

Rhosgoch Gossip

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RHOSGOCH YFC ENTERTAINMENT



SHEARING IN NEW ZEALAND

Mark (Sparky) Gwynne, Beau Herdman's right-hand man, decided last autumn to embark on an adventure to the other side of the world. He left Painscastle where he has been part of the 'New House' family for more than half of his 22 years. He flew from Heathrow to New Zealand on his own, perhaps with some trepidation, on 24th October.

Mark went to Taihape in North Island where he worked for Mackintosh Shearing. Once out in Taihape he met up with several other boys from Brecon and Builth. There were at least 30 Welsh lads and they were part of the teams going out shearing at different sheep farms everyday. The boys lived in 4 bedded huts, 10 of them, with a communal kitchen and a laundry room, where Mark had to learn how to wash his clothes.



Some of the farms had 500, some 5,000 while some had 25,000 sheep. The main breeds were Romneys, Poll Dorsets and Perendales (from Romney ewes by Cheviot rams).

The day began with cooked breakfast at 5.00am. The shearers were picked up in a minibus with their shearing kit transported in a trailer behind. They left the yard at 5.10am and were transported to their day's work. Shearing would begin at 6.00am for two hours and then it was time for smoko, a half hour break for a snack and refreshment. At 8.30am another 2 hours of shearing followed by dinner at 10.30am. After an hours break, shearing would resume until 1.30pm when afternoon smoko lasted for half an hour. The final shearing period was from 2.00pm until 4.00pm, giving a total of 8 hours shearing per day before it was time for them to return to base. After a shower - the motto was 'scrub before grub', they had supper and the rest of the evening was

their own. At some of the big stations the shearers had a 'stay-out' where the gang stayed on the farm, when they had a 9 hour shearing day.

Some New Zealand sheep were shorn twice a year. They were shorn in the winter as ewes in lamb when shorn with cover combs (they leave a little more fleece), then next shearing would be with a normal comb. Most of the lambs were also shorn, some while still on the ewes, when it was a mob shearing, otherwise they were shorn after weaning. Lambs were sold either store, these were called trade lambs, or fat. The wool price was generally better than in this country.

During his stay in New Zealand Mark shored 13,500 sheep. He competed in several shearing competitions; Taihape Show where he was 2nd, Rotorua Show where he was 4th. He was 3rd in Taumarunui Show and 2nd in Apiti Show. He competed in the Golden Shears at Masterton which attracts entrants from both the North and South Islands of New Zealand, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Spain, France and Canada. Mark was in the Junior section (based on experience not age), in the heats they have to shear 3 sheep, then the top 18 go through to the semi-finals where they shear 4 sheep and the top 6 qualify for the final. Mark qualified for the final and was fifth after the judging of time, skin cuts and double cuts.

Mark managed a few days of sight-seeing spending New Year at Lake Taupo, which he says was a class weekend. He came home on 6th March. He is already planning to return in November and spend another few months honing his shearing skills.



YFC NEWS

After a busy Christmas period, the real work began in the New Year with this year's entertainment competition. Our producers Nigel and Sophie Protheroe put pens to paper, while we started a long process of learning the main songs and dance moves. After many late Thursday nights and long Sunday afternoons we managed to put a great show together full of variety and talent. We had 23 of our members on stage in this year's entertainment, and a special well done to the younger members for doing a great job on stage in front of an audience of 300 people. After our night in Llandrindod, it was then time to show off our production locally at Clyro Court with Eardisley YFC. The evening was very well attended with not a seat spare, and a lot of fun and laughter was had by everyone on and off stage. A big thank you to everyone who helped with the production. The time and effort that everyone puts in is greatly appreciated.



Now onto the Rhosgoch YFC funride to be held on Sunday 28th April from 10:30am. A guaranteed excellent day out with an optional 50+ cross country fences with a choice of a 6 mile or 12 mile route over some outstanding countryside. Please call or text Lauren on 07583130051 for any more information.

