

# Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 21 Issue 4

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£1

## FOUR NEW PAINSCASTLE RESIDENTS

Four hedgehogs were recently brought to Painscastle to be released after spending the winter in Fownhope. Julie



One of four hedgehogs released in Painscastle

rescues hedgehogs which otherwise would not survive the winter. The three females and one male have been marked with a white dot for identification, so if you see a hedgehog with a white tail you will know it is one of the 'immigrants'.

The hedgehog's natural diet mainly consists of slugs, ground beetles, caterpillars and worms, but you can supplement their natural diet with meat-based cat or dog food, unsalted chopped or crushed peanuts, sunflower hearts and digestive biscuits. They need water in a shallow container but should not be given milk.

So hopefully these hedgehogs will make their home in the Painscastle area and become some of its happy residents

## WHERE DID SHE COME FROM?

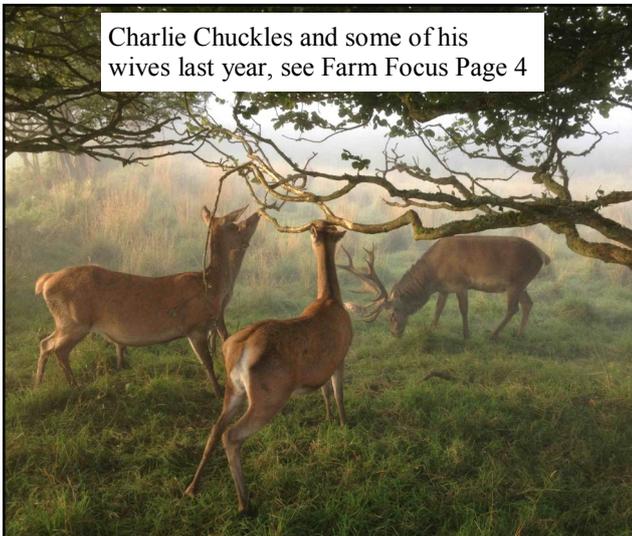


This ewe and unusual lamb suddenly joined the Lundy flock on the hill. After a few weeks they have been re-united with their owners from Aberedw. It appears that the lamb's father is a Balwen - she does have a white tip to her tail. Who said all sheep look alike?



Returning the Gun to the top of Garth Hill in 2000 see Page 11

Charlie Chuckles and some of his wives last year, see Farm Focus Page 4



## MIKEY'S NEW BOOTS (MITTENS)



Mikey wearing the new mittens Grace bought for him to protect his sore paws. He is sitting in his favourite chair doing his bit to look after everyone at the Lundy.

The Rhosgoch Gossip is available at Clyro Shop & Painscastle Farmers Buying Group. It is available by subscription (due in September), £6 for delivery in Rhosgoch and Painscastle and adjoining areas, £12 posted. We welcome all correspondence, letters, articles, local news, comments etc. For further details 01497-851609 OR m.lloyd1@btconnect.com. Special thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue.

## IN SEARCH OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

We usually go off skiing in January, but this year we decided to do something different and, as we have both always wanted to see the Aurora Borealis, we decided that we would go to Norway. Obviously, our best chance of seeing the Northern Lights would be north of the Arctic Circle; however, we started our trip in Trondheim, situated at the head of a fjord in the west.

Trondheim is Norway's third largest city, but only around 175 000 people live there so it can hardly be described as large. It has been in existence since 997 AD and its centre is on a small triangle of land bordered by the river and fjord, which makes it very easy to explore. It is such a lovely place, with interesting old wooden warehouses by the water, many of which have been renovated and all of which are extremely colourful. We particularly enjoyed walking around in the snow as it made the place look even prettier. We also took time to visit the cathedral (Nidarosdomen), which was almost empty of people. The oldest part dates from 1320 and it is the largest medieval building in Norway. Close by is the Archbishop's Palace, which now houses Norway's crown jewels, and a fantastic museum in the armoury dedicated to the history of the cathedral. There were also some interesting excavations in the basement showing the old workshops in the complex and the artefacts that had been found during the archaeological work undertaken in the 1990s.



Trondheim

The next day we had to get up very early in order to catch a train that would take us to Bodo, north of the Arctic Circle. I had been looking forward to this part of our journey as it would take us through some really rural parts of the country and also alongside one or two fjords. It was an incredibly comfortable trip and the countryside through which we passed looked beautiful with its snow cover and in the interesting winter light. Ten hours later, we finally reached Bodo, which is in a wonderful setting on Saltfjord.

Bodo was founded in 1816, but it wasn't until the herring boom of the 1860s that it really began to thrive. We found a wonderful little museum dedicated to the history of the town and its growth related to the fishing industry. The town was heavily bombed by the Germans in 1940 and very few buildings were left standing; the museum was one notable exception. As a result, the cathedral is modern (1956) and not much to look at from the outside. Inside, though, it was lovely – all wood and with some fantastic woven panels, with modern designs, lining the walls. Being inside was made even more special because one of the organists was practising and the music she was playing was really beautiful and uplifting.

From Bodo, we flew over to the Lofoten Islands.

We were going to stay in a rorbu (fisherman's hut) in the small town of Svolvaer. These islands looked really spectacular with their snow-covered, steep mountain slopes com-



Svolvaer in the Lofoten Islands

ing all the way down to the sea. Our "hut" was actually quite large and extremely comfortable and was on a small



The hut where we stayed

island connected to the mainland by a bridge. Most of these huts were painted red, but ours was white and overlooked a little tidal inlet – it was a wonderful location. Just outside the door

were some large wooden racks which we discovered were used for drying cod, the main industry on the islands. The cod fishing season was just beginning and some of the racks

already had fish hanging on them, with bundles of cod heads looking like bizarre Christmas decorations as well. The dried fish is called stokfisk and it remains



Cod drying racks

edible for years. It can be eaten raw or after soaking in water and is a speciality of many of the local restaurants.

The following day we woke up to a wonderful sunrise. The sun is very low this far north in January and for the entire day there was a pink glow over the mountains, with the light reflecting off the snow – truly magical. We had decided to go out on a RIB (rigid inflatable boat) to look for sea eagles, which are quite common on the islands. We were kitted out in cold weather suits, gloves and goggles and immediately overheated! However, we really appreciated these

once we got out on the water. It didn't take long for the eagles to find us, partly helped by the fact that the skipper of the boat had brought some herrings to tempt them! We got some truly wonderful and close-up sightings of these magnificent birds.



