

# Rhosgoch Gossip

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£1

## Y.F.C. NEWS

Now with Christmas over it was time to begin with the drama competition. This year our drama was called 'Nothing to Report' written and produced by Nigel Protheroe. It was a story of a quiet local community which, without any large crimes or stories to report, leads to a group of reporters and policemen who decide to rob the post office, because as we all know, all the rural banks are now closed. Featuring a relatively large cast of 15 members, many have only been on the stage with YFC once or twice! All the members worked tirelessly on the production, braving multiple storms such as Ciara and Dennis proving that "the show must go on!" We performed on

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at the Albert Hall, Llandrindod Wells and came a fantastic 5<sup>th</sup> overall,



with nominations for Best Original Script, Best Sketch within a Performance, and



Best Actor 13 and Under for Thomas Davies! Brilliant! We managed to win the Best Sketch within a Performance for our Aeroplane Scene, meaning we once again get to display the Estyn Meredith MBE Perpetual Trophy!



On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March, we performed our drama at the Rhosgoch Golf Club along with a few additional acts including a two-bit sketch from some very questionable farmers played by Aaron Nicholls and Thomas Lloyd, a solo by Jo Bagley of Adele's 'Make You Feel My Love', and we re-instated the Rhosgoch YFC choir for one night only to perform Jess Glynne's 'These Days'. The night was run by our President Mr Tim East who kept the audience entertained throughout. We had many helpers throughout rehearsals and at each of the performances who



we couldn't have done it without, so thank you all again for your help this year! The night was well supported by the local community, who we would like to thank for coming to support us and we hope you all enjoyed yourselves!

Practising and performing for a drama is often not

an easy task in comparison to the other types of shows we perform. This year the cast have really put a lot of hard work in which really paid off, as we received a lot of really positive feedback from the audience. With such a young cast who all had relatively large



parts, I think we can say we were all very impressed with their acting; whether it was a mad dash to find their missing cows, holding up a post office with nothing but a water pistol, or scaling down an 8ft wall with a rope! We can certainly see the club has a bright future for our young actors!

Also, midway through our practising we hosted a quiz night at Rhosgoch Golf Club in aid of #TeamFrank. The evening was very successful as a total of £321 was raised! Well done to everyone involved and thank you to everyone who donated!



## 4 MILES ALONG THE HILL

When we decided to move and leave Chapel House, one mile above The Rhydspence Inn, where we had been very happy for 8 years, the big question was Where? We looked far and wide but this house was too small, this one was too remote and that one was in a town—Did we really want that? After a relatively short time we had a buyer for Chapel House and the pressure was on! About 10 days later we viewed Austenwood and both of us came away saying “that’s the one”, and there it was, only 4 miles along the hill!

We knew Painscastle a little, the Roast Ox a little more and The Begwns very well, coming up most days to walk our dogs there. We were delighted to be moving nearer to the pub and the Begwns and felt Painscastle was a village we could be happy in – we weren’t wrong! Before moving in we came up for the AGM of the Local Interest Group and were given the most friendly welcome.

Moving day was stressful, as they always are, and the next couple of weeks was spent trying to find essentials as well as getting a bit straight. Soon it was Christmas and we enjoyed our first carol service in Rhosgoch Chapel, attempting to sing in tune! We also enjoyed the evening at the village hall which followed the children’s party, as well as the carol singers from The Young Farmers, again getting a warm welcome and the feeling of a village with an amazing community atmosphere.

As well as myself and James, we arrived with our 4 dogs, rather noisy ones at that, as our neighbours have probably discovered! Billy, Betsy, Barney and Teddy have probably increased the number of village dogs by 100%! They were very disturbed by all the boxes which kept multiplying in Chapel House, but were much happier once these began to be unpacked and all the normal smells emerged in Austenwood.

They are very interested in the other dogs around the village, have met a few, and talked through the hedge to most of the others. They, like us, are delighted to be nearer their usual walks.

It is now 2 months since we arrived ( probably 4 months by the time you read this!) and we have no doubt that we made exactly the right move. We look forward to integrating into the life of the village, seeing the garden go through the Spring and Summer, and spending many happy years here.

Jenny and James Martin.

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## Y.F.C. NEWS

Upcoming events hosted by Rhosgoch YFC:  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April - Rhosgoch YFC Fun Ride

Upcoming events hosted by Radnor YFC:  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Radnor YFC Dance Competition  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Radnor YFC Sports Day  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Radnor YFC Rally 2020



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### RHOSGOCH & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB DINNER

Rhosgoch & District Gardening Club held their annual dinner at Rhosgoch Golf Club. As usual Betty supplied a beautiful roast dinner which was enjoyed by all.

During the evening we took part in a couple of games which raised £40 for Wales Air Ambulance.

Competitions winner for 2019 was Gaynor Price.



Gaynor receiving the trophy from Joan Hughes (mother) who was the previous winner.

### GARDENING CLUB PROGRAMME

Thr Mar 12th	Life in the hedgerow - Tim Kaye
Sat Apr 4th	Easter Bingo
Thr May 14th	TBA

All meetings at Rhosgoch Golf Club at 7.30pm. Details from Edwina Griffiths 01497-851284 or Pat Harley 01497-851632

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### CHARITY COLLECTIONS

Thanks so much for all your donations in the bus shelter and please continue to support the Bracken Trust by donating any stamps or bras.

## CLYRO & HAY NEWS

### CUSOP HISTORY GROUP

On Friday February 21<sup>st</sup>, Jane Weaver gave an illustrated talk about the **Cusop Graveyard** project sharing some of the fascinating details of her photography over the past few years. Jane has done a magnificent job on this important piece of local social history and we are very grateful for her hard-work and perseverance.

Our next meeting is on **Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Cusop Village Hall** when we welcome **John Price** who will be amazing us again with his collection of local films and photographs from Kilvert to photographs from the Mary Ridger Collection.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY, 7pm Cusop Village Hall: Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> – Tony Usher ‘From Roman Roads to Railways: Connecting People in Herefordshire’.** Transport networks shaped the fortunes of Herefordshire. From Roman roads, medieval trackways, river navigations, turnpikes, canals and tramways to Victorian steam engines.

**Friday July 10<sup>th</sup> – Heather Hurley – Exploring The Green Lanes of Herefordshire.** An illustrated presentation, featuring the history of the county through the green lanes.

Membership is only £5 a year, which helps towards our speakers and research projects.

If you would like to be involved in research or would like to help the group with information, photos or enthusiasm, please contact us. Visit our website at <http://cusophistory.wix.com/cusop> to see the latest information, including the research and our photos of historical Cusop. Email us at [cusophistory@gmail.com](mailto:cusophistory@gmail.com) or call Sue on 01497 822523.

**Hay Youth Theatre meets on Saturdays during term time at Cusop Village Hall at 10.30 until 12.30 for Juniors aged 7-11 and 1pm until 3 pm for Seniors aged 12-16. New members are always welcome. No experience is needed and it is wonderful to see everyone learn performance skills, make new friends and increase their confidence. Only £7. For details call Janine on 07733 055430 or email haytheatre@gmail.co.uk**

For more information check our website [www.haytheatre.co.uk](http://www.haytheatre.co.uk)

### Hay Adult Theatre Studies (HATS)

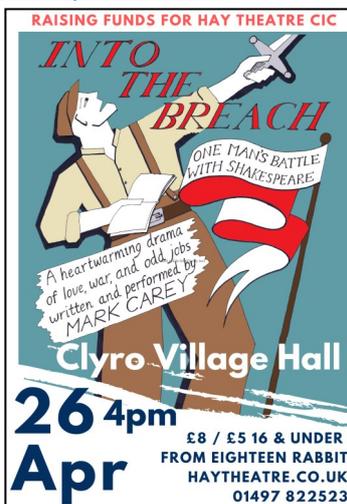
We meet on Thursday evenings 7.45 to 9.45 at **Clyro Village Hall** in term time. No experience is needed. Come along and learn performance skills, make new friends and increase your confidence. £7 per session. For details call Janine on 07733 055430 or email haytheatre@gmail.co.uk For more information check our website [www.haytheatre.co.uk](http://www.haytheatre.co.uk)

**'Into The Breach - One Man's Battle Against Shakespeare'** performed by Mark Carey. Back by popular demand, this will take place on **Sunday 26th April at 4pm in Clyro Village Hall.**

Mark Carey delivers a one-man show set at the end of WWII, which focuses on Shakespeare's Henry V but revolves around George Crocker, an amateur actor, whose ambition is to play Mother Goose!