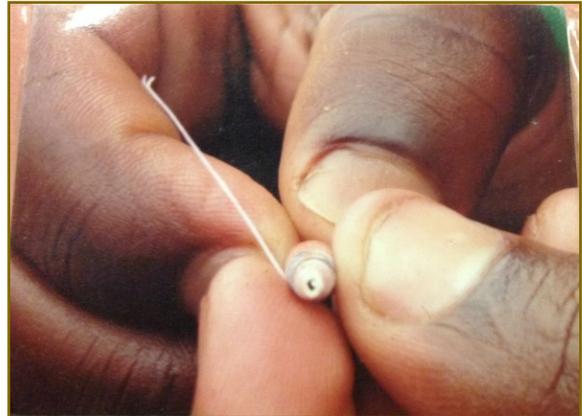
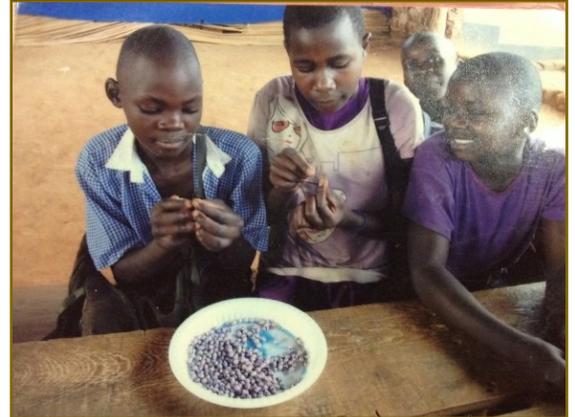


GARDENING CLUB

- Sat Apr 13th Easter Bingo at Rhosgoch Golf Club
- Thr May 2nd Sue Hamar - Flowers
- Thr June 13th Evening visit to Llysdirnam, Newbridge-on-Wye
- Thr July 11th Jenny Stevens - Wildlife Role Play
- Thr Aug 15th Annual Flower & Vegetable Show

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

GARDENING CLUB



Penny Williams from Waterloo Cottage, Erwood spoke on horticulture in Kenya and Uganda. Penny & Ifor had visited these countries and seen for themselves the primitive conditions in which they lived. Penny brought bracelets and necklaces that had been made by the children out of paper. Several of the members bought these items.

FARM FOCUS

Hello and welcome to Lower Blaencurdy. We are a small but not that traditional sheep and beef holding. Both Kelly and I have jobs outside the farm which can make things a bit chaotic at times. We have two children, David and Anna.

We keep a mixture of breeds with the aim to sell 35 – 40 breeding rams a year. We will find something for everyone!

It is a staggered lambing this year after experiencing the bitter conditions of last. We lambed a few Suffolks in January, the Texels and Crossbreds have just started and the Blue- faced Leicesters and Charolais will lamb later in April. Hopefully the weather will continue to be kind.

The twin and triplet ewes are housed after scanning, making life a bit easier to have them all in one place. I finished the day job for lambing last week and, in a mad scrat to create more space, the shed was cleaned out and pens set up just as the first triplet started to lamb.

The children, after a little persuasion, have decided to write about the farm from their perspective.

Spring is the busiest time of year and you don't get much sleep because there are ewes lambing all the time and you have to try and make sure the lambs get enough colostrum so they are as healthy as possible. I like pulling lambs and sending them out to the field and marking and ringing them.

We have some heifers that will be calving in May. They are very friendly and like us a lot. We also have some calves that we reared on the bucket last winter. They are friendly as well.

David 9



This is Holly



Anna's sheep Spot

I am going to talk about my sheep called Spot. Whenever I go into the shed and call her name, she barges passed the other ewes to the front to come and see me for a stroke. When I was only three and Spot was a ewe lamb she would follow me round, so I asked my Dad if I could keep her. He said yes

as he knew I would be kind to her. In lambing, we see Grandma lots. She is a big help.