A Sea Eagle in flight

They have a wing span of up to 2.5m and can be 1m tall when standing. The scenery was spectacular too and we were taken up into a narrow fjord called Trollfjord which was very special. We had hoped to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights whilst in Svolvær but, despite the clear



Trollfjord

skies one evening, they were not active.

From the Lofoten Islands, we got on the Hurtigruten ship to sail to Tromsø. This company runs daily sailings from Bergen all the way to Kirkenes in the far north. The round trip takes about 12 days, but you can get on and off them at any port of call. To say that this is a ferry service would be accurate but it would understate the experience, which is more akin to a cruise. The ship that we were on was large and extremely comfortable, and the meals were exceptionally good. We were only on board for one night, but we could see why people choose to do the whole trip as it is certainly the best way to experience the extraordinary Norwegian coastline. We got on board at 9pm and stayed out on deck as we sailed up some very narrow channels around the islands and because we thought that we had a chance of seeing the Northern Lights as there were some breaks in the cloud cover. There were quite a few people up on deck at midnight and beyond all with the same idea but, once again, we were unlucky, although the experience of sailing through the narrow channels at night was quite special, especially when the cloud broke and the full moon illuminated the fjord sides and water.

Early in the afternoon of the next day we sailed into Tromsø, the largest city in polar Scandinavia and situated at a latitude of nearly 70°N. It was already getting dark by the time we took the short walk from the ship to our hotel (about 100m) – daylight had only returned on 21st January and we were there on 25th! In Tromsø, the sun does not appear above the horizon from 21st November to 21st January in the long polar night. Conversely, there is no real darkness between late April and mid August. The main part of the city (dating from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century) is located on an island and our room had an amazing view down over the harbour and to the fantastic looking Ishavskatedralen (Arctic Cathedral). The reflection of the lights from the buildings on the opposite shore on the water gave the view a really magical feel. The city has a very strong link with polar exploration and Roald Amundsen in particular. There are many museums dedicated to its history and life and exploration in polar regions, as well as the polar environment. There are more visitors in the winter than the summer as many people come here hoping to see the Northern Lights. Sadly, cloud cover meant that we were not successful this time! We will just have to go

back.

Norway is a most interesting and stunningly beautiful country. The people are very friendly and engaging and nearly all of them seem to speak impeccable English. In a conversation with one lady, she told us that she has learned a lot of her English from watching the many British programmes that are shown on TV and all of which have Norwegian sub-titles, which makes it much easier to learn the language; her particular favourite was Midsomer Murders – we assured her that most British villages did not have quite so many murders!!

## Coffee Morning at St Michael's Church Bryngwyn

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016

10am -12noon

Please join us for coffee and explore our lovely church

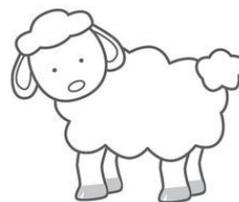
Cake stall, book stall plus other activities

## Lambing Service & Eucharist At Llandeilo Graban Church On 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016 At 9.30am

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## FARM FOCUS

Mo has asked us to write about the goings on at Blaenhow for this month's focus. I suppose we should be flattered that she thinks you would like to hear about what our deer do in early spring.

The short answer to this is: nothing! We house all our breeding hinds, calves and any stock left for venison in early December, so the regular, morning routine consists of spreading ewe nuts round, checking water and refilling any empty bale feeders, then we are free to get on with other jobs such as replacing rotting fence posts. Errol and Charlie Chuckles, our breeding stags, stay outside throughout the winter as they are too big to fit in the shed and tend to bully the hinds, pushing them away from the food. Charlie is fully recovered from his stay with Mo and Ken a few years ago. Deer go into a period of inappetence through the winter, where they only eat for maintenance, as the days get shorter and corresponds to the availability and poor quality of the food available in the wild, so in theory this should make our lives easier, with them needing less feed. Ours seem to be just as greedy, whatever the time of year! The hinds live in the same groups all year round as they have a rigid hierarchy and can bully the lower ranking hinds severely.



Someone has to be in charge!

Our last trailer load of venison animals went last week. All our stock is sold to the Welsh Venison Centre and collected from the farm to be taken to George's in Talgarth for slaughter. The venison price has been stable for the last few years as we have tapped into a niche market and are not subject to the whims of the supermarkets. The Welsh Venison Cen-

tre also take our cull animals. I like to select two or three of the smaller mature hinds every year to keep our herd profile young and fresh, our replacement hinds are all home bred and are selected for size and temperament.

Weather permitting, the hinds will re-join Errol and Charlie outside sometime in the middle of April, as the grass starts to grow, ready for calving from mid-May onwards. Calving generally occurs with no intervention from us at all, in fact the arrival of the first calf is usually a pleasant surprise! Our main duties during this period is finding and tagging the new-born calves within the first 24 hours and worrying. If we don't find them within 24 hours they can outrun us! We tag all our calves with a plastic tag and a metal, Ketchum tag. The plastic tags



are to help us with our herd management and change colour every year, with a different letter in front of the number so we can tell at a glance how old a deer is. The metal tag contains our herd number and a consecutive number for every deer on the farm, I think we are somewhere about 350 now. The hinds and stags have the tags in different ears to further aid identification at a glance.

There is quite a bit more I could write about the deer and what they get up to, whatever happens the next few months promise to be busy ones, with plenty to look forward to.

Kate Shaw

## GARDENING CLUB

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

- Apr 7th Lewis Goldwater—Beautiful creations in wood
- May 5th or 12th Visit
- Jun 9th Sue Hamer—Flowers for fun
- July 7th Visit to Heartsease Farm, Radnor Hills Water
- Aug 18th Flower & Vegetable Show

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

## Bryngwyn WI 2016 Programme

- 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



Have you noticed something? I have moved from page 13 and now I am on page 5, that is a big step up in one go.

Will I soon be on the front page? Wow Mo has let me have my picture on the front page! I must be famous! Mo tells me not to get 'above myself' I am not really sure what that means. How can someone get above oneself? It is another of her expressions that don't make any sense. Another bit of human nonsense!

Well its my favourite time of year again—lambing time. I like it because there is always something going on. I am usually Mo's little helper, although this year she sometimes has Abbie and Erin to help her, but they are not quite up to my standard yet. When Mo goes out in the morning to feed the tiddlers I go with her, when she comes back in the house to sit down I feel it is my duty to do the same. To be truthful I probably get to the chair before her as she seems to find jobs to do inside as well as out. The only problem I find with this time of year is lack of sleep. I live in the 'alley' and everyone going in or out goes through my 'private quarters'. This means that when Ken goes to 'look at the shed' at four in the morning, he wakes me up, but I usually soon close my eyes and return to my slumbers.

