

# Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 23 Issue 4

March April 2018

£1

## THE WORST WINTER FOR MANY YEARS

### A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FARMERS

Social Media are such transient systems. Posts appear on Facebook, then almost in an instant they're gone, buried under a multitude of miscellaneous stuff and endless things for sale on local for-sale pages. Remember the news broadcasts and all the posts of just a few weeks ago, news and photos of snow blocked roads, drifts 10 & 12 feet high? People and communities cut off? But also, more importantly, pictures of farmers with their tractors turning out in all conditions to clear our local roads, trying to release folk from snow-bound isolation.

It was a difficult time, the worst conditions we've seen in very many years, but the community spirit prevailed. Neighbours helped one another, council workers worked hard to keep the major routes open and everyone "mucked in". But the real un-sung heroes were those farmers and volunteers who turned out, unpaid and at all hours, with tractors and diggers to clear our lanes with no thought of reward because, in rural communities, that is what they do; and it is to these folk that we owe a real debt of gratitude.

So in the coming months, when we're stuck behind a slow tractor towing a trailer laden with silage bales, or we grumble about the mud on the road because the farmer's been in a muddy field tending his flock, let's not forget what they did for us when it was needed most - and indeed what they continually do for us in keeping food on our tables. So I think everyone will agree that we say a big "THANK YOU" to them for their much appreciated efforts! J Rose



It's always an advantage to have a thick coat when you live near Painscastle!

**THANK YOU!**  
Sue and John would like to thank all the farmers who worked so long and so selflessly clearing the snow in our lanes this winter. They were wonderful in our dingle and we expect they were just as good everywhere else.



It looks pretty, but it's time to get started.



Road to Painscastle Hill blocked!



Clearing the road towards Painscastle Hill



Pentre Hill, Rhosgoch, and that's the biggest snowball I've seen!

### COMMUNITY SOCIAL EVENING

The Roast Ox Inn

Sunday May 6th

At 7.30pm

As a thank you for the local community spirit shown by many lately, come and enjoy a convivial evening of food and drink, conversations, stories etc. Everyone welcome to make this a suitable post-lambing bash.



SNOW PHOTOS



Road to Lundy taken from the top of the pitch above Pendre



Clearing the road to the Lundy



Where can I put it?



Nearly there!



All quiet at Dolycanny crossroads



Not for long!



Nature's art?



Before



After



The Rhiw pitch, Painscastle



The roundabout from the road near the Roast Ox



Where is the road to Llanbedr Church?



Some people park anywhere



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## FARM FOCUS

It is a relief to see the snow disappearing after a challenging couple of weeks and our thanks go to all the farmers with their snow clearing equipment! We are only keeping ewe lambs this year and those that are in-lamb are not due until the end



of April, by which time we hope the spring grass will be growing well. Here at Llanshiver we are just under 1000 ft above sea level and sometimes I am concerned about whether our wool-shedding Easycare sheep might struggle a bit when the weather is harsh, but so far they have managed well, as we can give them the run of the barn. For those who are unfamiliar with the breed, they were developed several decades ago in Anglesey by Iolo Williams, from crossing the Wiltshire Horn onto an improved South Wales Mountain sheep. The Wiltshire Horn is our only native sheep that produces a short hairy coat that moults off in the spring. Transferring this gene into the Welsh Mountain by double crossing gives an Easycare with a short fleece and no horns. Some farmers don't like to see the clumps of shed wool littering the fields in springtime, but surprisingly it all soon disappears due to worm and other wildlife activity. We keep finding birds' nests neatly lined with it! We have a wonderful array of birds in this part of Radnorshire, due to the mixture of improved valley land, moorland and marshy wetland. I also enjoy seeing many hares (sadly lacking in many parts of the country now.) I think our farming landscape and the environmental schemes carried out by farmers have all contributed to this diversity, with fields of swedes and other fodder helping in the mix. Also, thanks go to Becky Miles for putting her ponies on the bog - they have done good work keeping the vegetation under control on part of it. There is quite a range of wetland plants on that area now - perhaps we'll see Lapwings nesting there once more?

One of my concerns in our business is how our newly planted woodlands near Llandoverly are faring. Planting began in 2012 and there have been many challenges! Rabbits, Ash die-back and recently, Fallow deer. The broadleaves have borne the brunt of this - the conifers have now established well. We have seen some of the Ash with die-back trying to fight back, but time will tell as to how much damage it will wreak overall. In some places 50% have been affected, in others only 10%. It will be interesting (and a bit nerve-wracking) to watch how these woods develop. We had wanted to plant Beech but the Welsh Government told us; No...they are non-native! They might change their minds if die-back is as devastating as it looks like it could be in that part of Wales.

That reminds me - this year's Single Payment application form has just arrived in the in-box! What fun that will provide for the next few weeks trying to fill it in without any mistakes! I always seem to get something wrong despite checking and re-checking with FUW. We shall have just about got the hang of it by the time the new post-Brexit regime will change it all again. I feel sure this burden of paperwork and red-tape is one of the reasons why many Welsh farmers voted Leave, but all I can say is...be careful what you wish for! My bet is that the paperwork will remain even when the country has left!

Anyway, Spring is almost springing, lambs are starting to appear and I shall soon be getting my fly rod out and going to explore some of the wonderful trout streams that this part of Wales is blessed with!

Happy Days...