Anna 6

Best Wishes for lambing 2019. Let us know if you need a tiddling!

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NEWS FROM THE OLD SHOP

It's hard to believe we have been living here just over six months now and we continue to love our life in this remarkable little house. Needless to say, neither Hagrid nor Mrs Tiggywinkle have appeared which I remain disappointed about, but the character of the place is still very deeply rich and all inhabitants have now settled in well. Henry has



sorted his head out and knows it is home and, in a way, a place like this is 'cat heaven' as there are SO many nooks and crannies they can hide in.... and then ambush each other when feeling particularly playful. Alice, the dog, still looks incredibly frustrated when the cats just disappear from view, as they are agile enough to get high up out of her way.

Star, the guinea pig, sadly passed away suddenly six weeks ago, only four years old and a mystery. We welcome Midnight on loan (thank you Becky Gooch) until Lunar her partner's little life draws to a close which hopefully will still be a couple of years yet. The natural laws of population density seem to have kicked in; in the fish tank, Cecil and Cecilia, the stunning bristlenose catfish, seem to have put a halt on reproductive activities. Fifteen babies were relocated to a suitable shop and there are at least 25 more to go when I get around to it. An army of armoured little creatures which I still find fascinating, but I have to admit to getting a little creeped out when viewing the tank as there is literally movement in every field of vision, and watching them descend on their algae flakes like miniature prehistoric dinosaur fish just makes me go a 'bit funny'.

I cannot help but think that a health and safety warning should have been issued on moving in. Coming from a house with normal height ceilings to a house with lower ceilings and walls where you wouldn't normally expect to have them, as they are *in the roof*, has resulted in four head injuries - thankfully not serious ones although very painful. Location, back bedroom. Moving with intent and meeting a hard wall with one's head has resulted in three members of the family ending up prostrate on the bed (which thankfully is close to the incident site) moaning and, yes, maybe swearing, whilst the initial pain passes. Bumps have been of varying sizes and have taken a surprisingly long time to settle down and we have had one split head, not mentioning any names, (begins with S....), the same member of the family having hit their head twice.

We are excited to welcome eight friends of Izzy's the first weekend of April. I am not quite sure where we are going to put them all but they will be here to celebrate Izzy's 19th birthday, and will be doing a fairly serious walk on one day and going canoeing the next. We will be operating as taxi drivers, bed makers, tent erectors, pancake makers and generally looking after them all, disappearing at appropriate times. I find when she is at home I am like a bee around a honey pot when all she wants to do is relax and just 'not' be looked after. How funny life is! We are very grateful that she is 'flying' and her younger sister is testing her wings on the edge of the nest, leaving for a few days to stay at her boyfriend's and then returning just to make sure we are here, which of course we *always* are.

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Thank you to the good Samaritan who returned Henry's collar - he does just seem happier with it on. We love him very much and are a bit sad that he will require further treatment on his nose skin

cancer this year. He does LOVE being the centre of attention though and usually cuddles the vets to death once they have recovered from having him launch himself at their shoulder.

My day was made yesterday on hearing the first curlew returning to the moor, at least the first I have heard - just the lapwings to go. I have decided this year to vary greatly my dog walking over the next three months whilst the ground nesting birds get on with it. Alice is always on a long lead but the birds really do need all the help they can get.

Wishing all a very lovely Spring with continued gratitude for being a part of such a lovely village.

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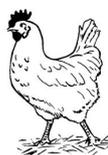
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G DERI JONES

As most of you will know Deri Jones from Portway Farm, Rhosgoch passed away on February 2nd this year. He had a close relationship with 'the Gossip' especially since the closure of Rhosgoch school. He began by taking copies to Painscastle Group meetings to sell. Perhaps to start with, it was an uphill battle as selling to farmers is never easy and probably some sales were exacted so that he would leave them alone! However as the years went by, he said he didn't have to apply so much sales pressure, and people even came and asked him for their copy. The ultimate measure of success was when he increased his order from the original 10 up to 15. Deri after his initial scepticism, was also most of the inspiration for asking the Farm Focus contributors, which is now in its fifth year.

