Programme

- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Cori Cruse - A Neal's Yard Evening
- Mar 1<sup>st</sup> Ceinwen Nixon - Corsages
- Apr 5<sup>th</sup> Sylvia Bigglestone and Jenny Keal – Fun with Buttons
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> Janet Robinson – A Family Grocer in WW2
- Jun 7<sup>th</sup> Sally Matthews – A Visit to Sally's Studio
- Jul 5<sup>th</sup> Alan Fay – The Plans for Bronllys Hospital
- Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> A Tour of Talgarth Mill 2pm
- Sep 6<sup>th</sup> Janette Hill – Travels with a Camera
- Oct 4<sup>th</sup> Chris Barber – Exploring Kilvert Country
- Nov 1<sup>st</sup> AGM
- Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Diana Balm – A Fun Christmas Activity

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

## MIKEY'S DIARY



Well it is nearly the end of January and I am still playing with one of my Christmas presents. Just before Christmas I was in trouble as I had chewed Abbie's ball. This may sound quite a serious offence but I am not sure that I was completely to blame. Abbie gave me her ball and so of course I started to play with it, but it was made of soft sponge and my teeth dug into it and soon there were bits of it all over the floor. Matthew and Darren were there and they did nothing to prevent the damage, in fact they seemed to be enjoying it. Of course then I got told off and it was decided that Abbie should have a new ball for Christmas. She landed up having three but I am still not allowed to play with them. However because Mo thought it was a bit unfair, she bought me two balls, a yellow one and an orange one. Sad to say the yellow one didn't last long either, I don't know why they don't make proper balls that are fun for us dogs to play with and will last more than a day. Mo was not very happy when she found the yellow ball in bits, but Abbie and I had enjoyed a lot of fun with it, even though it didn't last very long. I still have the orange one but not sure how long that will last! Abbie likes throwing a ball for me she seems to be better with that than with a stick or a frisbee. I think I told you last time how she only seems to be able to throw an inch or so from her feet, which hardly presents me with much of a challenge. However I have not given up on teaching her, I keep telling myself that humans are slow and we dogs just have to have patience!

Everyone gets really worried about buying Christmas presents, some people of course are very difficult to buy for. Us dogs don't worry too much, so a ball to play with, or a tin of food is grand, thank goodness Kate didn't decide to buy me a silly hat this year—maybe she is learning! TD had several presents but they were all variations on the same theme, he had a big box of 180 packs of crisps and then several other multiple packets, I know he likes crisps and he is not the best at sharing but, how long will they last perhaps to the end of January?

Of course January is the traditional time when humans think they are too fat. They are probably no different from the rest of the year but for some reason January means time for slimming! This year Kate and Pam are the main contenders although Jade makes a token effort now and again. They have decided that they will change fat into fit and so they have started running. Ozzie and Bailey go with them, I suspect Ozzie is not 100% committed but Bailey is very enthusiastic. The girls tie themselves to a dog and then the dog helps to pull them along. I don't volunteer for this nonsense, as I don't want to go running, I would much rather take my time and read all the messages along the way.

At Christmas we had visitors, two ladies called Winnie and Lottie. I really enjoyed entertaining them. We went for a few walks although they were very keen to go rabbit hunting while I really can't be bothered. I find rabbits do not play fair, they run far too fast and just when you think you may be catching up, they go down a hole out of sight. I think they are coming on holiday again soon, as they are sending Lindsey, Erin and Darren away for a weekend, so that they can come to the Lundy!

We had another visitor to the Lundy today, Grace, she keeps saying that I don't like her and that I growl, but that does not mean that I am going to bite her as I don't even bite the postman. I don't know why she worries about me. I am expected to growl at times, I bark when some people come, but sometimes I can't be bothered, there are always people

coming and going and if I barked at them all, it would give me a bad head.

TD has been at home a lot lately which of course means there is less food in the house, although he does a very professional job when he goes shopping—he buys everything in sight! He has had an operation on his knee, they made a couple of holes in it, I am not sure why, but he thinks that it is better although he now has to do exercises to teach it how to work properly again.

Have you read about the cat [P7] that got lost and finished up in Hay. I can't think why he should go to Hay, I went once but I didn't enjoy it! The VET lives in Hay and I am not too fond of them either. When I went there last,



they sent me home with this lampshade thing on my head and you can see how hard it was to play frisbee!

Well that is all for now remember not to overdo it! Take it easy just like me.

Mikey

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## THE BEGWNS'S PONDS - Jewels in the Landscape

Over the last two summers Ben Mullen (the National Trust Warden for the Begwns until October 2015), has been leading an interested group of local people (the Begwns Pond Group) to undertake surveys for the rare semi-aquatic fern called Pillwort.

Radnorshire is internationally important for this rare species which grows on the wet mud of unpolluted seasonal ponds. In addition to pillwort, some of these ponds also support tubular water-dropwort, which is another rare and declining species of unpolluted ponds. These species are listed on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act's Section 42 list of Species of Principal Importance to the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Wales. The species on the Section 42 list are also Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Species.