The tiddlers are my favourites so I always go with Mo to feed them, some of them have bottles while the bigger ones have their own private 'shepherdess', no not Mo, they have a bucket where they can help themselves to milk whenever they feel like it. I do like the mums with their babies as well although sometimes the mums don't like me and they will try and knock me over. I have to run as fast as I can and I always shout so that with any luck Mo will rescue me and tell the sheep off. However she usually tells me off saying I should not be in the pen with the sheep.



I also like helping to take the mums and babies out to the fields, we have different fields for different mums. The twins with black numbers, Mo says they are Texels, go in one field, the ones with red numbers in another field, the ones with only one lamb go to another field and then there is the field for drop-outs, the sick, ailing or lacking in quality of motherhood, there do seem to be a lot in that field!

Mo also takes me when she goes to check her mole traps, it is great fun especially if she gets a mole, as I have to make sure it is dead. I don't bother with mice and rats I leave that to Ozzie and Bailey but killing dead moles is just up my street. Once I have seen to the moles I usually find a stick for Mo to have some practice in throwing, so we have a lot of fun.

Of course I like it best when we go on the quad, I have a special shelf to sit on at the front, they also use it for putting bags of sheep cake etc but I am sure it was really made for me! It is the greatest fun when we go with Joe the sheepdog,

of course he has to run and I bark which no-one seems to like but I do like to tell everyone what we are doing.

I recently had sore paws and Mo was putting some cream on them. One day Grace came by and brought me some socks to wear, she is a very kind lady especially as she always says that I look at her funny. Mo tells her that I won't hurt her, if I bark when she comes I am only doing my duty to try and save the Lundy from intruders. I go mad when the postman comes down the path, however if I am let out to see him, I don't attack. But they say I sound ferocious, so as long as I don't have to follow through I think I am doing a good job of security.

I do like sitting in a chair and that is what I am often doing when Jade comes in. She nearly always says something like "Oh Mikey you are looking old, you are like an old man" I don't really think that is very kind, of course she hasn't got any grey hairs as she is still in school. Mo says I just look distinguished. I like to rest plenty, but if I hear the quad I can be quite energetic. I don't go down to the village as often as I used to, in fact Mo thinks I don't go down there at all. The other day I did take a trip down to see how my friends were getting on. I was outside the pub when TD came by so he gave me a lift home. I was rather glad as it is quite uphill, but he told Kate and now Mo knows my secret.

Well that is probably all I have got time for now as I have to go and help with the lambing. It always seems to be time to feed the tiddlers, I don't have a lot of time to sit down between feeds, but I don't complain because it is good fun really. All the best until next time.

Mikey

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### TIC-TOC: TIME TO LOOK FOR TICKS

Recently the national press has been busy spreading the word about the danger of Babesiosis in pet dogs. This disease is caused by a tiny parasite which is spread via tick bites. The parasite survives within the tick's gut, and then infects dogs as the tick feeds. Until now the disease had been a problem in warmer parts of Europe, but this year 4 cases have been confirmed in dogs living in Essex. These dogs had never left the UK, and so must have been infected by bites from ticks living in their locality. It is likely that the parasite will spread across more of the UK during the coming summer.

At present we are not aware that the Babesia parasite is present in our area. We do know that ticks pose a risk by spreading other infections though; Lyme disease (*Borreliosis*) is probably the most well-known. Lyme disease is one of several zoonotic tick-borne disease i.e. it can affect humans as well as animals.

We know that ticks are commonly found on rough grazing in upland areas, e.g. The Begwyns, Rhulen Hill, etc. Last year, Hay Vets took part in the 'Big Tick Project', run by the University of Bristol. The purpose of the research was to map the UK's tick population, as well as identify diseases that they may be spreading. We look forward to the results which will be published this summer. Generally ticks are active in the warmer months, but this year we removed our first live tick on March 10th. As the climate changes we know that the tick life-cycle is altering.

Always check your dog for ticks when returning from walks. Don't be tempted to remove a tick unless you have the right piece of kit – a 'tick hook' or some fine nosed tweezers. Picking, scratching or rubbing oil on the tick can encourage it to regurgitate its gut contents as it bites – this INCREASES the risk of disease transmission. There are several parasite treatments which can be used to control ticks on your pet dog or cat. For advice on what's best for your pet, contact your local veterinary practice to discuss the options available. Invest in a tick-hook (less than £5!) so you can remove any ticks you find quickly and safely.

Hannah Sampson MRCVS, Hay Veterinary Group

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### 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.

Kerbside recycling collections in the Painscastle area every Thursday with three weekly rubbish collections. The dates of the rubbish collections are:-

- ◆ 7 April 2016
- ◆ 28 April 2016
- ◆ 19 May 2016
- ◆ 9 June 2016
- ◆ 30 June 2016

### RHOSGOCH YFC CLUB PROGRAMME 2016

#### 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

#### May

1st May 2016 TBC 10am  
Club social – swimming in Swansea  
6th – 8th May 2016 at Blackpool National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs AGM  
12th May 2016 Painscastle Hall 7.30pm  
Rally meeting to arrange competitions  
19th May 2016 Painscastle Hall 7.30pm  
Discuss Radnor County Sports Day  
Members to play sports  
21st May 2016 Llandrindod 10am  
Radnor County Sports Day competition  
26th May 2016 Painscastle Hall 7.30pm  
Discuss Sports Day results  
Club social – members to decide

#### June

2nd June 2016 TBC 7.30pm  
Club social to visit to somewhere local  
11th June 2016 Howey 9am  
Radnor County Rally

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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**

I will be breaking up for Easter on Thursday 24th March and for return week beginning Monday 4th April.

### LOCAL INTEREST GROUP

The Group meets on the last Thursday of the month at the Adullam Hall, Painscastle. It is very informal with general discussion on a variety of topics. Lately the group has been studying the combined census data, tithe records and other published material for the parishes of both Bryngwyn and Llanbedr; this has been collated into excel files for further interrogation. Many lost farms and properties have been identified and their grid references recorded so that, even if they are 'lost', their history is safe. This information is also useful for family historians tracing their family tree.