Deri was involved in a lot of other community activities, he was on the Painscastle Community Council for many years, an enthusiastic member of the Painscastle Buyer's Group, he was on the Painscastle Hall committee, treasurer of Rhosgoch Commoners Association as well as a good supporter of Local Interest Group.

These organisations benefited from his wit and wisdom and they will all be the poorer for his passing. R.I.P.

ML.



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TWM TOBACCO'S GRAVE

The Kilvert Society have replaced the old sign marking the grave of Twm Tobacco on Llanbedr Hill. The grave is mentioned in Kilvert's diary but even then it was a mystery. Who was Twm, when and why was he buried in the middle of the hill?



JULIE GOODRIDGE HEALING

I was delighted, if a little nervous, to be holding my first Heart Healing workshop at the end of January, in Hay-On-Wye. I need not have been as it went well and everybody who attended had some positive shifts in their lives and I am looking forward to the next one in May, from 11th to 13th. I am also holding a third in September.

In essence, the workshop extrapolates a one-hour session over three days and with a small group of people. So how does that work? On day one I create a group field



by linking everybody's energy systems and then that is held for the three days. This is not 'dangerous' but it does provide a very deep safe field from which to release 'baggage', much

deeper than in an individual healing session. This in itself is powerful, but the workshop brings something else and if you are drawn to join us and have questions please do contact me. Attendees sit on dining room type chairs in a small circle for the 'meditations', of which there are at least three every day, each one lasting about 30 minutes, which may seem a long time but it does actually go quite quickly. In between, exercises in pairs or threes are done, the aim being to start to increase the tangible connection with each person's Heart Field.

'Baggage' is a word most people are familiar with but what is not spoken about often enough is that it takes up space in a person's energetic system, quite literally!

In a one to one healing, in person or by distance, I follow a simple pattern of warming a person's energy system up and *warn* it that it is about to receive some energy work. I spend 5 - 8 minutes at the feet, with my hands placed on them, followed by the same amount of time at the head. It can vary and I take my lead from the intelligence of the energy. I do what *feels* right. This creates an energetic space in which to work, a very safe space, and what I have come to understand for me is that the intelligence of life, if you like, really does the work.

Following this, I work above each of the seven main chakras allowing release from one or more of these. One of these energetic centres exists in the throat area and it is quite common for a lot of release to occur here; things that have been left unsaid, pain that has been unable to be verbalised, 'stuff' that is just too painful to consciously let go, grief. I often ask a client to say the words 'I let go' and on saying this the rush of energy leaving sometimes takes my breath away. I believe we all have access to what I work with and I have just chosen to explore this, to start with, in my own personal development.

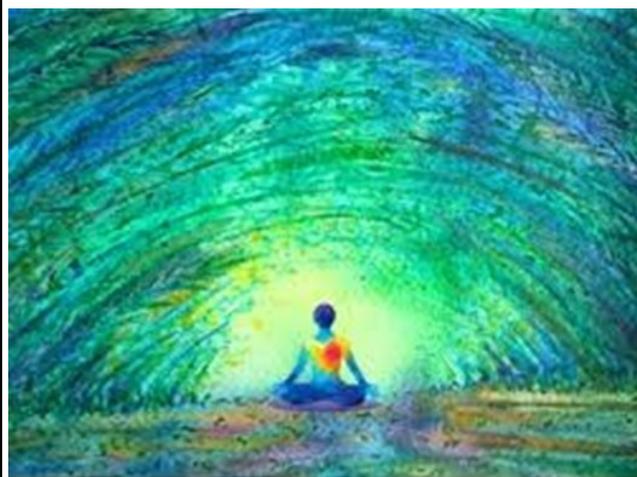
I really do think that if we are open to change, at

whatever depth, it can happen and I work a lot with individuals who have experienced abuse or trauma of any type, physical, emotional, mental. I will say again, grief is another one and something we can hold on to for many years. It is of course a very personal journey whatever is being worked on and when somebody tells me that they saw an ad or leaflet or read something and just felt they should come, then generally we are in for a good session and lots of release.