The presence of two Section 42 species indicates the excellent quality of these ponds which also support a species-rich assemblage of locally important plant species that includes: floating club-rush, lesser marshwort, ivy and round-leaved water-crowfoots, water purslane, lesser spearwort, pink water-speedwell, and shoreweed. These ponds have therefore been recognised by the Freshwater Habitats Trust (FHT) as being among the best-of-the-best ponds in Wales and in October 2015 the Begwns ponds became a Flagship Pond Site.

The FHT's Flagship Pond project is part of the People, Ponds and Water project funded by the Heritage Lottery. FHT's Wales Project Officer, Hannah Shaw, will be continuing the good work started by Ben Mullen and working with the Begwns Pond Group to undertake further surveys of the ponds, starting with water quality testing in late March 2016. Other surveys to be undertaken in 2016 include an amphibian survey (April), pond habitat surveys and monitoring surveys of pillwort and tubular water dropwort (July). A specialist freshwater invertebrate survey will be undertaken at the Monk's Pool to see if there are any invertebrate rarities to be found too. These surveys will provide baseline information for the ponds which will help with monitoring of pond quality in the future and help to inform any pond management. A Pond Walk on the Begwns is also planned for summer 2016 which will be led by FHT Director, Penny Williams, a pond and plant expert who knows and loves the ponds on the Begwns.

In addition, an early warning system will also be established for the site which will detail what action to take should the invasive non-native species New Zealand pygmy-weed *Crassula helmsii* be seen in any of the ponds on the Begwns. This species has destroyed rare plant assemblages at other upland ponds in the wider area, namely ponds on Llandeilo Graban hills and Brechfa Pool. It is hoped that if *C. helmsii* finds its way to the Begwns ponds, that it can be identified by members of the Begwns Pond Group and removed before it gets established so that the species-richness of these ponds can be maintained in the future. The Begwns ponds truly are jewels in the landscape which should be treasured.

For further information on the Begwns pond surveys and to get involved, please contact Hannah Shaw at [hshaw@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](mailto:hshaw@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk)

## LOCAL INTEREST GROUP VISIT TO ABERYSTWYTH

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, nine members of the Local Interest Group gathered at Painscastle hall for our trip to Aberystwyth. Mo Lloyd had arranged for us to visit the National Library of Wales in the morning and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales in the afternoon.

On arrival at the National Library, Mo's first priority was a cup of coffee which we had in the very welcoming cafe. Once this mission was accomplished, we were shown the North Reading Room. This has recently been refurbished and has four storeys of galleries around it where all of the printed material is housed. Our guide, Beryl, told us that a new catalogue had been launched in December 2015 and that this is the best place to start when one is searching for any item; it includes all digital records, subscriptions, photos, maps, manuscripts, etc. Once you are registered as a reader you can access newspapers and other online subscriptions from home. Free access is also possible for sites such as Ancestry, Find My Past and the Census records whilst working from the Library.

Various other collections are available in the Library, including State, Manorial, Map, Picture and Photo collections. The Archives Wales website is a good starting point when you are looking for items as this will tell you where they are held. Some could be in local archives, or other libraries and museums for example.

After lunch we headed off to the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales. We were somewhat surprised to see that an organisation associated with some wonderful buildings and ruins should be housed in a rather ugly 1960s block! We were given a very friendly welcome and a short introduction about the organisation. It was set up in 1908 in order to make an inventory of the ancient and historic buildings in Wales. It is still a recording body with archaeologists and other workers and nowadays they do a lot of "emergency" work for CADW. The Commission holds huge archives, both paper and digital records.

We were then introduced to Richard Suggett and he gave us a most interesting talk about important sites in Radnorshire. He started by explaining that Radnorshire is interesting because it is basically a timber-built county. An inventory of buildings was done originally in 1913 and so they decided to do another, a thematic study. This resulted in the publication, in 2005, of "Houses and History in the March of Wales: Radnorshire 1400-1800".

Cruck trusses are very distinctive in Radnorshire; they come from the base of the sill right up to the ridge of the buildings. Usually, they are made from a single branch of oak. Many are also ornamental so they are quite sophisticated. Crucks are not found everywhere in England and Wales and we were shown a map of their distribution; from this we could see that the heart of their distribution is the Welsh Marches, with Radnorshire at the centre. Hardly any crucks are found in the east of England, probably because there are more box frame buildings there.

The study identified three types of house within Radnorshire: lordship status houses (1400-1450); gentry houses (1450-1500); and, ordinary farmhouses (1550s).

The earliest houses were those of lordship status and these were built following Owain Glyndwr's revolt. Richard illustrated this type of dwelling by showing us a slide of Upper House in Painscastle. This is a triple court house and was built very close to the entrance to the castle, ie on an important site. Although they did not tree-

ring date the house, it probably dates from around 1450, possibly a little earlier.