## GARDENING CLUB

- Thr Apr 12th Dr Evans head gardener at Hereford Cathedral
- Sat May 12th Visit to Royal Mint, Llantrisant & St Fagans
- Thr Jun 14th Visit to the Walled Garden at Treberfydd
- Thr Jul 12th Handmade soaps - Castello da Haye
- Thr Aug 16th Flower & Vegetable Show
- All meetings at Rhosgoch Golf Club at 7.30pm
- Further details from Edwina Griffiths 01497-851284 or Pat Harley 01497-851632



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**YFC NEWS**

Since the turn of the year, a lot of our time was taken up by the pantomime and all the practices that go with it. Competing in Llandrindod over the week 12th February, we came away 10th overall, winning the Estyn Meredith Shield for the best sketch within a performance, and congratulations to Aaron Nicholls for winning the best 17-21 year old category. Well done to Sophie Protheroe (Best vocal) and James Poulton (Male) for their nomina-

tions as well. Unfortunately the local performance was cancelled due to the snow, and we've been unable to find a date suitable for all the cast so there won't be another showing this year.



A massive thank you to Nigel Protheroe for writing and producing it, and to Eric Gore, John Meredith, Andrew Ritchie, Colin Bagley, Andrew Meredith and Robbie Gore for helping with the set, and David Price, Ollie Metcalfe, Shaun Meredith, Clive Meredith and Tim East for organising the light and sound. And, a major thank you to the costume department of

Meryl Lloyd, Gill Protheroe, Celia Price, Jane Nicholls,



Lynda Meredith and the fantastic leaders of Val Price and Ruby Bagley for putting in some serious hours making numerous outfits, with most of the 24 cast having a costume change. Also thanks to Betty and the Golf Club for supplying a late night feed after the performance, with some cast not getting back there until gone midnight. And finally, thanks to all the members and parents for their hours of practice and support over the last weeks and months. As always it is very much appreciated.

Sunday 18th March was the Wales finals, where again the snow caused havoc, meaning Radnor's winners, Presteigne YFC, were unable to compete, but Brecknock's Erwood took the title. James Poulton did manage to make it to Port Talbot to compete in Wales Member Of The Year, but was unfortunately unsuccessful, but a great effort anyway.

This Sunday (25th March) we will be visiting Maesllwch Farm, Glasbury, to see the milking and calving process. Many thanks to Andrew Giles for hosting and Jon Thomas for organising it.

The AGM is the next event in the YFC calendar, held in Blackpool on 4th-6th May. A number of Rhosgoch members will once again be attending the business and

social event, although hopefully it will be a less stressful time for Radnor this time, after the events of Torquay last year.

The next club fundraiser will be the annual funride, once again hosted and organised by the Poultons. It will be held on Sunday 13th May, so get your horses ready. There have been some great days out and the jump course is second to none. It has been a fantastic fundraiser for the club over the last years, and we're very grateful for the help the family have given the club. For more details, please see the Facebook event.

In and around the Fun ride preparation, the Rally is fast approaching. Pre-rally events start from the middle of May, with the Rally being hosted by Aberedw YFC, held at Penmaenau Farm, Llanelwedd, on Saturday 9th June. Hopefully we will have a few practices in difference competitions in the weeks before so we can go in with the best chances.

Tickets for the club's 75th year party and celebration will be going on sale in the next few weeks so please support the club and keep the 6th and 8th July free. Richard Meredith

We're trying to find out who has been a chairman of the club over the last 75 years. If any reader is able to help with this information please ring, text or email Rebecca Lloyd on 07552 772244, [rebecca198@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rebecca198@hotmail.co.uk) or myself on 07854 557309, [richard\\_meredith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:richard_meredith@hotmail.co.uk)

**SUCCESSFUL QUIZ NIGHT FOR LOCAL CHARITIES**



The Curry & Quiz night at the Roast Ox on February 18th was a great success with over £300 being raised for local charities.

Above the winning team and on the right some of Rhosgoch Young Farmers teams. Next Quiz: Sunday April 8th 7.30 pm



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**Bronllys Well Being Park (CLT)\_Ltd** is pleased to have recruited Jon Adams as our Project Development Officer. Thanks to the Rural Development Grant/ Arwain Award Jon started with us in February will be the first paid "boots on the ground" in this landmark project. Over the last three years the project has been sustained by many hours of volunteer input and all expenses from their own pockets which is much appreciated. Pro-bono advice has also been valuable from the National Community Land Trust, PAVO, Dementia Matters, Wales Coop, Community Land Association, The Plunkett Foundation, Cyfran and many others. Since becoming a Community Benefit Society, we are enjoying growing support with over 335 registered members so far. Our Fundraising was given a welcome boost with a donation of £500 from the 2017 MallyFest. Please come to our second AGM as a Community Benefit Society on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Concert Hall, Bronllys Hospital, Bronllys, Brecon, LD3 0LU at 7pm. Chris Jones, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Wales, will be our Key-note Speaker and refreshments will be provided.

[jonadams@bronllyswellbeingpark.org](mailto:jonadams@bronllyswellbeingpark.org) Ffôn/Tel: 07943653809 Swyddfa/Office: 01874 712630  
BWBP Office Bronllys Hospital Bronllys Brecon.LD3 0LU



ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR  
**BRONLLYS WELL BEING PARK (CLT)LTD  
AGM**

With Guest Speaker Professor Chris Jones Deputy Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director NHS Wales

**MONDAY APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> 2018  
AT 7PM**  
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Come and find out more about our work. Members will vote on the election of BWBP (CLT) Ltd Board Membership

If you would like to become a member or be \*nominated to the board, please email or ring using the details below. \*Only registered members can be nominated to the board.

All welcome  
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Email: [info@bronllyswellbeingpark.org](mailto:info@bronllyswellbeingpark.org) Phone: Jon Adams on 01874 712630

Mae'r cyhoeddiad hwn ar gael yn Gymraeg/This publication is available in Welsh

**LOCAL INTEREST GROUP**

Book Review:- At the February meeting Phillip Jones talked about his book: Early Birds and Boys in Blue A century of Radnorshire Aviation. It was a fascinating talk highlighting the progression of flight with Radnorshire connections, starting from the well known landing of Delys Corbett Wilson's Blériot XI at Colva in 1912 to the last crash in Radnorshire which was at Aberedw in 1987. The book is very comprehensive. It includes the other two local incidents, the fatal crash of the Miles Master near Penbedw rocks in 1942 and the forced landing at Pentre farm, Rhosgoch, of a Westland Lysander which was on a training mission in 1941 when luckily there were no casualties. Although the book includes many facts and figures, it is written in a very readable style. Despite some poignant events, with many heroic actions, there are also many humorous stories involving the men and their machines. It is a really good reference book to have on the shelf, to dip into when required.