So, how does this make somebody feel, when lots of release happens? It is important to say that an integral part of any healing, be that a one to one, distance or in a group workshop setting, is that integrating the system and grounding is done well and sufficiently so that the person is feeling fairly normal on leaving and able to function. Often, afterwards, people report literally feeling as if they have more space inside themselves (because they do!), or they may feel less attached to a situation and it not affect them as much as it may have done prior to the session. Intuition is easier to listen to and more clarity is often reported too. A person may feel more empowered or find it easier to say 'NO', just knowing that this is actually the best thing for them, trusting that this is the best thing for the person being told no to as well. Physical symptoms may abate and difficult conversations may just flow.

If this all seems a bit weird and 'out there', then basically it is because it is, but I do firmly believe that physics explains it (but doubt we will ever have brains capable of actually understanding it), and also that there is something intelligent that we are a part of and label in



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whatever way(s) suits us individually. Over the nearly twenty years I have been working with energy, there is too much to argue with, and the results people have put me in a very humble space of accepting that this is pretty much what I do. Like a lot of people who become healers, I have had quite a few challenges in my life, over the years, but also when put into perspective doesn't everybody have their own challenges? I will repeat that this is something I have chosen to explore and believe we all can. I do not remember putting my hand up in class when the teacher asked what we wanted to do when we grew up, saying, 'Miss, I want to be a healer'. I LOVE what I do and find it fascinating and, yes, I do pray every night too..... because it feels right.

If you would like to book a session please contact me on 07749 391714 or 01497 851764 or email me on juliegoodridge1@gmail.com Testimonials for both the workshops and one to one healings are available on my website, www.juliegoodridge.com



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CULINARY COLUMN

Zeera Indian Restaurant and takeaway, Brecon.

It is time to hunker down and clear the calendar for the next few weeks of lambing. Easter falls very late this year, so there is a good chance the Little Darlings will have a proper Easter holiday as the bulk of the lambing will be done. Some years they have had to beg for a jolly to the petrol station to get fuel for the bike and see something other than the inside of a shed, and a visit to the Co-op is then greeted with the same excitement as a trip to Folly Farm. People! Cars! Life! Lambing or no lambing, the Aldi shop has to be done and provides a good excuse for a takeaway to make a change from slow cooked stews that live in the Rayburn from breakfast to lunchtime.

Zeera's head chef and manager share over 30 years of experience in creating traditional Indian dishes with exotic ingredients that give a unique edge, and this has earned them a loyal following. I ordered by phone and could pick it up in a speedy 20 minutes. My Gentleman Friend chose a chicken Malayan (mild and fruity for the delicate palate) and I chose a lamb Shashlik - because I like the dry spiciness, and who knows what will happen to our beloved Welsh lamb once the end of the month comes. The restaurant is bright and inviting, and for a Monday night it was busy with lots of happy tables laughing and chatting with the attentive staff. Going back out into the cold drizzly night, I really wished that we were sitting down to a relaxing evening too! The worst part of getting a takeaway is having to drive the half hour back home with the amazing smell of hot food in the car. I only just managed to resist stopping in a layby, eating the lot and then telling my Gentleman Friend that the takeaway was closed. By home I was so hungry that I could have sat on an upturned bucket in the corner of the sheep shed and torn away at the lovely keema naan bread, but it was worth the wait and the food just about made it onto plates.