Mark demonstrates his acting skills in his portrayal of such diverse characters as a country yokel, a flustered vicar, Winston Churchill, a prim spinster and a frustrated Major – it has received excellent reviews wherever it has been performed.

Into the Breach Tickets: £8 adult and £5 for children 16 years



and under. Available from Eighteen Rabbit, Hay-on-Wye and Sue on 01497 822523. Proceeds towards Hay Theatre Community productions. <https://www.intothebreach.uk/>

### HayDay Cafés

The next HayDay Café Cusop will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2.30-4pm when we will have a St David's Day theme with tea and cake along with a sing-song. Our next HayDay Café Clyro will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March when we have a Creative Café Workshop and sing-song after a light lunch at 12.30 at Clyro Village Hall.

*The HayDay Cafés on the first Monday and last Wednesday of the month provide a great opportunity for people, particularly those living with dementia or memory loss, to enjoy each other's company and have some fun in a relaxed, friendly creative environment.* If you would like to come along or know someone with memory loss who would like to try it, please contact Sue Hodgetts on 01497 822523. Transport can be arranged with a volunteer or Dial-A-Ride.

### HAY MUSIC - DIARY DATES

More details of all our concerts at [www.haymusic.org](http://www.haymusic.org)  
Tickets from Richard Booth's Bookshop, Hay-on-Wye, on line at [www.boothbooks.co.uk](http://www.boothbooks.co.uk) or at the door if available.

Friday, 3 April at 7.30 pm

### LORE LIXENBURG (mezzo-soprano) and BARTOSZ GLOWACKI (accordion)

Music by Bach, Purcell, Eccles, John Cage and Acqyaviva  
Richard Booth's Bookshop, Hay-on-Wye

Tickets £12.50 (students £6.00 / under 18s free)

Sunday, 14 June at 3.00 pm

### THE ODORA TRIO

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Sunday, 26 July at 3.00 pm

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Dorstone House, Dorstone HR3 6AW

Tickets £15.00 (students £7.50)

### CHRISTMAS ENGAGEMENT AT FRONHOWEY



Congratulations & best wishes to Mark Bowkett & Alaw Aur Jones on their engagement

### GLADESTRY POP IN CAFE

Come along to the Pop in Cafe at Gladestry Village Hall every Monday morning 10 -11 o'clock

Enjoy tea/coffee and friendly company.

All welcome. Entry £2. All proceeds to local charities.



### News from Dial-a-Ride

A rare opportunity has arisen as we are recruiting a paid member of staff to join our office team – see separate advert. The post is to help us with day-to-day finance and assist across a variety of areas to support the provision of our community transport scheme, working 2 mornings per week. Please call us for an informal chat or an application pack. The closing date is noon on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March and the interviews will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March. A big thanks to Nick Burdekin who has been a key part of the team! We are very pleased to welcome Muriel Semple and Jane Nicholls, who have joined the team as Trustees and look forward to working with them.

Do you live in or close to Hay and are looking for something to do? We are also looking for 2 more community car drivers, where volunteers use their own vehicles, and are reimbursed at 45p per mile. You don't need any experience and we will provide all the training necessary. There doesn't have to be a regular commitment and you can do as little as one journey per month. There are many benefits to volunteering and we can offer a very flexible approach to suit your own circumstances. Bus and VW drivers also required.

Work is underway planning our annual fundraising events and we'd love some more helpful and friendly people to join our "Friends" group. We hold coffee mornings, cake stalls and are planning a pop-up shop this year – if you think you could help, please get in touch with Trish Richardson on 01497 821381 or trishrichardson8@gmail.com. Join our award winning team in its 26<sup>th</sup> year of service at the heart of Hay!

Call us 01497 821616.

Find us on Facebook.



**Hay Dial-a-Ride Vacancy for Finance Officer**  
7 hours pw @ £9 ph

Do you have a head for figures and enjoy administrative work? Are you organised and friendly? We may have a vacancy for you!

The post will cover various aspects of the financial side of our registered charity and will work with our award-winning team in the provision of a community transport service to our members.

For an informal chat or an application pack call Lesley Moore on 01497 821616 (9 - 12 weekdays) or email ceodar@outlook.com

Closing date: noon on Thursday 12th March 2020  
Interviews: Monday 16th March

All our appointments are subject to references and enhanced DBS clearance.  
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### THE GARDEN

A delightful time in the garden and countryside. Burgeoning birdsong: blackbirds, thrushes, and chaffinches leading the orchestra, with chiff chaff, blackcap, willow warbler, and whitethroat gradually adding their beautiful counterpoint. Not forgetting the cuckoo, and, if we're lucky, the magical sound of the curlew. And then there's the arrival of the first swallows...and house martins...and swifts...

This is the time of the narcissi. The early daffs should have been pushing their shoots through, and it's always lovely to see the first one open. But don't forget the later ones. The jonquilla and tazetta types flower in April or later, are small and elegant, and have the added bonus of often being beautifully scented. The trouble is, it's difficult to think about them in August, which is the ideal time to order them for September/October planting! Peter Nyssen is a reliable specialist supplier, particularly for larger quantities.

If you haven't already done so, trim back the old growth of herbaceous perennials before the new shoots become too high. Look out for seedlings and pot up for replacements if necessary.

In the veg patch, sprouting broccoli, purple and white, should be providing a welcome freshness to the table. And if you're sowing seeds indoors, the key to success is not to rush things! The weather can still be treacherous, and we can have frosts throughout May. Gradually harden seedlings off, and be prepared to provide protection, in the form of fleece or makeshift cloches. It's well worth taking a risk with early 'taters, even if it does mean rushing out to put old sheets or something over them when frost is forecast. I'm sure everyone has their own favourite, but Lady Christl does well for me.

May the climate be with you.

John the Gardener

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## CRUISING

On our way to Southampton on December 1st to join a cruise to the Canaries, I didn't think there would be much to write home about. But I did have a nagging in my head that all would not be well. Our return to Southampton on Friday December 13th seemed a fair way off!

The first 3 days were spent dossing around and idling about. Watched some good films, joined in a few quizzes and read lots of books. Our fellow passengers were a jolly crowd, mostly seasoned cruisers, and we enjoyed excellent lunches and dinners with some very interesting people.

Our first port of call was Madeira - and once again we loitered around bars and coffee shops in the lovely town of Funchal. There were gorgeous Christmas decorations around the main street and parks - very nice indeed. Funchal has excellent wine bodegas where you can sample their national wine. It is also famous for the descent from the high hills around Funchal Bay in a basket chair for two guided by local chaps and nothing else. They wore out lots of shoes! I first descended this way on New Years Eve in 1990 and this was followed by the most fantastic Firework display at midnight. Since then a cable car has been erected so that the route to the top is easier but not as fast as the basket chair coming down.

Our next port of call was Las Palma and a heated conversation about whether or not we had been there before ensued! I had to concede that, yes indeed, we had visited previously as I recognised the medieval streets and shops. There were fabulous Christmas decorations which included gigantic angels. We had a sudden downpour of rain which necessitated a dash to a small square and the shelter of sun umbrellas. We were introduced to some new drinks by some fellow passengers from Aberdare - very delicious - drinks not fellow passengers - but I cannot remember what the drinks were called. In fact the day started to become a bit blurry and our fabulously comfy bed in our stateroom (cabin) beckoned.

Saturday December 7th. We arrived at Tenerife - glorious sunshine and lots to see and do. We took a short trip around Santa Cruz and the various markets there but not much else. Back on the ship, we sunbathed on deck and swam in the adult-only swimming pool. It was fab. During dinner that evening the ship's captain announced that there was a problem and the ship had lost propulsion on our way to Lanzarote. No worries, we were getting tugged back to Santa Cruz de Tenerife for a repair overnight.