Local Interest Group meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. The next two meetings will be held at Painscastle Village Hall.

Thur Mar 29th Ken Jones:- The Maesllwch Estate and the Wilkins Family  
Thur Apr 26th Mari Fforde:- Hergest Camp

Summer meetings are local walks to places of interest. Everyone is welcome at all our meetings, for more details please email [m.lloyd1btconnect.com](mailto:m.lloyd1btconnect.com) or tel: 01497-851609

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**MONDAY - SATURDAY**

Between 2pm & 5pm

Serving Afternoon Tea / Cream Teas / Snacks

### SPRING EVENTS WITH THE VILLAGE QUIRE

The Village Quire has some events coming up over the next few weeks. Following such a great singing workshop at Bleddfa last spring, we are delighted to announce that we have been invited back to run another one this April. Details are below and also available from the Village Quire. We hope to see you there!

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 7.30 pm at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Bleddfa LD7 1PA

Plus afternoon singing workshop [Saints & Singers] 2-4.30 pm in The Old School House, Bleddfa. *If you want more detailed information about the workshop please drop an email to [quintet@villagequire.org.uk](mailto:quintet@villagequire.org.uk) and we will send this to you.* Workshop places are already selling, and must be booked in advance!

Cost: Evening concert only £10 / Workshop only £14 / combined ticket for both £22 from Sarah Pearson at the Bleddfa Centre 01547 550377 / [sarah@bleddfacentre.org](mailto:sarah@bleddfacentre.org)

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## CULINARY COLUMN

### The Lakeside, Llandrindod Wells.

It is the calm before the storm. Hopefully not another snow storm, but a much nicer reason to have the hills dotted with white: lambing time. Similar to a snow storm, the lambing season creates plenty of cabin fever and so amongst the pre-lambing prep of making pens, washing out buckets and restocking the medicine cupboard, we had an afternoon out as a family.

With Betty at Rhosgoch Golf Club just up the road, our Sunday Lunch Out spot is usually filled, but we had to go in a Builth direction and so chose 'The Lakeside' in Llandrindod for lunch. They serve a carvery every Sunday and, judging from the full tables, it would be wise to book. The restaurant overlooks the lake and is an open airy room with a large conservatory on the side with lovely views over the water. On a sunny day it feels cheerful and light but is equally nice in the driving rain when you can feel cosy over your pot of tea.

There were three types of meat to choose from for lunch, and the usual roast dinner side dishes to help yourself to. There was no chance of anyone going home hungry! Everything was well cooked, and the children were thrilled to have as many Yorkshire puddings as they liked. I did have a pang for Betty's roasted beetroot and her fresh vegetables but we soldiered on. The gravy knitted the whole meal together- many a roast has been let down by a poor tasteless gravy! The pudding board was tempting and we chose homemade favourites, which were all as good as they looked. There is a good selection of cake and biscuits, and they do an excellent cream tea as a treat.

The staff were very helpful to our motley crew and our somewhat eccentric requirements. Four years old to just shy of ninety two years old spans a wide range of lunchtime needs, and the carvery kept everyone happy. Parking is also a big bonus here as you can draw up right outside the front door. The Lakeside is a family friendly restaurant with good value food, and a visit is perfect to combine with a play in the park, feeding the ducks or walk round the lake.

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

**The Lakeside, Princes Ave, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5HU,  
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### PAINSCASTLE RECYCLING & RUBBISH COLLECTION

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

9th April

30th April

21st May

11th June

### Bara brith biscuits

These are lovely traditionally Welsh fruity biscuits, perfect with a cup of tea. You can make them into fun shapes, such as sheep, and ice them, or have them plain and equally delicious.

#### **Ingredients for the biscuits**

10 tea bags  
splash orange liqueur  
6 tbsp mixed dried fruit  
1 orange, finely grated zest only  
½ lemon, finely grated zest only  
500g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting  
125g caster sugar  
½ tsp mixed spice  
½ tsp dried ginger  
½ tsp cinnamon  
½ tsp salt  
350g unsalted butter, cubed  
1-2 tbsp buttermilk, to loosen

#### **Method**

Preheat the oven to 190C. Line a large baking tray.

Put the teabags in a bowl, cover with boiling water and brew for 5 minutes, until very strong. Remove the teabags and add a splash of orange liqueur. Soak the mixed fruit in the tea for 10-15 minutes, then drain well and set aside.

When cool, chop the dried fruit very finely, add both citrus zests and transfer to a pestle and mortar if you have one, or use something like the end of a rolling pin in the bowl to grind the mixture to a paste.

Put the flour, sugar, spices and salt in a large bowl. Rub in the butter using your fingertips. Add 3 teaspoons of the ingredients from the pestle and mortar. Mix and combine with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add just enough buttermilk to bring the mixture together as a dough.

Roll out on lightly floured work surface until the dough is about ½cm thick. Cut out shapes using a biscuit cutter and transfer to the prepared tray. Prick all over with a fork and bake for 10-12 minutes or until pale golden-brown. Leave to cool slightly, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Taken from the BBC Good Food website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/food>

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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.