Some months we have films of local interest, people also bring local maps, books and catalogues, anything which may be of interest to local people. We are keen to record some of the reminiscences of local people and anyone who would like to be involved would be most welcome.

Current projects include further research into the local men who fought in World War I. There is some information on the community website, ([www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk](http://www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk)) but there is much more to be discovered. A World War II project to research the effect of the WarAg on farms in the area is also ongoing; this was sparked off from Roy Lloyd's collection of documents and forms relating to Pendre during World War II.

There were several old photos for people to browse, including Painscastle School in 1927 and photos from the Coronation year, 1953. There was some conjecture about the photo taken at Portway in December 1943, and published in the last 'Gossip', when it was suggested that the short man next to Artie Griffiths was Jack Greenway and the man on the end with the gun was Ben Price, the gamekeeper from Ireland. There are still two men in the photo who have not been identified, so if anyone has an idea please let us know.

There was some discussion on the community website, which has pages on Community Council, local associations, visitor guide, news, where to stay, local geography, history, and much much more. Appeals were made for items for the website or photos for the gallery. And a suggestion made that photos of some of the 'lost places' could be added to the history section. If anyone has an old photo that could be scanned and added to the website please get in touch.

### IRELAND MOOR

The Llandeilo Graban to Glaschw hills (more commonly called Ireland Moor) have recently been bought by the Duff Gordon family and they are having a 'Meet the Owners Evening' at Rhosgoch Golf Club on Friday 6th May. Regular users of the hill and commoners of RCL11 in the Powys Commons register, are welcome.

The evening gives a chance for the new owners to explain their plans for the future of the common and meet as many locals as possible. It will allow graziers and other local people with an interest in the common to ask any questions they may have.

### Cash Bingo

at

Baskerville Hall Hotel,  
Clyro Court

Thursday April 21st

Thursday May 12th

Thursday June 23rd

Thursday August 18th

Thursday September 29th

Thursday October 27th

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri Apr 15 YFC Quiz at Rhosgoch Golf Club  
Thr Apr 21st Bingo at Clyro Court 7 pm  
Sun Apr 24th Rhosgoch YFC Funride Painscastle Hall  
Mon May 2nd Chinese Auction at Painscastle Hall 2.30 pm  
Fri May 6th Ireland Moor social evening at Rhosgoch Golf Club at 7pm  
Thr May 12th Bingo at Clyro Court 7pm  
Sat May 28th Coffee Morning at Bryngwyn Church 10-12  
Sat Jun 4th Breconshire YFC Rally at Trecastle  
Sat Jun 11th Radnorshire YFC Rally at Howey  
Thr Jun 23rd Bingo at Clyro Court 7pm  
Sun Aug 28th Painscastle Fete in village hall  
Sat Sep 17th Concert at Llanbedr Church {TheThree Tenors}

### HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH

ALL SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30pm exceptions below:-

No Service May 1st—Painscastle Reunion  
June 5th Rhosgoch Anniversary 2.30pm  
June 12th United service at Newchurch 3 pm  
July 31st United service at Painscastle 2.30pm  
Sunday School every Sunday morning 10 – 11 am

### ADULLAM BAPTIST CHAPEL, PAINSCASTLE

Sun May 1st Reunion service 2.30 pm  
Sun Jun 19th Anniversary service 6.30pm  
Sun July 31st United service 2.30 pm

### MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN

Services Sundays at 2.30pm  
April 10th Penny Robertson  
April 24th Rhosgoch Chapel  
May 1st Painscastle Reunion  
May 8th Special Service Rev Meredith Powell  
May 22nd Rev Robert Thomas  
June 12th Crickadarn Special Service  
June 19th Rev Brian Reardon Communion

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3<sup>rd</sup> April – 9am Newchurch 1662 HC,  
10.30 Newchurch Morning Service,  
9.30 am Llanbadrn-y-Garreg (HC),  
11am Gwenddwr (HC);  
11am Llandeilo Graban (Morning Prayer)

#### Weekday Services

Morning Prayer at Aberedw 9.00am Tues to Sat.  
Evening Prayer is said most days. Please call Ann  
Humphries on 01982 560 446 to confirm time. Please feel  
welcome to come and join us.

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

9.30am	Holy Eucharist	Llanbadarn-y-Garreg
10.30am	BCP 1662 Mattins	Newchurch
11.00am	Holy Eucharist	Gwenddwr
11.00am	Morning Praise	Llandeilo Graban

#### Easter II

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am	Holy Eucharist	Aberedw
11.00am	Morning Praise	Crickadarn
11.00am	Holy Eucharist	Bryngwyn

#### Easter III

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am	Eucharist & Lambing Service	Llandeilo Graban
11.00am	Morning Praise	Gwenddwr
3.00pm	BCP 1662 Eucharist	Llanddewi Fach

#### Easter IV

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am	Holy Eucharist	Crickadarn
11.00am	Morning Praise	Aberedw
11.00am	Eucharist & Baptism	Llanbedr

#### Easter V

#### Newchurch Church

Following receipt of a National Heritage Millennium Fund Grant, the re-roofing of the spire will start on 11<sup>th</sup> June. We are now applying for a Faculty to re-roof the nave and chancel as well. Details of the proposal, which essentially entails re-tiling the ridges and completely re-slating the pitched roofs, have been posted on the notice boards of the five Churches of the Painscastle Group. Aberedw, Llandeilo Graban, Llanbadarn-y-Garreg, Crickadarn, Gwenddwr & Bryngwyn, Newchurch, Llanbedr Painscastle, Llanddewi Fach  
Pastoral Care and Ministry is currently being coordinated by: Ministry Area Leader: Revd Fr Neil Hook, The Vicarage, 1 North Rd, Builth Wells LD2 3BT, 01982 552355, frhooky@gmail.com

### PAINSCASTLE MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Please join us on Tuesday 12th April when we will have a talk from Age Cymru on services available through Powys at Painscastle Hall at 7.30pm. On 10th May we will have an afternoon outing, venue to be confirmed. For more information please contact Fran Shaw: 01982 560480

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to Claire and Gareth Davies, Llanpica, Newchurch on the birth of daughter Grace Inez a little sister to 2 year old Lili Joan.

Congratulations to Jay & Jess Bailey (nee Fromant), The Grug Bryngwyn on the birth of a baby boy Oliver Arwyn on 1st March 2016. Best wishes to all the family..