Dec 8th. The following morning we were still in Santa Cruz de Tenerife. The news was that a part was being sent from the UK and we would be leaving that evening. The sun was still shining gloriously and our on-board account had been topped up with £25 per passenger. HOORAH! The £50 did not last long. The captain announced that he was in discussions with Head Office about compensation for the disruption to our holiday. Another day in the sun and dossing about.

We realised that we were not going anywhere fast by about 9.00 pm that evening. So the party continued. Rumours abounded - a May day call and 5 tugs towed us back to Santa Cruz - the reality was no May day call, only 2 tugs - the Captain was on his last ever trip before retiring! Bless him, he should have been taking leave for Christmas holidays.

Dec 9th. The next morning we were still in Santa Cruz and this time another part and a man to complete the repair were being sent from the UK. Another day of glorious sunshine. Also the day of the greatest embarrassment when I fell asleep sitting in comfy chairs at a round table with others in the library. Mel was alerted by sounds of great amusement when he found me fast asleep and snoring for Wales. The ZZZZ must have been reaching the ceiling. Having explained that I was his wife he gently woke me to face seven giggling faces and gently led me away.

We were beginning to lose track of the days by now but today's news was that we would remain in Santa Cruz de Tenerife until Wednesday 11th December. Hooray, more days in the sun. Passengers could - if they wished return to the UK by air from Tenerife. Some did awwwww so sad !!!!

But the best news was that we would receive a 50% refund of our original cruise fare.

And so the party continued and we enjoyed the great atmosphere on board and excellent entertainment was shipped in for those who wanted it. Neil Lockwood from ELO and The Alan Parsons Project ( I had never heard of him either ) arrived and gave a really good show which we thoroughly enjoyed.

And so the party continued for 2 more days and we eventually sailed for Southampton on Wednesday 11th expecting to arrive on Tuesday 17th December. So what now? Oh yes, the General Election.

Voting day - Thursday 12th - passed unnoticed. Many stayed up late into the early hours of Friday 13th to watch the results. This was the day we should have been arriving in Southampton!

Friday 13th was an interesting study in human nature as people trod very carefully about the outcome of the election in any conversations. The day passed uneventfully. Toasts to saboteurs abounded around the dinner tables as usual that evening but there was very little reference to our new government.

Ah well, we continued sailing towards Southampton enjoying the relaxed atmosphere and fabulous food. The pounds were gaining on us but as they say 'worse things happen at sea'

Carole Gibbs



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Wednesday 9.30am - Painscastle Village Hall  
Wednesday 6.15pm - Clifford Community Centre  
Friday 9.15am - Booth's Bookshop Studio, Hay

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## CULINARY COLUMN

### Chapters, Hay on Wye

January always seems a miserable time of the year for New Year's resolutions of fitness and health. If there is a time of the year when we need chocolate and extra time in bed it is January and February. March, with its lighter mornings and evenings is a much better time to contemplate ending hibernation and giving up a few bad winter habits. My Gentleman Friend and I went to Chapters in Hay-on-Wye for a last treat before the austerity of lambing and an overdue healthiness drive. This stylish restaurant offers a seasonally changing menu using produce from local, small scale independent suppliers. Diners choose between the set four course menu or the six courses, which takes away the potential stress of making a Bad Food Choice. However, in the day and age of having too many choices it actually feels quite strange to hand over the mealtime reins, a bit like being a child again. We were treated to a basket of freshly baked bread and flavoured butter which came with our drinks, and seemed a trick that every restaurant should employ. People love being given free things and what better than delicious warm bread to keep the hunger pangs at bay!

My Gentleman friend and I chose the four course menu which began with a starter cryptically titled 'Venison – Elderberry - Soy - Sloe Gin'. The venison was marinated and chopped very small, and was hidden under a tangy jelly. It was so pretty it was almost a shame to eat it. The second starter was titled 'Jerusalem artichoke – Apple – Hazelnut – Chive' and was a crispy piece of Jerusalem artichoke stuffed with finely chopped apple, hazelnut and chives held together in a creamy sauce. There wasn't a huge amount of it, but the crunchy nut and sweet fruit worked really well together. The main course was titled 'Herefordshire Beef – Kohlrabi – Leek – Peppercorn Sauce'. Kohlrabi was a new one on us, and is a relative of the wild cabbage. The Herefordshire beef was a fillet to make one proud to be a farmer; it cut like butter and tasted divine. It is quite a risk to serve a set menu as people are so used to being able to choose exactly what they want and how they want it. The descriptions don't give much of a clue as to what the dishes are, and so when they arrive the inventive arty presentation adds to the intrigue. The pudding was titled 'Dark chocolate – Tofu – Peanut – Pumpkin' and was an interesting fusion of flavours; certainly more interesting than most ends to a meal!

Eating at Chapters is an experience. The unpretentious friendly atmosphere, and real attention to detail makes visiting thoroughly enjoyable. There was only one person taking orders and serving the food, and somehow she managed to answer all the questions that we threw at her about the food, and also make every table feel special. When you are in need of a new way to look at dining and flavours, Chapters is the place to go.

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### FARMING TERMS

Sklem - a sheep which always escapes or does not want to be part of the flock  
 Tolent - loft where hay was kept  
 Glat - a hole in a hedge  
 Lug - to haul or pull as to lug hay  
 Plock - small field  
 Row up - when hay is cut it is put into rows ready to be baled  
 Tiddling/Tiddler - orphan lamb

### Welsh Amber Pudding

St David's Day has been and gone, and left us with this lovely pudding. It is good fun to make and has a lovely tanginess to it.

#### **For the pastry**

200g plain white flour  
 100g butter (salted)  
 1 egg yolk(s) (free range) (medium)

#### **For the filling**

3 egg(s) (free range) (medium)  
 115g unrefined golden caster sugar  
 1 ½ tsp lemon extract  
 3 ½ tbsp marmalade (grapefruit or orange)  
 180g butter (salted) (melted)

#### **Method**

Sift the flour and salt into a bowl. Add the butter and rub in with your finger tips until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs, alternatively you can do this in a food processor. Mix the egg yolk with 3 tablespoons of cold water and using a butter knife bring the pastry together, adding a little more water if needed.

Roll out on a lightly floured surface to about 1/2cm thickness. Line 23cm shallow loose bottomed fluted tart tin, leaving any overhang, and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.

Preheat the oven 190C (fan 170C, gas mark 5) and place a baking sheet in the oven to heat up.

Prick the pastry base with a fork and line with baking parchment and fill with either rice or baking beans. Place on the preheated baking sheet and bake blind for 15 minutes, removing the paper and rice or beans 5 minutes before the end. Using a sharp knife trim the excess pastry away using the edge of the tart tin as a guide.

For the filling, whisk all the filling ingredients together and pour into the pastry case and bake in the oven for 25 - 30 minutes until set.

Taken from <https://www.bakingmad.com/recipe/welsh-amber-pudding>

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Thieve lamb - ewe lamb

Tup a male sheep

Wether a castrated male sheep

A Mule is a crossbred sheep by a lowland ram out of a hill ewe

Hogs / Tegs are weaned lambs before they become adult sheep.

Hogget is considered to be between 1 - 2 years

Mutton is over 2 years.

Yearlings are over a year old and are hogs kept to go into the sheep flock.

Heft is the area that a hill flock keeps to on shared commonland.