Classes will remain at £6 and £4 for a second class within the same week. If you are interested in any of the above classes please call me on 07702 241725 or

[emma@pilatesemma.co.uk](mailto:emma@pilatesemma.co.uk) [www.pilatesemma.co.uk](http://www.pilatesemma.co.uk)

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Sun Apr 8th Quiz Night at Roast Ox at 7.30pm  
 Wed Apr 18th Wednesday lunch club RGLC  
 Sat May 5th Coffee Morning Bryngwyn Church 10am —12 noon  
 Sun May 6th Community Social Evening at Roast Ox 7.30pm  
 Wed May 16th Wednesday lunch club RGLC  
 Sat May 19th Royal Wedding Party Painscastle Village Hall 7.30pm

**ADULLAM CHAPEL PAINSCASTLE**

Sun May 6th Reunion service 2.30 pm Revd Janet Russell

**HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH**

ALL SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30pm

Mar 30th Good Friday service 7pm Rev Meredydd Powell  
 Jun 3rd Anniversary Service 2.30pm  
 Jun 10th United Service at Newchurch  
 Sunday School every Sunday morning 10 – 11 am

**MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN**

Services Sundays at 2.30pm

Mar 29th Good Friday Sankey evening  
 Apr 1st Rev Gordon Bingham (communion)  
 Apr 15th Ruth Hargest  
 Apr 29th Rhosgoch Chapel Joint Service  
 May 6th Special Service Adullam Chapel Painscastle  
 May 13th Special Service Rev Andrew Wyton (communion)  
 May 27th Penny Robinson  
 June 10th Crickadarn Special Service

**ERWOOD & PAINSCASTLE CHURCHES**

Dear All,

This year, April continues to be full of the season of Eastertide and the season also runs into May. Thus May gives us three festivals that form the climax of the Easter mystery; the **Ascension of Our Lord** on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, the coming of the Holy Spirit at **Pentecost** on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month and the great affirmation of the **Most Holy Trinity** a week later. The seven continuous weeks of Eastertide that lead up to these three important festivals are a profound time in our Christian year. Through the Gospels we are taken from the ecstatic joy of the Resurrection of Our Lord and introduced into an acceptance of seeing him leave us to ascend to his Father; thus releasing his advocate, the Holy Spirit, to live among us and within us. Now we may all carry the Christ who is born again in each one of us. This is the completion of the Incarnation that began at Advent. The importance of this time for Christians cannot be over-emphasised; now the power of our Faith is in the world. The words of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer that he delivers to them with such urgency and deliberation as his last address now manifests as an eternal reality:

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see my glory which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Father, Upright One, the world has not known you but I have known you and these have known that you sent me. I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them and so that I may be made known in them.”

*John 17: 24-26.*

Once more through the power of the Trinity we are ready to take the Spirit of Christ into the world:

Christ is truly risen:

Jesus, the earthly Son who rose from the dead,  
 The Incarnate God who ascends to his Father  
 The Divine Spirit of truth who still lives in our hearts.  
 Alleluia!

*Spread the Word.  
 Blessings to you all.  
 Father Paul. XX*

**Thus 29th March Holy Thursday**

7.00pm Aberedw The Lord's Supper with washing of Feet and Transfer of the Sacrament

**Good Friday**

2.00pm Llanbadarn Stations of the Cross  
 3.00pm Newchurch Liturgy of the Passion

**Holy Saturday**

7.30pm Aberedw The Easter Vigil

**Sun 1st April Easter Day**

9.30pm Crickadarn Eucharist  
 11.00am Gwenddwr Eucharist  
 9.30am Llandeilo Graban Eucharist  
 11.00am Llanbedr Eucharist  
 3.00am Llandewi Fach Eucharist

**Sun 8th April Second Sunday of Easter**

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

**Sun 15th April Third Sunday of Easter**

9:30am Llandeilo Graban Eucharist  
 11:00am Gwenddwr Eucharist  
 11.00am Newchurch Eucharist

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**Sun 22nd April Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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

**Sun 29th April Fifth Sunday of Easter**

9:30am Bryngwyn Eucharist  
11:00am Llandeilo Graban Eucharist

**Sun 6th May Sixth Sunday of Easter**

9:30am Llanbadarn Eucharist  
11:00am Gwenddwr Eucharist  
11:00am Llandeilo Graban Morning Prayer  
3:00pm Llandewi Fach Eucharist

**Sun 13th May Seventh Sunday of Easter**

9:30am Chrickadarn Eucharist  
9:30am Aberedw Eucharist  
11:00am Llanbedr Eucharist

**Sun 20th May Pentecost**

9:30am Llandeilo Graban Eucharist  
11:00am Gwenddwr Eucharist  
11:00am Newchurch Eucharist

**Sun 27th May Most Holy Trinity**

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

Evening Prayer in St Cewydd, Aberedw at 6.00pm - Tuesday to Friday, excepting Wednesday, when there is mid-week Eucharist at 6.30pm.

**PAINSCASTLE MOTHERS' UNION NEWS**

Painscastle MU is a small but committed group, helping and supporting Christian care for families. Due to family commitments, we were not able to hold our Shrove Tuesday pancake party. The following week was 'Wave of Prayer' and for forty minutes it was our turn to pray and light candles for MU in this country and throughout the world. It is very humbling to participate once a year in this activity.

Working with bugle beads and perle embroidery thread was quite a challenge for our Easter Craft meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March. An Easter Craft evening was a new concept for us, and gave members another experience in the wide realms of craft. The evening ended with tea, coffee and a delicious sponge decorated with Easter eggs.

Future meetings:

10<sup>th</sup> April - we join with Llyswen MU for their Lady Day service.

8<sup>th</sup> May - An outing, weather permitting, or a talk 'In Mary Sumner's Footsteps - founder of Mothers' Union'

For more information: Fran Shaw 01982 560480

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**EDITOR'S NOTES**

I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue, especially the dramatic wintery photos. Please continue to send articles, news and events, all comments are gratefully received. [m.lloyd1@btconnect.com or 01497-851609]. ML (Editor).