### 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. Culinary Column [P3], Farm Focus [P4], Mikey [P5], Tots [p14 & P16], 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:-

April 20th  
May 18th

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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 playgroup 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

## CULINARY COLUMN

### Red Indigo, Hay-on-Wye

It's all about the feed at the moment. Are the sheep having too much, are the lambs getting enough, and is there a fresh cake in the tin ready for coffee time? This is the time of year when the animals take priority, but when the sheep are all fed and watered there is time for hearty refreshment for ourselves. The extra hours outside surely warrant four meals a day, and chocolate takes on a medicinal quality after midnight. Whatever the night has held, you can't help but feel more cheerful after a hearty plate of bacon and eggs, washed down with a pot of tea. The combination of late nights, long days and having a vegetarian lambing student, nudged us in the direction of an Indian takeaway from Red Indigo in Hay. A takeaway gave The Cook a night off, and The Vegetarian a welcome change from jacket potato.

The takeaway service is prompt, with our food ready 20 minutes after we ordered. There are enough choices so that you can go for a couple of tried and tested favourites, and then perhaps choose something new and exotic to keep things interesting. Red Indigo is always busy, with friendly staff and a bright modern feel. It probably caters for sensitive British taste buds rather than recreating a true taste of India, but as a traditional non-Anglicised Indian curry would probably blow our socks off, perhaps its safe flavours are wise. It seems easy to pick curries that have a good blend of spices but are not too hot, and there is certainly no infamous orange oil slick of greasiness. The prawn Bhoona was full of flavour not heat, and the chicken masala was rich and creamy with generous chunks of meat. The rest of our feast was from the vegetarian options, and these were surprisingly delicious, even to my Gentleman Friend's hardened carnivorous palate. The saag aloo was lightly spiced wilted spinach with perfectly cooked potato, and was a hit with everyone. The Dansak with its sweet slice of pineapple was packed with interesting vegetable bites, and went very well with the flavoursome mushroom pilau rice. Peshwari naan bread always seems an unlikely accompaniment to curry, but the light and pillowy soft bread with the unusual stuffing of sweet nuts is a winning combination with rich curry sauces. No Indian takeaway would be complete without poppadoms and onion bhajees which were crisp and fresh, although they forgot the chutneys which always add another dimension.

This is a lovely treat for lambing time, and sent us back out into the sheds with tongues tingling and tummies full. Having several vegetarian dishes actually made the meal a lot lighter, but I am looking forward to having my old favourite, lamb rogan josh- just once the sheds are clear of sheep and I can look at lamb again.

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Hengardd, Pontithel, Three Cocks, Brecon

### Easy Indian Samosas

These samosas are lovely for tea or when the weather improves, for picnics, and the filling can be varied to include whatever takes your fancy. I froze the remaining mixture to have as a stand by for any surprise vegetarian visitors. The puff pastry squares can be cut to whatever size you prefer, but avoid making them so small that you don't get much tasty filling with each bite.

1 pack of ready-made puff pastry

#### **Filling**

1 red onion

4 garlic cloves

1 potato

Half a butternut squash

1 carrot

1 courgette

1 ½ teaspoons cumin

1 ½ teaspoons coriander

1 ½ teaspoons brown mustard seed

¾ teaspoon garam masala

¾ teaspoon turmeric

¼ cup coconut milk

½ cup frozen peas

Saute the onions and garlic in a frying pan until caramelised

Add the rest of the vegetables and cook until tender

Add the spices, salt and pepper, and cook until it smells fragrant- it is important to cook the spices so that they don't taste raw

Add the coconut milk and peas, and simmer until the milk has reduced and the peas are cooked

Cool the mixture

Cut the puff pastry into squares and put a spoonful of mixture in the middle of each square

Brush the pastry edges with milk and fold the corner over to make a triangle

Press the edges together with a fork and make a couple of holes in the top to let steam out

Cook in the oven at about 180 degrees until they are golden brown

Inspired by [thewhimsicalwife.com](http://thewhimsicalwife.com)

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**THE GUN at TWYN y GARTH Llandeilo Graban.**  
originally published in the September/October 2000 edition  
**BACKGROUND**

After the First World War, Mrs Lionel Trafford, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Williams Vaughan of the Skreen, obtained the gun by replying to an advertisement in a newspaper.

Mrs Trafford intended the Gun as a symbol to commemorate the end of the First World War and in memory of her elder brother (died Somme 1916) and others in the locality who were killed in that War.

Unfortunately, Mrs Trafford died when she was involved in what was reputed to be the first fatal motor car accident in Herefordshire.

The Gun was delivered to Erwood Station and, after some rivalry between the men of Erwood and those of Llandeilo Graban, it was dragged by men and horses and positioned adjacent to the Old British Camp on Twyn y Garth, where it was cemented in place in 1920.

It was purported that the Gun was aimed at the Wheelwrights Arms in Erwood!

After nearly 80 years in its highly exposed position, its condition had deteriorated very considerably; the wheels had collapsed, whilst the chassis was severely corroded and the tail almost disconnected from the body.

This deplorable state was posing a latent threat to the public; therefore, Painscastle Community Council believed that, in the first place, an attempt should be made to get the Gun renovated, as a Millennium Project, before considering its removal to prevent its being a hazard.

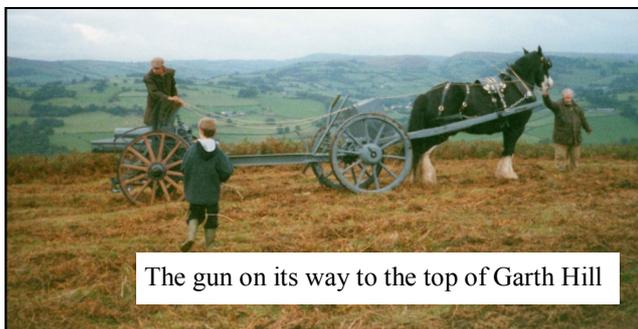
The Council was very fortunate to contact the 6th Battalion A & G REME who kindly undertook to renovate the Gun to a condition which would withstand the elements back on Twyn y Garth.

It was removed from its plinth, in snow showers, in April 1999 and taken for repair to the Battalion's workshops at Tidworth. The wheels were to be repaired locally by C & S Woodworking of Hereford and N.Kemer of Whitney, amongst others.

The renovation had to be fitted around the Battalion's many other commitments and was completed by 30th August 2000.