Drench—medicine applied as a liquid down the throat of sheep or cattle.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun Mar 22nd	Monthly quiz at Rhosgoch Golf Club 7.30pm
Sat Apr 11th	Mad Hatter's Tea Party & Easter Egg Hunt at Rhosgoch Golf Club 2.30 - 4pm
Sun Apr 26th	YFC Fun Ride from Painscastle Village
Fri May 15th	Radnor YFC Dance Competition at Llandrindod Wells
Sat May 16th	Radnor YFC Sports Day at Llandrindod Wells
Jun 6th—13th	Painscastle Village Hall & Tots share charity shop at Llandrindod for fund raising
Sat Jun 6th	Breconshire YFC Rally, Erwood
Sun Jun 7th	Erwood Players present Murder Mystery at Brecknock YFC Rally Marquee
Sat Jun 13th	Rads YFC Rally at Cwmfaerdy, AbbeyCwmHir

### HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH

Fri Apr 10th Good Friday Service 7pm  
ALL SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30pm  
Sunday School every Sunday morning 10 – 11 am

### ADULLAM CHAPEL PAINSCASTLE

Sun May 3rd 2.30pm Painscastle Baptist Chapel Re-union  
Rev Brian Reardon

### MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN

Mar 15th Rev Andrew Wyton communion  
Apr 5th Joint service church with us Rev Robert Thomas  
Apr 10th Good Friday Sankey Evening at 7pm  
Apr 12th Rev Gordon Bingham communion  
Apr 26th Combined Service at Rhosgoch  
May 3rd Painscastle Reunion Service  
May 17th SPECIAL SERVICE Rev Gareth Evans  
Services Sundays at 2.30pm

### EBENEZER CHAPEL NEWCHURCH

Sun Mar 8th 3pm Led by Rev. Brian Reardon  
Sun Apr 12th 3 pm Easter Sunday Service  
Sun May 10th 3pm  
A warm welcome extended to all

### BRYNGWYN WI PROGRAMME

Mon Apr 6th An evening of magic food with Sue Ievers at The Hall, Cusop.  
Mon May 4th Open Meeting - My life in the movies - Judy Bunn  
Mon Jun 1st A garden visit to the Old Railway Line, Three Cocks  
Meetings are held in Painscastle Village Hall, at 7.00pm, unless otherwise stated. Please contact Mollie Moore (851296) or Edwina Griffiths (851824) for more details.

### LOCAL LIBRARY TIMES

**Hay on Wye Library** Monday 10am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 3pm.  
Tuesday & Wednesday closed.  
Thursday 10am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 3pm.  
Friday 1.30pm – 6pm. Saturday 10am – 12.30pm.  
**Brecon Library** Monday 9.30am – 5pm.  
Tuesday 9.30am – 6.30pm. Wednesday closed  
Thursday / Friday 9.30am – 5pm. Saturday 10am – 1pm.  
**Builth Library** Monday / Tuesday 10am - 1pm & 2pm – 5pm  
Wednesday Closed. Thursday 9.45am – 1pm & 2pm – 5.45pm  
Friday 10am – 1pm. Saturday 10am – 12.30pm  
**Llandrindod Wells**  
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9am – 5pm.  
Thursday 9am – 6.30pm. Friday 9am – 5pm.  
Saturday 9.30am – 1pm  
**Talgarth** Monday closed. Tuesday 3.30 – 6pm  
Wednesday 9am – 11am. Thursday closed  
Friday 2pm – 5pm. Saturday 11am – 1pm  
**Mobile Library bus comes on third Tuesday of the month**

### ERWOOD & PAINSCASTLE CHURCHES

**Dear All,**

The timing of our Lenten journey, in this Church year, coincides well with March. The First Sunday of Lent falls on the 1st of the month and we begin to hold ourselves in readiness for the harrowing experience that is Passion of our Lord. Lent is an emotional season as we draw close to God and try to understand the journey of life that has been graciously given to each one of us.

**Gratitude** is a good starting point. We may remember that many of us are a lucky enough to be able to take such an objective stance on our lives rather than to be overwhelmed by the pain that is being felt by much of the world. Thus, let constant prayer for others accompany all our Lenten deliberations and let our thanks for God's goodness be the basis of these prayers and a true belief in his transforming power.

Our gratitude creates the needed element of **Surrender** to God. How difficult is surrendering to God in a society obsessed with control at every level. Many people blame God for much that they do not like in the world and attempt to evoke his presence on their own terms and for their own use. The truth may be that through trusting in his unfathomable grace we readily release the power of the Spirit into our lives and into our troubled world.

As we freely give our hearts to live fully in God's will we may begin to understand that this is the power of **Repentance**. We move consciously into God's eternal time to experience all things in a fresh way and be part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Through turning all the intentions of our hearts to God we are called into understanding the profound nature of **Sacrifice**. As we fully immerse ourselves in our loving relationship with him, we are invited to let the sin fall away from us rather than experience things through the conflict and loss of pursuing all that would take us away from the Father who loves his children.

This may be seen in the testing of Jesus in the desert. Satan wills Christ to take sole refuge in his humanity through the comfort of food, safety and the gratification of power. At every crisis Our Lord does not rely solely on his will but invokes the power of God: Firstly, he proclaims that we live by the word of God, secondly, he emphasises that God must not be put to the test and, finally, he states that we must serve God alone. (*Matthew 4:1-11*) How awesome is the proud Son who emerges from the battle to embrace his baptism and never look back until he mounts the cross for us. The Son of God himself has given us the pattern through which we may conduct our own battles with Satan. Let us own the divinity within us by accepting and transcending the conflict.

Passiontide begins on Palm Sunday the 5th April. For us the Paschal Lamb begins his sacrificial journey to the cross. If you are in a place of pain where your heart may find no solace from words and theories, remember, God loved the world so much that he gave us his Son, the Christ, to live as one of us. Christ Jesus fully experiences the pain of our human condition even unto desolation and death; if God suffers with us, then faith in him is the only answer to all our hurts and bewilderment. We are privileged to be part of the greatest love story that the world has ever seen – the love of God for his people. We cannot be separated from this love. Please do not be afraid! We are redeemed.

Gaze at Jesus on the cross – wait for his gaze to fall upon you and share the moment with him. Give him all the love you can and know that you are being given your own glimpse of eternity. Weep for him when he smiles upon you and let your heart leap with joy to know that his forgiveness is the most powerful force in the whole world. The immensity of this act of God's love makes us realise that we are all his children and not separated from each other within this love.

*All blessings to you and those you love.*  
*Father Paul.*

## CHURCH SERVICES

### Sunday 8th March **Second Sunday of Lent**

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

### Sunday 15th March **3rd Sunday of Lent**

9.30am Llandeilo Graban Lambing Service  
11.00am Gwenddwr Eucharist  
2.30pm Llandewi Fach Eucharist

### Sunday 22nd March **Mothering Sunday (Lent 4)**

9.30am Llanbedr Eucharist  
11.00am Gwenddwr Eucharist

### Sunday 29th March **5th Sunday of Lent**

9:30 Bryngwyn Eucharist  
11.00 Llandeilo Graban Eucharist

### Easter Services

### Sunday 5th April **Palm Sunday**

9:30am Llanbadarn Eucharist  
9:30am Gwenddwr Eucharist  
11.00am Newchurch Eucharist  
11:00am Llandeilo Graban Morning Prayer  
2:30pm Moriah Chapel Service

### Wednesday 8th April

6:30pm Aberedw Reconciliation Eucharist

### Thursday 9th April **Holy Thursday**

7:00pm Aberedw Lord's Supper with washing of feet & Transfer of the Sacrament

### Friday 10th April **Good Friday**

2.00pm Llanbadarn-y-Garreg Stations of the Cross

### Saturday 11th April **Easter Eve**

7:30pm Gwenddwr Easter Vigil

### Sunday 12th April **Easter Day**

9:30am Llandeilo Graban Eucharist of the Resurrection  
11.00am Crickadarn Eucharist of the Resurrection  
9:30am Bryngwyn Eucharist of the Resurrection  
11.00am Llanbedr Eucharist of the Resurrection

### Sunday 19th April **2nd Sunday of Easter**

9:30am Llandeilo Graban Eucharist  
11:00am Gwenddwr Eucharist  
2:30pm Llandewi Fach Eucharist

### Sunday 26th April **3rd Sunday of Easter**

9:30am Bryngwyn Eucharist  
9:30am Crickadarn Eucharist  
11:00am Aberedw Eucharist

## Paincastle Mothers' Union

It is always a pleasure to join in Mothers' Union activities. "Wave of Prayer" is one such occasion. Each branch in this country and throughout the World spends three quarters of an hour once a year praying and lighting candles for members. Our slot was 21<sup>st</sup> February at 12.15pm. This year we held our service in Pat Horne's house. Thank you Pat. The theme for this year is 'Building Hope and Confidence' with Bible readings from Thessalonians. Meeting in a house, as one member observed, is warm and we are offered coffee and biscuits!

Future Meetings:

10<sup>th</sup> March: Mandy Lewis, Therapy for Children in Safe Houses.  
14<sup>th</sup> April: Carolyn Keown, My Life in Dance (TBC)  
12<sup>th</sup> May: Chris Rose, Garden Visit, Marden, Hereford.