The Rhosgoch Gossip is available at Clyro Filling Station & Painscastle Farmers Buying Group. It is available by annual subscription (due in September), £6 for delivery in Rhosgoch and Painscastle and adjoining areas, £12 posted. [Errors & omissions excepted].

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



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## POWYS PRATTLES

by COUNTY COUNCILLOR JAMES GIBSON-WATT  
**Council Tax up, services down, Council Tax up, services down....**

When was the last time anyone can remember local council services actually *increasing* when the rates/community charge/council tax were hiked up? Well, I'm 58 years old and I can't remember that ever happening. Every year it seems Council Tax rates rise while local services are reduced or withdrawn.

70% of county councils' budgets are made up of a grant (the Rate Support Grant or RSG) from central government and, none-too-subtly, governments of all political stripes have slowly but surely restricted the RSG. Councils have had no option but to raise Council Tax to compensate. Direct taxation has shifted from national to local, because national governments know that raising income tax is electoral suicide and letting local government take the blame is just fine. In broad terms, it takes a 2.5% increase in Council Tax to cover a 1% reduction in the RSG. So, the pain in making up the difference is much greater when imposed at local level, which is why local councils are usually so reluctant to increase Council Tax.

However, in Powys things are never quite as they seem. For 2018/19 Powys will receive a reduction of 1% in its RSG from the Welsh Government in Cardiff, mainly because we have a declining population and falling numbers of school kids. Digressing for a moment, to halt this decline we need to make more babies (been there, done that and anyway I'm too old for that lark now) and persuade more of our young people to stay in the county. The first bit rather depends on the second, if you see what I mean.

Returning to my main point, our Council Tax is going up by a whopping 5%. I could bang on about members of the current county council Cabinet having been elected on a promise just last May to freeze council tax levels, but I won't. I might be accused of being political. But something is wrong with the way the county's finances are working when such a small decrease in RSG produces such a large increase in Council Tax. To be sure, the council is putting an extra £10 million in to social care services, but much of that is being one-off funded from reserves. By the way, to sustain this level of funding the Cabinet Member for Finance let slip the other day that a Council Tax rise of up to 10% is on the cards for next year. But none of this really provides a coherent explanation for this year's 5% increase, which is partly why I voted against it.

For the record, I and my council group proposed a 3.75% Council Tax increase and a slightly lower increase in spending on social care, with some of that extra money being used instead to boost spending on the Youth Service and school budgets, both of which are in dire need of more money. For me and my colleagues, 5% is just a step too far. We were defeated and accused of wanting to starve social care of money, which of course was complete nonsense. But hey ho, that's local politics.

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

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## ASSEMBLY NEWS

It's always good to be able to report good news. We hear too much about really awful things happening around the world, some of it too awful to contemplate. So I am delighted to report, as spring the season of renewal approaches, my involvement to come in the official opening of 5 new primary schools in Hay-on-Wye, Llangors, Clyro, Talgarth & Bronllys and Llyswen in the Gwernyfed High School catchment area; and to welcome the recent decision by Powys County Council's Cabinet to agree to the investment of over £7 million in new buildings at Gwernyfed High School itself. This is all really good news for the communities involved and also a real vindication of the fight that they put up to retain their local high school and community sports centre, which play such a pivotal role in so many local people's lives.

We hear a lot also about the supposed 'breakdown' of community life in this age of the internet, social media and 24 hour satellite TV. Yet, when the chips are down, people and communities do stick together and work for the common good, whether it be to retain a much-loved local facility, or, as we saw during the recent snowy weather, to help each other out when help from elsewhere was difficult to find.

In the case of the snow, I must say that Powys County Council's Highways staff did a first-class job to deal with a very challenging situation on our roads, which enabled social and health care staff to be able, in one way or another, to get timely help to the most vulnerable in our communities in even the most remote locations. On occasions they could not do it all as quickly as some people might have needed. It was then, in many instances, that we saw community action at its best.

So, I must pay tribute to those farmers and others who were able to spare time from lambing and calving duties, which are always doubly difficult and time-consuming in bad weather, to help dig their neighbours out and clear their local roads. On a number of occasions the County Council's contractors and staff sent to do the work arrived to find the work already done or a local person already doing it. This allowed them to go on to the next location, which was invaluable. The combination of very fine powder snow and high winds would have tested even the best-resourced public services anywhere. All those involved in helping us get through these challenges deserve our warmest thanks.

If you would like to discuss these or any other issues with me, please email me:

[Kirsty.Williams@assembly.wales](mailto:Kirsty.Williams@assembly.wales) or call my office on 01874 625 739.

## LES BOWEN

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## WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB

We meet between 12:30 and 1pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, usually at the Rhosgoch Golf Club. The dates of the next two meetings are :- 18th April & 16th May. For further information contact Wendy King 01497-851229

### NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

The extreme weather earlier this month has shown just how strong our communities here in Brecon and Radnorshire really are. The weather has challenged our area, with many losing power, water, internet access and being unable to leave their homes.

I have to praise the sterling work of our emergency services and utility companies who prevailed through the tough conditions to attend to those in need. In addition, our Powys County Council Highway's Department worked around the clock to ensure our main roads throughout Powys were safe for all to use. They were helped by many farmers and citizens who used their larger vehicles to clear smaller lanes and roads in their communities.

This sort of community spirit should be celebrated, neighbours looking out and helping each other in their time of need. This is something many communities across the UK, and even the world, have lost in recent years, but it is something that we have maintained and that is what makes Brecon and Radnorshire such a special place to live.

That is why I am extremely proud to represent you as your Member of Parliament. Just last week I attended various events in London, many with businesses from across Brecon and Radnorshire who are working around the clock to push their businesses forward and make Brecon and Radnorshire an even more attractive place to live than it already is. Attracting inward investment from both inside and outside the UK is vital to ensuring the prosperity of our wonderful area. The upcoming Mid Wales Growth deal is just another element of investment which will see our area thrive.