This gun is a 98/09 Light Field Howitzer of 10.5 calibre, a weapon of the German Field Artillery of that period. The Howitzer fired a 40 lbs shell about 7600 yds, though the weight and range would vary between types of shell. It was accompanied by a Limber holding 24 rounds of ammunition, and a wagon with 58 rounds. It seems to have been served by a crew of eight.

The same pattern chassis was used to mount other German Field Artillery. A new Light Field Howitzer, made by Krupp, was introduced in 1916; this gun had a greater range but used the same chassis. A H Alexander



The gun on its way to the top of Garth Hill

Some articles written by children from Rhosgoch School at the time.

**THE DAY THE CANNON WENT UP**

On Saturday at 2pm everybody was invited to come to see the cannon being replaced. Hayley, Mum and I walked up to the cannon from our doorstep. When we arrived the camera was already up there filming the occasion, it shall be on the news.

A shire horse was pulling up the cannon. The horse was really big. Some other people went up in trailers. The cannon was being done up, that is why if you walked up to the cannon it was not there. It was to be replaced after two years. Now it is looking wonderful.

After the occasion everybody walked down to have free tea in the barn. There was all sorts of food like biscuits and cakes. All the food was beautiful. After Mum, Hayley and I had finished our tea we left and walked home we got changed and sat in front of the TV for a couple of minutes before we watched the fireworks.

Bethan Jones

**THE CANNON**

Mum and dad and me went to the cannon. We parked in Robert Tyler's field. I dressed up as a viking, Marc and Rhys had dressed up as well. The girls wouldn't give a viking hat to Marc and Rhys.

We went to see the cannon. We walked in front of the horse. The colour of the cannon was grey. We stopped on top of the hill and the horse went past us. The horse was enormous and had big feet.

Some people went in a trailer up the hill. There were three loads of people in Robert's trailers. I was huffing and puffing up the hill. I was excited and mum and dad were excited too. The horse was huffing and puffing.

Robert Tyler was speaking in a loud speaker. A firework went bang and I jumped. Mum and me and dad went to see the fireworks in the evening.

Thomas Jones

**AN INTERVIEW ABOUT THE CANNON**

When we came back down Garth Hill, we had some refreshments. While people were eating and drinking I interviewed Sgt. Major Karen Hicks. She came from 6th battalion, REME, Tidworth in Wiltshire.

She told me when the cannon got there Major Downes was in charge of six soldiers who repaired the gun. It was hard work to repair it. She also showed me the pace-stick which Sgt. Majors carry, it was originally for measuring the distance between the guns so that the army could make the most of their guns. Now it is used to measure the paces when the soldiers march.

After I interviewed Rob Tyler. He said it was a very good day and very nice to see the many youngsters from Rhosgoch. It had been 75 years since it moved there and he couldn't see why it couldn't stay there another 75 years. It was a 1897-1912 Howitzer, it shot a 40 lb shell 4.5 miles which is about the same distance as from Garth Hill to Painscastle, and it was very accurate.

I liked it. Rhys dressed up as a Viking and that night there were fireworks on Garth Hill, but that is another story.

The view of the Wye valley from the top of Garth Hill must be one of the most magnificent in the area. It is a walk well worth the climb which is steep in parts and at the top, alongside the gun, there is a bronze age barrow and an enclosure, either an iron age fort or is it a castle? Go and have a look and see what you think.

## POWYS PRATTLES

by County Councillor James Gibson-Watt

### A Comedy of Errors – If It Wasn't So Tragic

The public consultation process on Powys County Council Cabinet's proposal to close Gwernyfed and Brecon High Schools by September 2017 is underway. The stated aim is to build a new 11-16 school in Brecon by 2019/20, but in the meantime operate the new school as one on the two existing sites. I have been trying to think of which Shakespearean tragedy would best describe what is going on, but in fact I think his 'A Comedy of Errors' fits best!

Error One took place nearly a year ago when the Council had to go back to square one and start the whole thing again because its review process had been conducted illegally.

Having re-started the process and come up with the same proposal again (!), Error Two duly arrived and is one I find rather shocking. Cabinet members were *not* told of the extent or conditions of the New Opportunities Lottery Fund's (now the Big Lottery Fund or BLF) investment in the Gwernyfed High School site in 2005. This was made to help develop its wonderful sports facilities for use by the wider community as well as the school, a point I made forcefully to the Cabinet at the meeting in which it decided to proceed with the consultation. This also despite the fact that when I was elected again to the Council in August last year, I told officers about the lottery funding. I was vice-Chair of Governors at the school during that period, so I knew about the scheme. The grant was £371,000 and, because of it, the BLF must be consulted and agree before any changes to or disposal of the facilities take place. The Council Cabinet's business case includes selling-off the Gwernyfed High School site, yet it did not even contact the BLF before making its decision! Now Council officers are suggesting that the Cabinet can take a decision about the future of the school and only then talk to the BLF! Talk about putting the cart before the horse.....

Error Three is underway as I write, although it may have changed since. Welsh Government policy on re-organising secondary education requires County Councils to consult with each of the primary schools that may be affected individually. Quite clear in the statutory guidance, yet the proposal at the moment is just to invite the primary schools to attend the one consultation meeting at Gwernyfed HS planned towards the end of April (date TBC). Not only a breach of the spirit, but also the letter of the guidance. If the Council wanted to invite another legal challenge it could hardly do better!

Error Four is simple, but very worrying. The official line about why all this disruption is justified is the Council's concern about falling standards and budgetary overspends in several of Powys's secondary schools. But Gwernyfed HS is not one of those schools. It is performing well and operating within budget. The fact that by closing Brecon HS and opening it again in another name in one fell swoop writes off that school's budget deficit, the 'loan' made to it by the Council a few years ago and its Special Measures classification by the schools' inspectors has, of course, absolutely nothing to do with the Cabinet's proposals. A responsible use of public money? I leave you, dear reader, to decide.

Comedy or Tragedy? What would Shakespeare have called it? A Tragi-Comedy I suppose.

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

## ASSEMBLY NEWS

I am delighted to be writing my first column for the Rhosgoch Gossip! I already get a good bit of gossip from the area from Cllr James Gibson-Watt and Meg Lloyd who works in my office and learns about all the goings on from her father-in-law Roy! It is good to now be contributing, though I know I won't be able to compete with the popularity of Mikey's Diary!