## LOCAL PAINCASTLE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

We are about to print a new local telephone directory. If you know someone who is not listed and would like to be included please let me know. Also any numbers which have changed, people moved etc. ML (mlloydlyndy@outlook.com)

Any proceeds from the sale of the telephone directory will be given to Paincastle District Hall.

## OUTREACH POST OFFICES

Tuesday morning 10 am to 12 noon Clyro Village Hall

Wednesday afternoon 3pm to 4 pm Gladestry Village Hall

Thursday morning 9 am to 10 am Gladestry Village Hall

## LLANDRINDOD WELLS MOBILE POST OFFICE

Monday	Erwood	09.00-10.00
	Boughrood	10.15-11.45
	Llandefaelog Fach	12.45-13.30
	Merthyr Cynog	13.45-14.30
	Howey	15.15-16.30
Tuesday	Howey	09.00-11.15
	Erwood	11.45-12.45
	Boughrood	13.30-16.00
Wednesday	Boughrood	09.00-11.30
	Erwood	11.45-12.45
	Howey	13.30-15.30
Friday	Boughrood	09.00-11.30
	Howey	12.00-13.00

## OTHER POST OFFICES:-

**HAY ON WYE** Open Weekdays 9am to 5pm Closed Tuesday afternoon. Saturday 9am—12 noon.

**TALGARTH** (In Co-op) Mon—Fri 9am to 5.30pm

Saturday 9—12.30pm

**CARROT & WINE STORES**, Whitney, incl post office

Mon - Sat 9am to 5.30pm Sun 10am to 4pm

## LOCAL BANKING

NatWest Bank has a community Banker who visits Built Wells on Tuesdays 10.30am to 2.30pm and Hay-on-Wye on Fridays 10.30am to 2.30pm.

They aim to help and support with:

- \* staying safe and secure online
- \* making you aware of all the alternative ways to bank
- \* supporting you with community educational events to help make you financially fitter

For more information get in touch with Greg Couch 07748-624582

On Fridays NatWest Bank Van also visits Built Wells from 10.30—11.30am and Hay-on-Wye from 12.15—1pm.

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. Thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way to this issue. Please continue to send articles, news and events, all comments are gratefully received. Deadline for next issue [May/June 2020] - 30th April 2020.

[mlloydlyndy@outlook.com or 01497-851609]. (ML)

The Rhosgoch Gossip is available at Clyro Filling Station & Paincastle Farmers Buying Group. It is available by annual subscription (due in Sept), £6 for delivery in Rhosgoch, Paincastle and adjoining areas, £12 post-ed.

'The Rhosgoch Gossip' is not responsible for the contents in this issue. Articles are the opinion of the respective writers. All errors and omissions excepted (E&OE).

Old issues are put on the community website [www.paincastle-rhosgoch.co.uk](http://www.paincastle-rhosgoch.co.uk)

## POWYS PRATTLES

by County Councillor James Gibson-Watt  
**Budget Shenanigans**

Anyone who had the misfortune to observe Powys County Council's recent meeting to set its 2020/21 Budget must have been amazed by the shambolic-state into which it descended, before finally settling down to decide by a narrow majority to impose yet another inflation-busting Council Tax (CT) increase of 4.8% on the long-suffering people of Powys. Why the shambles? – because it seems that the Cabinet member for Finance only realised, literally at the last minute, that his own council group members would not support the 5% increase the Cabinet had agreed to propose. So, his last-minute amendment to reduce that by 0.2% was tabled 5 minutes before the scheduled 10.30 a.m. start, in direct contravention of the Council's Constitution that requires such an amendment to be submitted before 5pm on the day before the meeting.

Cue uproar, the Council's Chair delayed the start to consult with opposition group leaders like me; and when we finally got going after she was advised by the county solicitor to allow the amendment as 'minor', the solicitor had to be corrected from the floor by one of my councillor colleagues, who read out a section from the council's Constitution that showed that what he had done was clearly contrary to the Constitution! Cue further uproar and delay while the Chair consulted further with the county solicitor, who was forced to back down and admit he had got it wrong. A Comedy of Errors that could form the plot for Rhosgoch YFC's Drama Competition entry next year!

Needless to say I and my group colleagues opposed the Cabinet's budget and its CT increase, which eventually morphed in to 4.8% from 5% when the beleaguered Finance member put an amendment in during the actual debate, as the Constitution demands, when the meeting finally got going. In fact I had, in correct fashion the day before, submitted our own amendment calling on the Council to limit that CT increase to 3.75% and restore funding to the council's education, library and arts centres, which are set to be cut yet again. This was defeated by just a few votes; but the whole episode was an embarrassing example of how not to run a large public body turning over about £500 million while delivering essential public services.

### Water, Water Everywhere

Will it ever stop raining? As I write the sun is out and daffodils are bursting into flower everywhere. Yet, just a couple of weeks ago during Storm Dennis the flood wall in Glasbury was within a whisker of over-topping but just held, with water seeping through numerous holes in a rather alarming way. To be sure, this was the biggest flood I can recall on the River Wye, but much of the localised flooding was actually just caused by blocked highway storm drains and boy hasn't this winter shown where the weaknesses are! We will have to be better-prepared before next winter and the winters to come.

Please contact me anytime on 01497 820434 or 07971048737 or at [cllrjgw@powys.gov.uk](mailto:cllrjgw@powys.gov.uk) James

## ASSEMBLY NEWS

The bad weather through February caused by Storms Ciara and Dennis has impacted us all across Brecon and Radnorshire, though some areas have been hit much harder than others with devastating consequences for residents and businesses. I spent the half term break in flood hit areas in the constituency working with community groups and local residents to arrange help as soon as possible. It was heart-breaking to see skips full of people's belongings.

As ever, I was astounded by the hard work of community groups and local residents. The Fire Service were nothing short of incredible, in some areas going above and beyond their responsibilities to look after people and their property. The flooding has been terrible but how the community has worked together to help people affected has been remarkable and shows what strong community spirit there is in this part of the world.

Going forward I will be working with local residents and community groups to help them access support, looking at what can be done to mitigate further flooding damage in the future and working to ensure that local Fire Stations have additional resources as needed.

If you know of anyone affected by the February floods then the Welsh Government has made funding available of up to £1000 for Welsh residents as an emergency payment. In Powys, the number to call is 01597 826923 and they can talk you through the process over the phone. Payment is then made quickly.

On a more cheerful note, it was, as always, a delight to attend the Brecknock YFC and Radnor YFC Drama Festivals. There was such a display of talent on show and I think we can all be very proud of our young people involved in these competitions. With daughters in my local Club I see first-hand the dedication and hard work behind these performances, which is hugely commended. I especially love seeing how much all the participants enjoy themselves, which is of course the most important thing.

I am holding a surgery on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March in Hay-on-Wye, a surgery on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March in Builth Wells and a surgery on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April in Painscastle with Cllr James Gibson-Watt. If you would like an appointment at any of these, or if I can be of assistance at any point, please get in touch on 01874 625739 or at [kirsty.williams@assembly.wales](mailto:kirsty.williams@assembly.wales)

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

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

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month.  
Agendas and minutes for meetings are posted on the notice boards in Painscastle, Rhosgoch and Llandeilo Graban.  
Clerk: Marion Hughes, Waun y Pentre 01497 851628  
Minutes are also on the Painscastle-Rhosgoch website:  
[www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk](http://www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk)

## PAINSCASTLE RECYCLING & RUBBISH COLLECTION

Recycling is collected every Monday, and the next rubbish collection dates are:

March 23rd    April 13th    May 4th    May 25th

Garden waste is collected every fortnight on Tuesdays from March to November for an annual fee:

March 17th    March 31st    April 14th    April 28th

## PAUL MEREDITH

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## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

Since my election as Member of Parliament for Brecon and Radnorshire in December, I have been working hard to ensure that the concerns of my constituents are well represented in Parliament. From climate change to Brexit, now is a pivotal time in defining the future of mid-Wales and the UK.

Leaving the European Union was a seismic moment for our country; as well as delivering on what the country wanted, it has given the Government opportunity to focus on issues that really matter on a day-to-day basis.