I hope to see Powys become an even more attractive place to live. We have an ageing population and I know the council is working hard to attract young professionals to the area. This is something that will enhance our area both fiscally and culturally.

If you have any projects in mind, or would like to discuss any constituency casework with me, please feel free to contact my office on: 01982 559180 or [Chris.davies.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Chris.davies.mp@parliament.uk)

### COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Deri Jones, Portway  
Vice-chairman, Jenny Smith, Penrhiw  
David Nicholls, Castlefield Close  
Becky Miles, The Cwm  
Iris Lloyd, Caemawr  
Sian Powell, Lletycoed  
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



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## Hay & District Dial-a-Ride

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I'm sure most of you will have seen our two blue buses in and around Hay-on-Wye, but did you know that you can book us for shopping, visiting the library, and meeting friends for coffee? Of course medical and hospital appointments are a key area for our transport charity, but we are firm believers in the value of social trips. Better still, you don't have to be elderly or disabled to join our members' only service. People can join simply because they have difficulties accessing transport. Carers can travel for free for local journeys.

Our annual membership is just £10 and journeys start at £2 for a one-way journey within Hay up to £7 for a return trip to Bronllys hospital. Less visible is the community car service that we run, as volunteers use their own cars, for which our clients are charged 45p per mile. In order to join, you just need to live within a 9 mile radius of Hay. We carry out around 6,000 passenger journeys every year and our wonderful volunteers drive over 20,000 miles.

If you, or a friend or neighbour would benefit from becoming a Dial-a-Ride member, please ring the office for a membership pack. In order to run this essential transport service, we are always looking for volunteer drivers! If you would like to use your own car or indeed drive our mini-buses please get in touch. No experience is necessary and we will provide all the training you need.

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### CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to Emma & Mark Damon Thomas on the birth of a daughter Nia Devi Damon Thomas on 30th December 2017, a little sister for Wyn aged 3. Another grandchild for Janet & Mervyn Thomas, Pontfaen, Newchurch.

Congratulations to Emma and Will Gittoes on the birth of a little girl Charlotte (Lottie) Mai Gittoes, on 24th February 2018. She is a second granddaughter for Joy & Alistair Haines and a great grandchild for John & Joan Meredith. Best wishes to all the family.

Best wishes also go to a new family who have moved into Rhosgoch village at Amberwood. Congratulations to Rachael Castell and Daniel Curtis on the birth of their first child a big bonny baby boy [9lb 11ozs] called Reggie Llewelyn Curtis on 21st March 2018.

catherine hughes

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**Bryngwyn WI Programme**

Mon Apr 2nd Sue Hodgetts—Papercrafting Fun  
 Mon May 7th Martin Wibberley—Cusop Dingle: geology & more  
 Mon Jun 4th Janet Robinson—Researching Family History  
 Mon Jul 2nd All Day visit to Berrington Hall

Meetings are held in Painscastle Village Hall, at 7.00pm, unless otherwise stated. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please contact Mollie Moore (851296) or Edwina Griffiths (8512824) for more details.

**CURLEWS IN CRISIS**

Mostly associated with wide expanses of moorland and estuary, the curlew's piping and bubbling call is evocative of wild and beautiful landscapes. Like the lapwing, however, the curlew has always had a presence in lowland Britain too and used to breed commonly in hay meadows. Both lapwings and curlews were commonly seen on the Begwns and in the hills around Painscastle and Rhosgoch. Sadly, the flocks of lapwing are no longer seen locally and curlew have suffered significant losses and may no longer be raising young successfully.

The sometimes mournful call of the curlew is woven into folklore across Europe with the bird regarded as a harbinger of storms or an omen of bad luck. In Wales however, the Gylfinir, as it is known, was perceived as a pious bird which came to the aid of St Beuno, who in return prayed for its protection. Iolo Williams has noted that in Radnorshire, older farmers referred lovingly to the Gylfinir as the 'Radnorshire cuckoo', relishing its arrival call in spring above all other returning species.

Now the curlew is in crisis and its decline has been identified as the most pressing issue of avian conservation in the British Isles as plummeting breeding figures overseas are mirrored here. The UK population of 68,000 breeding pairs support 19-27% of the global breeding population and the rate of decline in the UK breeding population is among the highest recorded across its range. Ireland, once a breeding stronghold, will see the extinction of the breeding population in a few years if current trends are unchecked. In Wales, the recent loss of over 80% of breeding pairs suggests national extinction is a very real possibility in the next decade and we may lose our local curlews even sooner.

Mention curlews to lovers of wildlife in Radnorshire and you are likely to hear the heartbroken response that their familiar call has vanished and they are no longer seen. It would be such a shame if the drop in the number of our local curlews resulted in their disappearance here. The decline nationally has taken place over a very long period but has been masked. Curlews may live for up to 30 years and are very faithful to their breeding sites, so numbers may appear to be holding up whereas the harsh truth is one of continual breeding failure and eventual disappearance as local populations age.

The underlying causes are familiar: habitat loss and a decline in the invertebrate populations that sustain the fledglings. Research has shown that additional factors overlie these causes and further harm the fragile breeding

population. The main cause of egg and chick failure is predation by foxes and corvids and to a much lesser extent by other species. When there were more pairs of nesting curlews within an area, it is thought that the birds acting together were more successful in deterring predators.

Projects to help breeding populations recover are being established across the UK and recent research is providing vital insights into behaviour. For example, birds in Snowdonia have been fitted with micro-tags which have revealed the surprisingly long distances that adults fly from their nest sites to their feeding grounds. Some success has been achieved on the Stiperstones by installing electric fencing around nest sites, and the challenging issue of predator control has been faced. Predators take both eggs and chicks, so 'headstarting' has been trialled: This technique involves removing eggs from the nest and incubating them artificially, before either returning them to the nest at hatching time or hand-rearing them until they can fend for themselves and can be released back into the wild. Once hatched, curlew chicks can forage for invertebrates with their short bills, but they are protected for another month by a parent bird.