The chicken Malayan was just the right level of spiciness to be interesting but not too fiery, and it had a lovely fruity undertone from the pineapple. The lamb Shashlik was piquant from the tandoori oven but absolutely perfectly cooked, with tasty peppers, tomatoes and onions. We had pilau rice and poppadoms with chutney which were faultless, and the soft keema naan bread was filled with delicious lightly spiced meat. These lively flavours got us back out into the sheds with a spring in our step. I think we have found our top Indian takeaway here, and also cracked choosing the right dishes with this tongue tingling combination.

Food ** Service **** Value *****

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Ingredients:

- 1 large onion, roughly chopped
- 3 tbsp mild curry paste
- 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 2 tsp vegetable bouillon powder
- 1 tbsp finely chopped ginger
- 1 yellow pepper, deseeded and chopped
- 2 skinless chicken legs, fat removed
- 30g pack fresh coriander, leaves chopped
- cooked brown rice

Method:

Put 1 roughly chopped large onion, 3 tbsp mild curry paste, a 400g can chopped tomatoes, 2 tsp vegetable bouillon powder, 1 tbsp finely chopped ginger and 1 chopped yellow pepper into the slow cooker pot with a third of a can of water and stir well.

Add 2 skinless chicken legs, fat removed, and push them under all the other ingredients so that they are completely submerged. Cover with the lid and chill in the fridge overnight.

The next day, cook on low for 6 hrs until the chicken and vegetables are really tender.

Stir in the chopped leaves of 30g coriander just before serving over brown rice.

Taken from www.bbgoodfood.com

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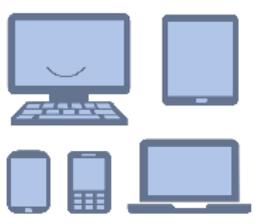
Congratulations and best wishes to Jonathan Lloyd and partner Demi Howe on the birth of a baby boy Jax Jon Lloyd on 11th February 2019. Another grandchild for Grace.

A first grandchild for Mark & Helen Haines from Upper Cwmgwannon: a baby boy Joshua Vaughan Mullier born on 21st February. A bundle of joy for Amy Haines and Tom Mullier who live in Exeter. Congratulations and best wishes to all the family.

Best wishes to Drew & Kirsty in Australia on the birth of a baby boy Quade Isaiah Beckett Lloyd on February 25th a baby brother for Braidy, and another grandchild for Steve & Ann Lloyd Llanyoyne, Newchurch.

Congratulations to Lee & Jo Price on the birth of a baby boy Sam, on March 10th, a little brother for Holly. Another grandchild for Carol & Vincent Price, Llanbachowey.

Best wishes to Elizabeth Pugh and Pete Horne on the birth of a little girl Megan Elizabeth Horne on March 15th. A little sister for Joseph and another grandchild for Brian & Ann Pugh, Cwrt-y-Cribben.



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat Apr 13th Gardening Club Easter Bingo at Rhosgoch Golf Club
 Sun Apr 28th Annual YFC Fun Ride starting at Painscastle
 Sat-Mon May 4/6th Flower Festival at Llanbedr Church
 Fri May 17th Erwood Players present 'Who Killed the Vicar' at Erwood Market Hall at 7.30pm

ADULLAM CHAPEL PAINSCASTLE

Sunday May 5th 2.30pm Painscastle Baptist Chapel Re-union Service: Rev Joy James, Pontrilas

HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH

ALL SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30pm
 Fri April 19th Good Friday service Rev M Powell 7.30pm
 Sun June 2nd ANNIVERSARY SERVICE
 Sun June 9th JOINT SERVICE NEWCHURCH CHAPEL at 3pm
 Sunday School every Sunday morning 10 – 11 am

MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN

April 14th Joint meeting with LG Church
 April 19th Good Friday Sankey Evening 7pm
 April 21st Rev Gordon Bingham Communion
 April 28th Combined Service at Rhosgoch
 May 5th Painscastle Reunion Service
 May 12th Special Service Rev Meredith Powell
 May 26th Ruth Hargest
 June 9th Crickadarn Special Service