'Levelling up' is a phrase you will hear often – it means evening out the playing field and making sure that opportunity is spread out right across the UK. I will be looking to ensure that we level the gap between rural and urban areas in a number of different ways:

Recently, I was delighted to be appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. In this new role, and as a member of the Agriculture Bill Committee, I am overseeing the legislation that affects English farmers. We are moving towards a system of rewarding farmers for the work they do, as opposed to just owning land. The Welsh Government is responsible for the system in Wales and I can only hope they will show similar ambition and commitment...

The importance of tackling climate change cannot be understated. As weather becomes more extreme, events such as the widespread flooding experienced by many of my constituents recently may become more frequent. It is essential that the distress, damage and economic impact is mitigated as best as possible. While flood response is a responsibility of the Welsh Government, I have made representations to the Secretary of State for Wales, Simon Hart. We agree, it is more important than ever to buy local. We must support our small businesses and help get the Brecon and Radnorshire economy back to full strength after the flood damage.

Faster rural broadband and better mobile coverage, right across the constituency, is essential for our economic future. For businesses to grow and for jobs to be created, we must have better connectivity. One of my highest priorities is to bring all parties to the table, so we can understand the barriers we face and identify solutions. Brecon and Radnorshire will not be left behind.

I am proud to have held a Westminster Hall Debate on Wales's contribution to the UK Armed Forces. I will be meeting with Ministers in the coming weeks to reinforce the ongoing campaign to maintain Brecon Barracks as the Army HQ in Wales. The historic relationship between Brecon and Radnorshire and the UK military is crucial to our local identity.

As the Conservative Member of Parliament for Brecon and Radnorshire I will continue to work tirelessly for all constituents. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help, my email address is [fay.jones.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:fay.jones.mp@parliament.uk). Brecon and Radnorshire deserve a champion who will fight for opportunities and economic prosperity – I am doing exactly that.

## PAINSCASTLE AND RHOSGOCH - PHOTO-GRAPHIC COMPETITION 2020

We would like to encourage more local residents of all ages to contribute photographs for possible publication on the village website – <http://www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk> - in order to raise awareness of our area and to show why this is such a beautiful and interesting place in which to live. To this end we are going to hold a competition that will open on the date of publication of this issue of the Gossip and that will close on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020**. The theme of the competition will be **"Radnorshire Life"** and entries will be judged on their artistic and technical merits.

The winner will be offered one year's free membership of Hay Camera Club (normally £55.00) with effect from May 2020. The Club usually meets on Tuesday evenings between 1930 and 2130 at the Masonic Hall, 19 Brecon Road, Hay on Wye HR3 5DY (just opposite the Bowling Club car park). Should the winner be unable to take up the offer of membership for any reason, then he or she will be offered a printed, mounted and framed copy of their winning image as an alternative prize. Current members of Hay Camera Club will not be permitted to enter the competition, which will be judged by a senior and experienced officer of the Club.

Entrants **must** be resident within the area administered by Painscastle and Rhosgoch Community Council. **A maximum of three images** may be submitted by each entrant and these **must all be in JPG/JPEG format**. Images may be colour or monochrome. We are unable to accept printed images. Please ensure that entries are given an appropriate title and that they are accompanied by your name and address. Entries should be emailed to **webmaster@painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk**. We shall acknowledge each successful submission, so if you don't hear back from us please get in touch!

All entries will be recorded and anonymised before being sent to the judge, who will review all images together at the beginning of May 2020. The winner will be announced as soon as possible afterwards. We reserve the right to publish any entries on the village website, although copyright will remain with the individual photographer and all images used will be correctly attributed. Please let us know at the time of entry if you do not wish your name to be published. Images must be entirely the work of the entrant.



Summer at last in the Bachawy Valley

## CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to Sam Morris & Lois Morgan, Garth Farm, Llandeilo Graban on the birth of a little girl on 17th November 2019 a little sister for 2 year old Bernie.

Congratulations to Chris Price & Hannah Dressler-Pearson, Llanbachawy, on the birth of a baby girl on January 25th 2020, Anja Ina Dressler-Price.

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## THE HISTORY OF THE RADNORSHIRE TOLL-GATES

The pre-Roman roads – with rare exceptions near important settlements - were only trackways on the natural earth. The tracks first used were doubtless those made by game. The Romans built a system of paved roads radiating from the commercial capital of Britain.

The longest and most definite of ancient British Roads are along the crest of the hills and are known as Ridgeways.

After the Romans the roads fell into decay and the stone bridges collapsed. The decline of the monasteries in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and their dissolution in the 16<sup>th</sup> century led to serious deterioration of the roads.

Safe and easy travel had been so necessary to the monks that they had collected alms for road maintenance. Bridges were built or maintained as a work of piety.

In 1555 Parliament passed the first series of long statutes by which the control of the roads came under elected public authorities. An act imposed upon each parish the duty of maintaining the roads within it under penalty of heavy fines. A parish had every year to appoint two honest persons to act as surveyors and orderers of work to amend the highways. The surveyors were authorised to call on the inhabitants for such assistance as was necessary. Every owner of a team of horses or oxen had to send it with one wain or cart and two able men for four consecutive days' work on the roads each year. The other residents had either to work themselves or find substitutes for the same period. Their duties were to see that the roads were clear for the passage of travellers and carriages, that the sun may shine into the ways to dry the same and 'enable them to grow better of themselves'. Should the surveyor discover any breach in the regulations he was required to stand up in church the following Sunday and admonish offenders.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth the statute labour was increased to six days. The development of the surveyor's work under the 1555 Act often involved him in expenses which he could not recover and there was no machinery which made reluctant people pay.

The Commonwealth Parliament of 1655 passed an Act which provided for a road rate of 1/- in the £ so that the expense of the maintenance of the roads should be equally shared and the Highway Surveyor enabled to pay for labour and teams. If the 1/- rate was inadequate, Justices of the Peace in Quarter Sessions were authorised to levy a special rate in adjoining parishes.

In 1773 and 1776 Acts of Parliament authorised the appointment of a paid surveyor of the highways. In some parishes the people voluntarily agreed to pay a rate instead of giving their labour and Acts to regularise such arrangements were passed.

The General Highway Act of 1832 was based on the principle that the users of the roads should pay for them and this idea was making headway. It was recognised that it was unfair to make a poor rural parish pay for the upkeep across it of an expensive road which might be of little use to it. In 1835 Statute labour in England was abolished.

Tolls: The simplest method of making the road user pay for the upkeep of a road was by levying 'tolls' which could be varied to secure fair contributions from each unit of traffic.

In 1706 the main 'Turnpike' system was introduced under which a section of a road was placed in the care of a Trust that was authorised to collect a toll on the Great North Road. The word Turnpike had been previously used in an act of Parliament in 1695 in reference to the Harwich Road. (The Turnpike – a horizontal bar swung on a vertical pivot was used in N. Holland during the wars in the low countries to block invading cavalry.) The Turnpike system provided the funds from which roads could be maintained by those who profited by their good condition. During the

18<sup>th</sup> century the number of turnpike trusts established by Parliament increased steadily until early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century they numbered 1100 and controlled 13,000 miles. In 1837 a toll revenue of one and a half million pounds per annum was realised. Whenever tolls were leased they were leased to the highest bidder. Each trust was usually stabled for 21 years in the hope that by the end of the time the receipts would have provided that the road be so well built that the toll could be discontinued. Among minor improvements was the institution of mile posts. They were made compulsory by various Turnpike Acts including those of 1744, 1766 and 1773.

Free use of the road was granted to pedestrians, agricultural implements, soldiers' horses, mailcarriages and in some cases to people attending funerals.

Drawbacks: The Turnpike system had various drawbacks.

Each Trust fought for its own vested interest.

The management was often incompetent and fraudulent.

Much of the toll money was not used on the road

Many added to their unpopularity by insisting on the full measure of free statute labour which until 1835 it was incumbent on each parish to supply.

The heavy tax on the stagecoaches by the growing tolls was one of the causes of their sudden collapse on the advent of the railways. Their failure ultimately led to the transfer of the whole of the roads to the care of elected County Councils.

There was violent reaction to the tolls in some places. The Rebecca Riots of 1842-43 in South Wales was so called from the promise to Rebecca in the Bible (Gen. XXIV. 60) that her seed should possess the gate of the enemy. The armed crowds were generally led by a man in women's clothes who gave orders in the name of Rebecca. The raids were so skilfully organised that despite the despatch of troops nearly all the turnpikes in S. Wales were destroyed.