So, to business and in this area the big issue at the moment is the proposal by Powys County Council to close Gwernyfed High School. The proposal is a disgrace. Brecon desperately needs a new high school but this should not be achieved at the loss of the excellent Gwernyfed which has had an fantastic reputation for many years and always kept within its budgets. I have attended every campaign meeting at the School, I have met with Council officials to state my strong objections to the proposal and to suggest alternative options and I am in constant contact with key campaigners. I have also brought my concerns to the attention of Welsh Ministers.

I know that children in the communities represented by this publication will face the longest travel times, should the proposal go ahead, and many will be forced to go to secondary school over the border, losing the chance to learn about their own culture and heritage. I objected to the closure of Rhosgoch Primary School and the current state of that site and the lack of new build schools at Clyro and Hay, as were promised, mean that none of us can have faith in the ability of Powys in these processes. Alongside my colleague, Cllr Gibson-Watt, I will continue to do all I can to fight for Gwernyfed.

One of the top issues for me is healthcare; I sit on the Health and Social Services Committee in the National Assembly and I deal with hundreds of healthcare related cases for individual constituents each year. In Powys, our community hospitals are absolutely vital and I was so pleased to be able to help negotiate between Powys THB and the Welsh Government to secure £5m of funding to refurbish Llandrindod Wells Hospital, which will allow for improved maternity services etc. I am now fighting for chemotherapy to be delivered from the Hospital and other community hospitals in Powys so people don't have to travel such long distances for treatment; there is no clinical reason why they can't.

With regard to District General Hospitals, there are many problems that need to be resolved, but I hope that my Private Members Bill to introduce safe nurse staffing levels on Welsh wards will be a small step towards improving patient care and helping the morale of staff who do such an excellent job in often difficult circumstances.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch at [Kirsty.Williams@assembly.wales](mailto:Kirsty.Williams@assembly.wales) or 01874 625739 if I can be of any assistance.

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### PAINSCASTLE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall recently held a Pre-lambing Race Night with Cheese and Wine on February 27th. The fundraiser was an opportunity to raise funds to keep the Village Hall running. The evening was a great success and the Hall Committee would like to take this chance to thank all the Race Sponsors, those who bought horses and to all those who came along to show their support and enjoyed placing a bet or two on their favourite horse! The cheese and wine were an added bonus to the evening which we hope you all enjoyed.

Now that lambing is in full swing for many of us, a Post-lambing night out will need to be arranged!



### Venue Hire at Painscastle Village Hall

The main hall makes a great venue for Classes, Meetings, Fund-raisers, Parties, Hobby groups, Christenings and Get-togethers. It is a multi-use facility with main hall, stage, kitchen, meeting room and toilet facilities (including disabled provision). Marquee hire is also available. There is ample parking. The Hall Committee is proud to say it is one of the cleanest and cheapest venues in the area. For booking enquiries please contact Jeremy and Christine Rose on 01497 851345



### COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Mr Richard Ball, 2 Hermon Villas  
Vice-chairman, Philip Lewis, Llandeviron  
Robert Tyler, Lower Pentrecaeu  
Monty Graham, 2 Castle Meadow  
Treena Davies, Lettypiad  
Deri Jones, Portway  
David Nicholls, Castlefield Close  
Mrs Jenny Smith, 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, Trewylod 01497-851244

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

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## BEGWNS FLAGSHIP PONDS –

### Clean Water for Wildlife

As highlighted in last month's issue, the ponds on the Begwns have been identified as being among the best-of-the best ponds in Wales due to the special pond species that they support and, as such, they are part of the Freshwater Habitats Trust's Flagship Pond project which is running between Spring 2015 and Winter 2017. This is funded by the People, Ponds and Water, Heritage Lottery Funded project.

As part of the Flagship Pond project, to gather baseline information for the ponds to help with future monitoring and to help people understand the amazing freshwater site on their doorstep, FHT's Wales Project Officer, Hannah Shaw, will be organising several events in 2016.

The first of these, a Water Blitz for the Clean Water for Wildlife survey, was undertaken on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Despite the predicted rain, thirteen local people participated, including both the former National Trust Warden Ben Mullen and the newly appointed Warden Kate Jones. It was fantastic that all of the 17 ponds were sampled and that they were found to be clear of nitrate and phosphate pollution. The ponds on the Begwns are, therefore, confirmed as 'Clean Water' ponds!

The Clean Water for Wildlife survey aims to find the hidden gems – places which are free from pollution and where wildlife still thrives. The survey also aims to discover, for the first time, the true extent of nutrient pollution facing freshwater wildlife today.

Until recently, it has been difficult to discover the level of nutrients in any individual waterbody without expensive laboratory analysis. Newly developed rapid water-testing kits are much quicker, simpler and more accurate than in the past, making it possible 'for most people' to 'see' the pollution for the first time.

With funding from the People, Ponds and Water project, we are able to provide **free** Packtest kits to community groups and individuals, focusing on recording two of the most widespread and damaging nutrient pollutants: nitrate and phosphate. Please see our website <http://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/clean-water/take-part/> for more information and to take part.

In addition to the Water Blitz, a Toad and Frog Survey was also undertaken which required a search of ponds for toad and frog spawn. Common toads prefer large waterbodies and are present in the large Monk's Pool. Common frogs utilise small, shallow ponds and are widespread across the site with frog spawn seen in most of the ponds.

Other events in 2016:

8<sup>th</sup> April – Amphibian Identification Training and Amphibian Survey of the Ponds on the Begwns. Meet at Painscastle Village Hall at 6.30pm. Finish 10.30pm. (Four places left).

21<sup>st</sup> May – Medicinal Leech Survey. Meet at Monk's Pool at 2pm. Finish 4pm. We will survey the pond to see whether this beautiful rare leech is present.

July (date TBC)- 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.

If you are interested in any of the above events, or would like to book a place, please contact Hannah Shaw on [hshaw@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](mailto:hshaw@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk)

## HERMON CHAPEL NEWS

The Chapel at Rhosgoch is the only one for miles around that has a service every Sunday of the year and special services at important times such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The members of the congregation welcome anyone who would like to come and worship with us. In case you wondered, to our mind there is no difference between Chapel and Church as God is with us all, wherever we are.

A feature of our services is that we regularly welcome guest preachers to bring us their wisdom, preachers like Mike Wilkinson from Hereford who is always accompanied by his wife Maggie.

He comments, "It is my passion that people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. I go back a long way with The Chapel at Rhosgoch, when I came as part of the Walk Offa Mission team that visited the village in September 1996 to tell people about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Since then I have been on another 27 missions in England and Wales, 23 of these with my wife, Maggie. It is our delight that the members of The Chapel invite me to come and speak and we look forward to the warm welcome."