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ERWOOD & PAINSCASTLE CHURCHES

Dear All,

Easter falls later this this year. Passiontide begins with Palm Sunday on Sunday 14th April and then the Easter Season runs through the rest of April and the whole of May. Deep in the lambing season we, once more, acknowledge God's Son as the Lamb of God in the greatest love story that the world has ever seen – the love of God for his people. God loves us so much that he is prepared to be totally united with us through his Son; the great act of *At-one-ment*.

All the events of Easter are part of this great act of God's love as Jesus embraces our human frailty to the point of death to take all our sins upon him and welcome all of us to his divine care. Jesus rises and ascends to his Father, not simply to finish his earthly mission as the Son of God but to re-enter heaven as the eternal, transfigured Son of Man who carries us within him. Now humanity has a divine presence in heaven and God himself has been transformed by the love between him and his people. This is a cause of great joy and is why Easter is the pivotal season of our Christian year around which our belief revolves; we are God's children rooted in a post-Easter faith following the risen Lord.

Be brave and take your place in this story of love. It is wonderful to share the joy and sociability of Easter Day, but how much more fulfilling to share in the whole story. We watch Jesus enter Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we sit and listen to him at supper with his disciples on Holy Thursday, we gaze at his wounds on the cross on Good Friday and remember how we sometimes betray him. Wait for his gaze to fall upon you and feel the love as you know that his forgiveness is the most powerful force in the whole world.

As Jesus speaks to us individually, the immensity of this act of God's love makes us realise that we are all his children and thus not separated from each other within this love. Easter is the time when, collectively, we may remember how deep is our faith and ponder on the fact that it is our emotional response to love that gives us unity. People behold together the wonder of God revealed in Christ Jesus as God affirms the value of the world that he loves. So, we must love him too through loving each other:

"Whoever holds to my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me; and whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and reveal myself to him" John 14:21.

The Christian scholar, Eamon Duffy, talks admirably of this experience:

"The risen body of Christ is here and now, your body and my body, revealed in its beauty wherever human beings are allowed to flourish and to be what God wills them to be, present in society in every attempt, however inadequate, to make of human community not some coercive uniformity, but a space in which people in their individuality and their vulnerability are given space and support."

We are all individuals who are often afraid and vulnerable – just as the Son of God was during his own passion. The strength of our faith is that we may acknowledge this and that our churches may provide safety and comfort when we need them.

May I offer you some words to bring before Jesus on the cross (and at all times)?

Before you lie my strength and my weakness; preserve the one, heal the other.

Before you lie my knowledge and my ignorance; where you have opened to me, receive me as I come in; where you have shut to me; open to me as I knock.

Let me remember you, let me understand you, let me love you.

Increase these things in me until you restore me to wholeness.

St Augustine of Hippo (*de Trinitate*)

May you feel the love of Christ with you always.

Father Paul XX

ERWOOD & PAINSCASTLE SERVICES APRIL/MAY 2019**Sunday 7th April 5th Sunday of Lent**

9.30am	Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Eucharist
11.00am	Gwenddwr	Eucharist
11.00am	Llandeilo Graban	Morning Prayer
11.00am	Newchurch	Holy Communion

HOLY WEEK SERVICES**Sunday 14th April**

9.30am	Crickadarn	Eucharist
9.30am	Aberedw	Eucharist
11.00am	Llanbedr	Eucharist
2.30pm	Llandeilo Graban	Eucharist

Wednesday 17th April

6.30pm	Aberedw	Reconciliation Eucharist
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Thursday 18th April

7.00pm	Aberedw	Lord's Supper
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Friday 19th April Good Friday

2.00pm	Llanbadarn-y-Garreg	Stations of the Cross
3.00pm	Newchurch	The Liturgy of the Passion