Strategies such as these are expensive and short-term. A long-term solution can only be achieved through more sympathetic land management to ensure birds have the right habitat for nesting and chick rearing. Vegetation, whether in the uplands or in meadows, needs to be of the most favourable density and height to provide concealment for nests, shelter for chicks and access to soil invertebrates. To achieve this, several projects have worked successfully with farmers and partnerships with the farming community are recognised as the single most important factor in starting to reverse the curlew's decline.

A group has been established to support the curlew population on and around the Begwns. Monitoring numbers and breeding behaviour is a vital first step alongside working in partnership with landowners. It is hoped that dedicated volunteers, interested locals and visitors will record sightings of curlew so that an accurate idea of their numbers and their whereabouts can be established. For more information on this group please contact [stephenmullard@hotmail.com](mailto:stephenmullard@hotmail.com)

Saint Bueno's feast day is April 21<sup>st</sup>, by which time many pairs of curlews are beginning to breed. It is also World Curlew Day, which aims to raise awareness of the curlew's plight. Surely a fitting time for us to make plans to preserve this wonderful bird in Wales.

Stephen Mullard, RWT Trustee

## MIKEY'S DIARY

Snow again, we have had so much of the stuff I am getting a bit fed up with it but at least Mo says I won't get lost in it. How bad would it be if I were a white dog?



Before the snow came I had a secret stash of loveliness, bits and pieces of skin and bones that I found in the fields, good for a bit of a chew and to roll in. One day I felt like an adventure so I went and called by my secret place and then I carried on down towards Painscastle city. But when I got to the road, I was very tired and was sorry I had ventured out. I sat there for a while wondering if any of the Lundy gang would be coming by to pick me up. Just now a car stopped, Steve Lloyd Tyllwyd got out and asked if I wanted a lift? Then when he had a waft of my scent, he almost changed his mind, but his good nature prevailed and he put me in the car. I was very grateful, I don't know what had come over me, but I was very glad to be rescued.

It is only a couple of weeks since we had the last lot of snow. There were drifts everywhere, so we were marooned. But Gez, Kate, TD & Ebs walked to the pub, well the first night they walked, the second they took the tractor down to the bottom road, cos the boys had difficulty dragging the girls back up the hill the night before.

When we were snowbound there was a Lundy service operating through the fields. Someone on the quad bike would take whoever wanted to go into the outside world down to the village and then they would go in a vehicle, parked in Painscastle prior to the snow. That was except for Ebony, she only brought her car as far as Clyro, it seems she has a sensitive car, which doesn't like wintery Painscastle roads! One day I thought I would go on the quad service but they went without me so I followed, but I got tired and decided it was better to come home and sit in front of the Rayburn.

I went all the way to Painscastle one day to see my new friend Pip. She is a young lady with a black coat, with Scottish blood, and lives at Pendre. Her owner told on me and rang Kate, but I soon gave Meg the slip and I nearly made it back to the Lundy before Mo started out to look for me. Next time I go down to the village I think I will go in disguise, if I could find a white coat they wouldn't know it was me, would they? But I could get lost in a snow drift and I certainly wouldn't like that. I will have to think of a different, very cunning plan!

It is not long since Gez, Matthew and even TD were digging out the hill road. James felt sorry for them and so he had a go in the middle and now the snow is all back again so they are on digging again. I have never seen so much digging, usually the only ones digging around here are the moles which Mo tries to catch. Lately she hasn't been able to see the marker sticks let alone the traps—I did wonder why she used white markers!

Of course despite all the action with the snow it is also lambing time, I love going out to help, although not everyone appreciates me, but I usually ignore them.



Here Erin and me are waiting to go for a ride

They know I am a bit deaf, so when I go my own way they usually think it is cos I can't hear. I work on the theory that if they sound angry I go in the other direction, sometimes that seems to make it worse but... Bye for now.



This really isn't fun any more!

Mikey

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**FRANCIS KILVERT, PRIEST AND DIARIST  
1840 - 1879**

Robert Francis Kilvert was born at Hardenhuish, or Harnish, near Chippenham in Wiltshire, on the 3 December 1840. He was the second child of the rector of the parish, the Rev Robert Kilvert and of Thermusis, daughter of Walter Coleman of Langley Fitzurse and Thermuthis Ashe of Langley Burrell. The Kilverts, originally a Shropshire family had migrated to Bath in the eighteenth century; the Colemans and Ashes had been long settled in Wiltshire. Francis Kilvert spent his early years at Hardenhuish and was educated privately, went in due course to Wadham College, Oxford and entered the Church. (From the Introduction of the Diary - William Plomer).

Francis' first curacy, (1863-1864) was with his father, the incumbent at Langley Burrell. He then moved to Clyro, Radnorshire, 1865. He began keeping a journal in 1870 which opens a wonderful window into country life in Victorian times. As curate to Rev Richard Lister Venables, Francis seemed to work very hard, visiting the sick, organizing help for the poor and teaching at the local school. He was a great walker and enjoyed nothing more than a hike in the countryside.

About Rhosgoch, the diarist writes '.....I decided to explore the lane running parallel with the brook towards Painscastle and discover the old Rhos Goch Mill. There was a good deal of water and suddenly I came upon the millpond and the picturesque old mill with an overshot wheel. I crossed one of the streams on a larch felled across the water for a bridge and came back round the front of the cosy old picturesque ivy-grown mill house with its tall chimney completely covered with ivy. A handsome young man with an fine open face, fresh complexion and dressed as a miller was having a romp with a little girl before the door. He said his name was Powell, his father was dead and he carried on the business and with the most perfect politeness and well bred courtesy asked me to come in and sit down. So this is the place that I have heard old Hannah Whitney talk of so often, the place where the old miller sleeping in the mill trough used to see the fairies dancing upon the mill floor. At Rhos Goch Lane House no one was at home so I stuck an ivy leaf into the latch hole.'