Mike & Maggie Wilkinson on a recent visit to Rhosgoch Chapel

### TODDLER TIMETABLE FROM APRIL 2016

Every Tuesday morning 9.30 to 11.30 at Painscastle Hall

April 5th Rainbow fish paper plates

12th salt dough sea creatures

19th boat pictures using shapes

26th light-house biscuits and soft play

May 3rd rock pool wax resist pictures

10th junk model lighthouse

17th shell rubbings

24th rock pool pizzas and soft play

31st model boats [HALF TERM]

June 7th paper plate jelly fish

14th fishing for crabs game

21st sand-castle building

28th ice cream cakes and soft play

July 5th paper plate crabs

12th ice cream cones

Everyone welcome.

### PAUL MEREDITH

#### ELECTRICIAN AND

#### DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIRS

Rhos Mawr, Glasbury On Wye, Hereford HR3 5ND

Tel: 01497 847943 / 847308

## PAINSCASTLE MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Since Mary Sumner formed the first Mothers' Union 140 years ago members have been committed to offering Christian care and support to families.

To celebrate this occasion, all the branches in the Swansea and Brecon Diocese have been asked to design and make an A4 panel to represent something in their area. We all thought this would be a challenge and slightly outside our comfort zone, but decided to give it a go.

After Christmas, 4 members spent Tuesday mornings sewing and chatting until our A4 panel was finished

There are 44 branches in the Diocese, so when all the panels are joined together the banner will look most impressive. The banner will be dedicated at a service in Brecon Cathedral in April.

We are very grateful for all the help we have received, from the original photo to drawing the design, printing and supply of fabrics.

It has been an interesting and creative experience. Thank you to everyone who helped.



Fran Shaw.

## MY CHILDHOOD

Doreen, Member of the Congregation of Rhosgoch Chapel

I was born in 1942 in Bedwelty Hospital, Newport, South Wales. When I was around two or three, my Mum was sent away to work so she left my two brothers and me with Gran and Granddad on a farm they rented under the Black Mountains. Times were hard then – Gran had thirteen children and we didn't have any toys, just hand me down clothes from our stepbrothers and sisters. When I was eight Gran adopted the three of us at the County Court in Abergavenny. Living on a remote farm, we had five fields to cross to get to school in all kinds of weather – in the winter the back of our knees had terrible sores from the wind and snow. Our first school was in Pandy but when we were old enough we went to the Secondary Modern in Abergavenny.

At weekends I went to a grand three storey house to earn my pocket money by cleaning, waiting on tables and serving food and wine to the house guests. When I left school at fifteen the lady of the house asked my Gran if I would work full time. I was very happy to accept at a wage of four pounds from which was deducted two shillings and

sixpence (12 and half pence) for my national insurance stamp. So I was left with three pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence, not much in those days, but typical for domestic service.

The lady of the house was very strict. She told me when I started that, as it was her house, I had to abide by her rules. I was to address her as "Madam" and visiting gentlemen as "Sir", which I was careful to do. In the house there was a butler who cleaned all the shoes and I was the maid and did all the cleaning and serving meals. Dinner was at eight and we would have to serve up to eighty people with food and wine. I wore a black skirt with white blouse and a little white apron topped off with a white hair band. The guests would usually take around two and a half hours to finish their meal after which I cleaned the dining room, taking all the dirty crockery, glasses and cutlery to the pantry, and then laid the table again for breakfast.

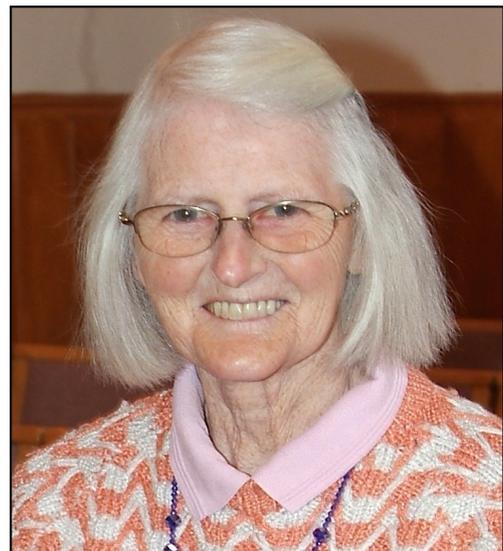
I was often very late to bed after a big dinner but had to be up at seven in the morning to clean the sitting room fireplaces and then serve breakfast at eight. When the guests were eating, I was allowed to go to the kitchen for my own meal, which I shared with the cook and gardener. When breakfast was over, I cleared the dining room, taking the crockery and cutlery to the pantry to wash up. After that I made the guests' beds and cleaned their rooms and bathrooms, then cleaned the drawing room, hall and sitting room. My regular duties also included polishing the brass and silver and scrubbing the stone floor of the long hall and the front steps. At noon we would get ready for a lunch, often for up to twenty people, which finished at about half past one when everything was washed up. We had time off in the afternoon but tea had to be readied for five, and then dinner – and so on.

In the afternoon I did errands for the lady of the house to the village shop and post office about half a mile away to get stamps and to post letters.

I left domestic service in 1960 and moved to Shropshire, subsequently to marry and give birth to my daughter Denise.

I look back on the early days with fond memories of good people and innocent times, even though the life was harder than would be acceptable today.

I am very happy in Rhosgoch and get great comfort from my Christian faith and the warm fellowship of the members of the Chapel congregation, who I joined in 1997, and the teachings of our minister. Though I've known hard times, God is with me here and that feels good.



## TODDLER NEWS

Rhosgoch and Painscastle toddler group has been busy this spring with the children looking at different modes of transport. The notice board in the village hall became a main road with vehicles of all shapes and colours zooming across it, and the sky above was filled with hot air balloons. There was great excitement over the new toys, which included a couple of toy tractors and trailers to keep the keen little farmers happy. We have had some lovely singing sessions with Angharad playing the guitar, and the children really enjoyed being hands on with the musical instruments. The next term's topic is the seashore, and we look forward to being able to play outside with the new sand trays. The Tots Group meets every Tuesday in term time at 9:30 in Painscastle village hall: everyone is very welcome!



There are lots of craft activities and making trucks was great fun



Ride on toys are always popular as well as the slide!



Some of us think 'snack time' is the best



The Mobile library comes once a month so we can change our books



We finish the morning with some favourite songs