The movement was a revolt against the oppressive exorbitant and often illegal charges imposed by the toll trusts. A trust could not charge more than a specified toll at any one gate but there was no legal limit to the number of gates that might be placed along a road.

A royal commission was appointed to enquire into the grievances. The S Wales Turnpike trusts were abolished and roads placed under County Road Boards appointed by the Home Secretary. The last of the Welsh trusts were closed in 1895. The Local Government Acts of 1888 and 1894 abolished the Highway districts and the main County Roads passed to the County Councils.

## CORONAVIRUS

The new NCP coronavirus may not show signs of infection for many days. How can one know if he/she is infected? By the time there is fever and/or cough and the hospital is necessary, the lungs are usually 50% fibrotic and it's too late! Taiwan experts provide a simple self-check that we can do *every morning*: Take a deep breath and hold your breath for more than 10 seconds. If you complete it successfully without coughing, without discomfort, stuffiness or tightness, etc. it proves there is no fibrosis in the lungs, basically indicating no infection. Please self-check every morning in an environment with clean air!

**SERIOUS EXCELLENT ADVICE** by Japanese doctors treating COVID-19 cases. Everyone should ensure their mouth and throat are moist, never DRY. Take a few sips of water every 15 mins at least. WHY? Even if the virus gets into your mouth, drinking water or other liquids will WASH them down through your oesophagus and into the stomach. Once there in tummy, your stomach ACID will kill all the virus. If you don't drink enough water more regularly, the virus can enter your windpipes and into the LUNGS. That's very dangerous.

Please send and share with family, friends and everyone you know! Take care everyone and may the world soon recover.

## BOUGHROOD BRIDGE & TOLL GATE

For every Horse or other Beast drawing any Coach, Charabanc, Diligence, Caravan, Van, Landau, Phaeton, Dogcart, Gig, Hearse, or any such like Carriage etc the sum of SIXPENNE.

For every Horse or other Beast drawing any Waggon, Wain, Cart or other such like Carriage etc the sum of FOURPENNE.

N.B. Persons must not take off or cause to be taken off any Horse or other Beast from any Carriage whatsoever at or near the Bridge in order to evade the payment of the proper Toll.

For every Horse or Mule not drawing anything the sum of THREE HALFPENNE.

For every Ass, or Donkey, laden or unladen the sum of ONE PENNY.

For every drove of Oxen or cattle the sum of TEN PENNE PER DOZEN.

For every drove of Calves, Swine, Sheep and Lambs the sum of FIVE PENNE PER SCORE.

For every Bull (led) the sum of TWO PENNE.

For every Waggon, Lorry, Brake, Van, Threshing Machine, Charabanc and such like Carriage, etc. drawn or propelled by steam, gas, or any means other than Animal Power the sum of TWO SHILLINGS & SIXPENNE.

For every Bicycle the sum of TWO PENNE.

For every Motor Car the sum of SIXPENNE.

For every Motor Cycle the sum of SIXPENNE.

Any vehicle conveying Passengers or Goods for Pay or Reward the said Toll as specified above is payable every time for passing and for every time of re-passing the Gate.

For every Foot Passenger or Person on foot (except the person actually driving any Waggon, Cart or other Carriage) the sum of ONE HALFPENNY.

Every time of passing and for every time of re-passing through the Gate and for every person who shall ride in or upon any Waggon, Cart or Carriage, etc (not usually employed for the conveyance of Passengers for Hire) or who shall ride upon any Horse or Beast drawing any waggon, Cart or other Conveyance, the sum of ONE HALF-PENNY every time of passing and for every time of re-passing the Gate.

For every Person (excepting the Person actually driving) who shall ride in or upon any Carriage or other Conveyance, drawn or propelled by any means other than Animal Power (not usually employed for the conveyance of Passengers or Hire) the sum of ONE HALF-PENNY every time of passing and for every time of re-passing the Gate.

Such respective Tolls to be paid before any such Person, or any such Horse, Mule, Ass, Cattle or Beast, or any such Carriage or Conveyance, as aforesaid, shall be entitled to pass through the Toll Gate.

COLLECTOR.

*Thanks to Radnorshire Society Archive, Rhayader*

## MEASUREMENTS

Early measurement of land in Wales appears to have been based on arable land and the amount that a team of oxen would plough in a day. Ploughing was a community effort. The 13th century Book of Iorwerth reports a team of oxen would be made up from the partnership of 12 men. A ploughman and his caller contributed their labour, another man the wooden plough frame, a fourth the coulter and plough-share, and the remaining eight an ox each to draw the plough. A team of 8 oxen at that time seems to have been the norm, at least in Wales. However, in some places a team of 16 was usual. The ideal contract applied to 12 erw 'acres', (36ft in width by 360ft in length) ie 1 acre for each man. The ploughman was a craftsman for it was decreed that no-one was to undertake the work of ploughing unless he knew how to make a plough from the 'first nail to the last'. Each man had an acre of plough and in a specific order, the ploughman had the first acre, the second acre went to the 'irons', the supplier of coulter & plough-share. The third and fourth respectively went to the outermost furrow ox and the outermost land ox. The fifth acre went to the caller who took the yoking gear for the team; he had to yoke the oxen carefully and to call them by chanting all the working morning in such a way 'as not to break their hearts!'

An acre in this instance was 36ft x 360ft = 12960 sq ft

The Statute of Ells and Perches was a medieval English statute defining lengths and areas sometime between 1266 & 1303. In that, an acre was 1 chain x 1 furlong, 1 chain = 66ft, 1 furlong = 660ft = 43560 sq ft

So an old Welsh acre is about 30% of an English acre

Other measurements

Land was measured in Acres, Roods and Perches

40 perches = 1 Rood

4 Roods (Rods) = 1 acre

1 chain (100 links or 4 rods) = 66 ft

10 chains = 1 furlong

8 furlongs = 1 mile

1 acre = 0.404686 hectares

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## LOCAL INTEREST GROUP

- Thr Mar 26th Helen Whitear - ABC mapping
- Thr Apr 30th Philip Hume - On the trail of the Mortimers in Radnorshire & Herefordshire
- Thr May 28th Visit to Huntington Chapel (meet in Painscastle at 7pm to car share)

• Painscastle Local Interest Group meets on the last Thursday of the month in the Adullam Hall, Painscastle at 7.30pm. During the summer months (May-August) we meet outside Painscastle Village Hall at 7pm to car share for our outside visits. Everyone is very welcome to attend any of our meetings. For more information please see the local website [www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk](http://www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk)

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### LIFE AT LUNDY

We still have four hens which have their own little house on the yard. In the day they come out and walk around as if they are in charge. I love to round them up and move them along, I don't want them getting any ideas above their station – they don't own the place! They are not quite as much fun as the sheep but they are less dangerous. Some of those sheep are very bossy. They look at you and stamp their feet, I don't like that very much. I usually want someone to rescue me, either Gyp or Joe or, it's probably more likely to be



This is me (Sweep) educating the hens

Mo. I do get a bit excited when I see sheep and sometimes I get carried away – at least that is what Mo says, Ken and Matthew have a different version. One day the sheep in the Poor field were up in the woody bit alongside the fence. Well I didn't think they should be there so I ran up and squeezed under the fence. Did I give them a shock? They ran to the other side of the field, but one of them decided to run to the corner. Well I was a bit confused - I didn't really know what was the best thing to do, so I went after her. She stood and looked at me, so I thought I had better call for reinforcements. I shouted in my best barking voice and I heard Mo calling me, but I enjoyed having the sheep there, I thought I was a real working dog. Eventually Mo came, still shouting, and then she put me on the lead, Gyp came as well and then Ken turned up. They decided that they wanted the sheep to go to the yard to be played with. So it was Gyp's turn. She was a bit confused as well and not clear whether Mo wanted the sheep up the field or down to the gate. Again, after some discussion, Gyp got the message. I was trying to help but I was limited by a two yard radius around Mo, although sometimes I managed to pull Mo in the direction I thought best. We got the sheep towards the gate, across the stream, but then they decided they would stay sheltering in the trees rather than go through the gate. Gyp did her best to move them on, and it