Francis Kilvert also wrote some interesting diary entries about Painscastle.... watch this space. Ann Dean

**BRACKEN TRUST**

*Please remember to save your old postage stamps as well as any old bras for the Bracken Trust..*

*Bracken Trust is a Cancer Care unit which is self funding,, surely a charity worthy of our support.*

*If you have any stamps or bras to donate, please put them in the box at Painscastle Bus Shelter.*

**GARDENING CLUB BINGO**



A very successful Bingo evening was held at the Golf Club on Saturday March 24th. Pictures supplied as usual by Grace, who showed a great community effort to get to the venue, having been stuck in snow on Llanbedr Hill when returning from Llandrindod Wells. Fears for another 'Martyr of the storm' proved groundless as she retraced her footsteps [turned the truck around] and made her way via Aberedw.

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- Tuesday Morning Tots, Evening Aerobics
- Wednesday Morning Pilates, Evening Bowls
- Thursday Evening YFC

For more information or to book the hall please phone Chris Rose 01497-851345

**RHOSGOCH CHAPEL NEWS**

**Derek Cotterill**

A very welcome guest preacher came to the Chapel recently. Derek Cotterill is the Development Officer with Birmingham City Mission, a Christian charity established in 1966 committed to helping the needy and marginalised of the city and to sharing the Christian message. The Mission runs many projects throughout the city where there is need, offering friendship and support to the homeless, elderly, young and those struggling with poverty. Our own minister Geoff spent happy times working with the BCM preaching in the centre of Birmingham and supporting their charitable work by re-cycling used furniture and household articles to those too poor to buy their own.



Derek, who was accompanied by his wife Georgina, also has a special responsibility at the BCM to reach out to other churches in the area. We hope he will visit us again later in the year.

**Mother's Day at the Chapel**

Our day was themed on the role of Mothers, with readings and prayers to show our appreciation. As a special souvenir, every one at the service was given a floral gift of a bunch of daffodils or a pot of spring flowers beautifully presented by Brenda.



**CELEBRATE at Rhosgoch Chapel**



With Meredith Powell on Good Friday at 7.00pm and Geoff Cable on Easter Sunday at 2.30 pm



**PAM BANKS RUNS 10KM AROUND CARDIFF BAY**

On a glorious Spring morning (Sunday 25 March) Pam and 5999 others set off around Cardiff Bay on the annual 10K event. Pam was one of the older but less experienced runners taking part and had set herself the target of completing the course inside 90 minutes. Cheered on by her



There's only 100m to go!

family, she made it to the finish line in 89 minutes, achieving her goal and raising £470 in sponsorship money for charity. Not bad for a beginner! Pam thanks most sincerely everyone who supported her with words of encouragement and donations to the British Lung Foundation.



Pam with her family of supporters

Well done Pam, we're proud of you.



Abbie's snowmen are her size! Not sure about the size of the sledge!

## RHOSGOCH AND PAINSCASTLE TOTS GROUP

We've managed to have a lot of fun over these chilly months despite some rather extreme weather conditions. What better time of year to get stuck in to lots of craft projects than in the winter months when its too cold to play outside! Having said that, in the second week of March we were out playing in some seriously warm sunshine (jumpers may even have been removed)... followed a few days later by more snow and temperatures low enough to warrant rather a lot of running around the hall to keep warm! We got sticky making nature boards, got loved up (and gluey) for valentines, and our exuberant mothers day cards melted every mum's heart, if not the snow.

We have a fun-packed term ahead (see activities below). Rhosgoch and Painscastle Tots Group is open to all pre-schoolers and their parents, everyone is welcome. Come along to Painscastle Village Hall 9.30-11.30am Tuesdays. Sessions cost £2 per child and include a craft activity, a healthy snack, and a tea or coffee for parents.

\* \* \* Y O U A R E I N V I T E D ! \* \* \*

Rhosgoch and Painscastle Toddler Group are holding a fundraising ROYAL WEDDING PARTY on Saturday 19th May! Local band SKYLAB will be providing the music! Everyone welcome! Please come along, have a really enjoyable night and help raise much needed funds for our new shed!



We made nature boards with Suzie from Radnorshire wildlife Trust

Rest of the term's activities:

Our theme this term is 'Our World – things that go together'

27<sup>th</sup> March: Easter cards – eggs in nests

3<sup>rd</sup> April: Paper plate bees and flowers

10<sup>th</sup> April: Window decorations - raindrops and sunshine

17<sup>th</sup> April: Junk modelling creatures in the sea

24<sup>th</sup> April: Clothes peg frogs and insects

1<sup>st</sup> May: Day and night potato prints

8<sup>th</sup> May: Land and sea – make a desert island



Gotcha!

Half term Valentines Cards



  
**Saturday 19th May 2018 7.30pm**  
**Royal Wedding Party!**  
 Come and dance the night away at  
**PAINSCASTLE VILLAGE HALL**  
 to all your favourite songs from local band  
**Skylab**  


<b>HOG ROAST</b>	<b>BAR</b>	<b>MARQUEE</b>
from Gibbons Butchers	by Malthouse Bars	From Triban
<small>(Vege Option Available)</small>		
<b>DRINKS ON ARRIVAL &amp; ENTRY INTO GRAND PRIZE DRAW WITH YOUR TICKET</b>		
<i>All proceeds to go towards a new shed for Rhosgoch and Painscastle Toddler's Group</i>		
<b>~ Tickets £25 ~</b>		
<b>CONTACT KATE TARR ON 01497851681 OR MEG LLOYD ON 01497 851247</b>		



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