Richard then went on to describe the gentry houses and showed us some pictures of examples. The people who lived in these would have had influence at the local level and there would probably have been one or two in each parish. A good local example is Great House in Newchurch. Gentry houses often have an ornate roof truss, which is often hidden, and a hall of two bays with a central truss. It is clear from documentation that these houses contained very little furniture. All had a fire hearth – the fire would have burned all day. There was also a long medieval bench at the top end of the hall, in front of which there would have been a narrow trestle table.

The ordinary farmhouses that the Commission surveyed in the county also often contained crucks. These buildings are usually located on a line dividing the enclosed land from the common on the hillside. The most usual form is that of a longhouse, with a living area at one end and the cattle shed at the other. The main date of construction of these dwellings is around 1550. The houses were about half the size of the gentry houses and they are usually of a one bay hall construction. They were actually miniature versions of the greater halls.

After his talk we were given the opportunity to search the many documents relating to the local area that the archivists had put on display for us. The staff could not have been more helpful and there is obviously a wealth of material in the Commission's possession that can be viewed by appointment.

As we left, the real reason that we had made the trip to Aberystwyth became apparent! Mo led the way down to the sea front, in the failing light, in search of an ice cream and she was not disappointed. Some of us preferred to go looking for a hot drink, but we all enjoyed watching the daylight ending over the bay and listening to the waves breaking on the beach. It had been a fascinating and most illuminating visit and many of us resolved to return to do further research on our local area.



**TRACEY JONES D.O.**  
&  
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### HERMON CHAPEL SUNDAY SCHOOL

We had a lovely Christmas Service at Hermon Chapel where the Sunday School children treated us to songs, poems and piano recitals. They did a wonderful job entertaining us all before a lovely afternoon tea,



which had been kindly prepared by the ladies.

The children from Sunday School would like to thank the chapel for the super books they received and Carol Sheen for the wonderful job she does every week.

### CRAFT CLUB DINNER



Craft Club put down their knitting and sewing and celebrated a Christmas break with a dinner at the Roast Ox recently.

### SNOWDROPS the first sign of spring



a permanent reminder of a long lost garden, now only part of history and only in view in the early months of the year

## TODDLER NEWS

Firstly, Rhosgoch and Painscastle Toddler Group would like to thank all those wonderful people who have had a sort out and donated unwanted toys, baby items and books to us. They have been very gratefully received and much used by the children.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to Andrew and Sarah Jones, Penllan who have kindly donated 10 brand new hurdles, to keep the children safe when entering and leaving the village hall.



### TOTS Timetable

This terms theme of transportation activities are under way! With last week's hot air balloons and this week's vehicles making the display board look great!!

Feb 2nd - Foot print vehicles

Feb 9th - Cut and stick transport pictures

Feb 16th - Junk model emergency vehicle

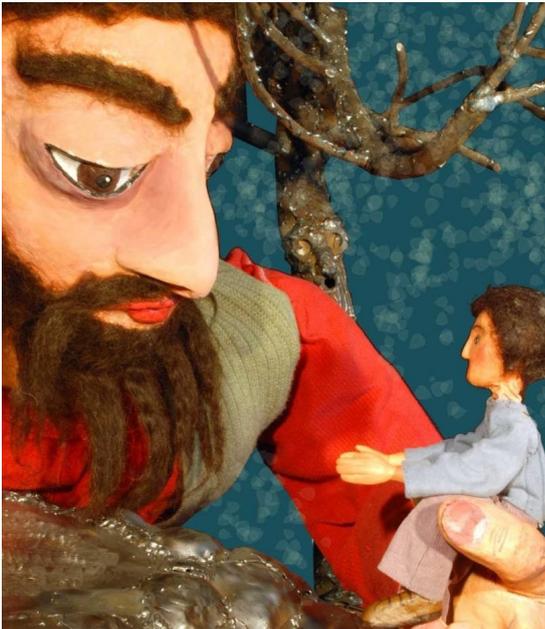
Feb 23rd - Car biscuits

March 1st - Vehicle rubbing

March 8th - Toilet roll racing cars

March 15th - Salt dough trains

### MONDAY FEBRUARY 15th (Half Term) The Selfish Giant Puppet Show



at Rhosgoch Golf Club  
At 11am.

Come and join us for the tale of the Selfish Giant by Sea Legs puppet theatre. Cosy up on blankets and hear how ever since building a wall to keep the children out of his garden, the only visitors the Selfish Giant gets are Lady Snow and her friends. One morning he hears the most beautiful music coming from his bedroom window and is delighted with the sight that greets him.

Set in a magnificent steel sculpted garden, the story is told using beautifully crafted puppets, a brilliant musical soundtrack and superb storytelling.

Tickets are available at £2 adults, £3 children and under 2s free. Message me or phone on 01497 851665- we look forward to seeing you!

Betty will be serving lunch afterwards with hot food from the golf club menu, such as lasagne, pie and chips. Let me know if you would like to eat so that Betty has rough numbers.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY



To get us in the Christmas spirit, Tots had a marvellous Christmas party kindly hosted by Rhosgoch Golf Club. After an appearance from the big man himself, much excitement as presents were unwrapped and a game of pass the parcel, we all had a lovely meal together.