Me and my mum Gyp

was lucky that I was there, but of course I had to get Mo over the stream first, before we could really get them moving in the right direction. Once through the gate the sheep had the choice of turning right down the road towards the yard or in the opposite direction. Which did they choose? Left. Then Mo and me had to quickly close the gate - Mo has learned about awkward sheep - otherwise they would be back where they started! I must admit we were both impressed when Gyp ran around them and made them go in the right direction! I heard Mo saying to Ken afterwards they must be the most stupid sheep at the Lundy, I am not sure about that!  
Sweep



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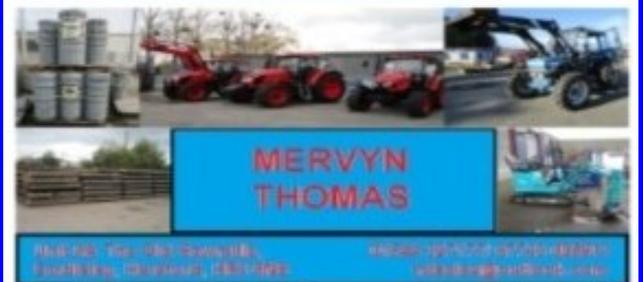
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### RHOSGOCH CHAPEL

As a professional soldier in an elite regiment, Hermon Chapel minister Geoff Cable saw action in the jungles of Malaysia/Borneo and in the Middle East. Following his service, he trained as a safety officer and worked for BP on their installations, including Iran and the North Sea, and South Coast oil explorations. Though Geoff had prayed in moments of extreme stress in combat, he was not a Christian until one evening at a meeting in the Shetland Isles when he heard God calling him.

So moved was he by this call that he immediately gave up drinking alcohol and smoking and began to live a temperate life. His wife, Christine, already a Christian, was delighted at his new direction. In line with his new-found belief, he joined a theology course at London's well-regarded Oakhill College, leaving with a B.A. Hons degree in Theology.

His first assignment took him to Birmingham and the City Mission there. Part of his duties included outdoor preaching to the people in the City's Bull Ring – a task which served to re-affirm and strengthen his Christian faith.

From the City Mission, Geoff came to Kington with Christine, a gifted musician and singer, to serve as the Pastor to the Hermon Chapel in Rhosgoch, Powys, which is affiliated to the Congregational Federation of Wales. Christine became the resident musician.

To the present day, Geoff is very popular in the community, taking great interest in what goes on and being involved in many of the local activities. He is also well regarded as a preacher, visiting many of the local Chapels to conduct their services as an itinerant preacher.

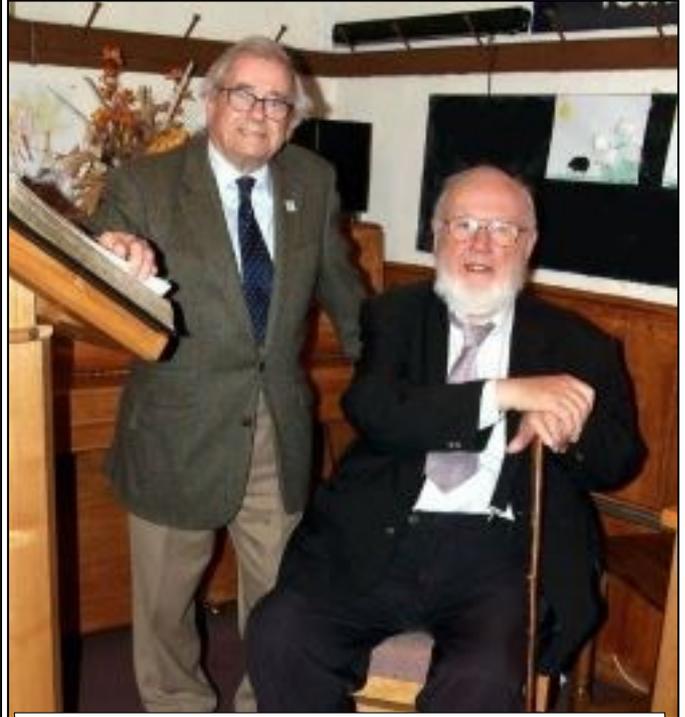
Geoff is the recognised leader but such is his personal standing and clear dedication to God, as a man of action, he decided it was right and proper to be fully recognised by the Congregational Federation.

So Geoff has enrolled on the strenuous course based at the Congregational Federation HQ in Nottingham, which involves very rigorous assignments and exercises.

To further this objective, Geoff is supported by a mentoring team of members of the Rhosgoch Chapel. Their job is to ensure the set tasks are completed, including visiting local organisations.

Geoff has a clear vision of the importance of the Chapel within the community, which includes offering support for the local farming families, visiting in times of need. The Chapel holds a service every Sunday which is generally well attended, especially for Anniversaries, Easter, Carols, Sankey and most funerals.

He says, "It is a joy and a privilege to serve God through this Ministry and receive constant support from the Congregational Federation."



Geoff is seen here with the late Rev Meredith Powell of Llanidloes, a loving preacher and great favourite of the Rhosgoch Chapel congregation.

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### Food for Thought – Number 3

A few more quotes from my Great Grandfather James Nunn's notebook.....

- He never was a friend who ceased to be one.
- Honour the tree that gives you shelter.
- Love demands faith and faith firmness.
- He begins to grow bad who believes himself good.
- He is most cheated who cheats himself.
- If you want to disobey God seek a place where He cannot see you.
- No one is rich enough to do without his neighbour.
- One always returns to one's first love.
- Travel east or travel west a man's home is still the best

There are more.....

Cherry Williams

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### CARTREF CARE HOME

On the 1st and 3rd Friday every month, from 3.30pm until 4.30pm, Cartref Care Home, Brecon Road, Hay on Wye, has tea and chat afternoons. All welcome.

On the 3rd Friday of every month there is a short informal service 3pm to 3.30pm which is led by the Pastor and friends from Bethesda Evangelical Church in Hay. Everyone (all ages) is very welcome.

For further details Tel: 01497-820621

## RHOSGOCH AND PAINSCASTLE TOTS GROUP

The first signs of Spring are beginning to show in the garden and our tots are looking forward to enjoying being able to play outside again with the outdoor toys. Let's hope the weather changes soon! Here's a brief look at our Spring term so far.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> February, for one week only, Toddler Group changed location to Rhosgoch Golf Club so that YFC could leave the village hall set up during the rehearsals for their excellent drama, 'Nothing to Report'. As always, the Golf Club were very accommodating and even set up the bouncy castle as a surprise! The children had enormous fun bouncing around. Thank you Hannah Lloyd! What a perfect venue for party bookings for the little ones of our community!

During half term week, the children from toddler group and many other children from the wider community enjoyed The Little Bo Peep Puppet show performed by Sea Legs Puppet Theatre.

Little Bo Peep had lost her sheep and didn't know where to find them. Her friend Little Boy Blue was doing his best to help find the woolly runaways but he kept falling asleep. Meanwhile, The Nursery Rhyme Man was in his kitchen baking a surprise cake for Little Bo Peep's birthday. As he worked a naughty mouse kept stealing the ingredients. The children loved joining in with favourite nursery rhymes; Ten Green Bottles, Hickory Dickory Dock, The Grand Old Duke of York and many, many more and watching them come to life before their eyes in Sea Legs Puppet Theatre's fabulous Tenth Anniversary show.

Thank you to Sarah Emmerson for all her hard work in organising the show and to the Golf Club for hosting the event and preparing yet another scrumptious lunch. An added bonus of organising this event is that Toddler group made £60 from ticket sales! Brilliant news!

On Shrove Tuesday the children went home with full tummies after enjoying mini pancakes with various toppings at snack time. The pancakes even had funny faces! Much lip smacking was heard as the children shared some final treats ahead of Lent.

Tots runs in term time on Tuesdays from 9.30 – 11.30am in Painscastle Village Hall. For £2, your child can have lots of fun playing, crafting and singing as well as having a healthy snack. Unlimited Tea and coffee is always available along with a warm welcome. Come and join the fun!

Caz Phillips

Contact Sarah Emmerson 07931701840

Facebook - Rhosgoch and Painscastle Toddler Group