Saturday 20th April Easter Eve

7.30pm	Gwenddwr	The Easter Vigil
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Sunday 21st April Easter Day

9.30am	Llandeilo Graban	Eucharist of the Resurrection
9.30am	Bryngwyn	Eucharist of the Resurrection
11.00am	Newchurch	Holy Communion
11.00am	Aberedw	Eucharist of the Resurrection
3.00pm	Llandewi Fach	Eucharist of the Resurrection

Sunday 28th April 2nd Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Bryngwyn	Eucharist
9.30am	Crickadarn	Eucharist
11.00am	Aberedw	Eucharist

Sunday 5th May 3rd Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Llanbadarn-y-Garreg	Eucharist
11.00am	Gwenddwr	Morning Prayer
11.00am	Llandeilo Graban	Morning Prayer
11.00am	Newchurch	Holy Communion

Sunday 12th May 4th Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Crickadarn	Eucharist
9.30am	Aberedw	Eucharist
11.00am	Llanbedr	Eucharist

Sunday 19th May 5th Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Llandeilo Graban	Lambing Service
11.00am	Gwenddwr	Eucharist
3.00pm	Llandewi Fach	Eucharist

Sunday 26th May 6th Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Bryngwyn	Eucharist
9.30am	Crickadarn	Eucharist
11.00am	Aberedw	Eucharist

LOCAL LIBRARY TIMES

Hay on Wye Library Monday 10am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 3pm. Tuesday & Wednesday closed.
Thursday 10am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 3pm.
Friday 1.30pm – 6pm. Saturday 10am – 12.30pm.

Brecon Library Monday 9.30am – 5pm.
Tuesday 9.30am – 6.30pm. Wednesday closed
Thursday / Friday 9.30am – 5pm. Saturday 10am – 1pm.

Builth Library Monday / Tuesday 10am - 1pm & 2pm – 5pm
Wednesday Closed. Thursday 9.45am – 1pm & 2pm – 5.45pm
Friday 10am – 1pm. Saturday 10am – 12.30pm

Llandrindod Wells
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9am – 5pm.
Thursday 9am – 6.30pm. Friday 9am – 5pm.
Saturday 9.30am – 1pm

Talgarth Monday closed. Tuesday 3.30 – 6pm
Wednesday 9am – 11am. Thursday closed
Friday 2pm – 5pm. Saturday 11am – 1pm
Mobile Library bus comes on third Tuesday of the month

OUTREACH POST OFFICES

Tuesday morning 10 am to 12 noon Clyro Village Hall
Wednesday afternoon 3 pm to 5 pm Clyro Village Hall
Wednesday afternoon Aberedw Church Hall 2.30 to 3.30 pm.
Wednesday afternoon 3pm to 4 pm Gladestry Village Hall
Thursday morning 9 am to 10 am Gladestry Village Hall

LOCAL BANKING

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

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EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. Most of the our regular features are included. The Farm Focus is on page 3, Culinary Column (P7), reports from lots of the local groups and clubs. Mikey does not want to be left out, (P13)! Thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way to this issue. Please continue to send articles, news and events, all comments are gratefully received. [mlloydlundy@outlook.com or 01497-851609]. ML (Editor).

In future I would like to print the 'Gossip' earlier in the two month period, so the deadline for the next issue will be May 10th.

The Rhosgoch Gossip is available at Clyro Filling Station & Painscastle Farmers Buying Group. It is available by annual subscription (due in Sept), £6 for delivery in Rhosgoch and Painscastle and adjoining areas, £12 posted. 'The Rhosgoch Gossip' is not responsible for the contents of this issue. Articles are the opinion of the respective writers. All errors and omissions excepted (E&OE).

Old issues are put on the community website www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk

The community website continues to reflect the local area. However, there are still gaps with some local groups not represented. If anyone would like to contribute in any way please get in touch either directly to the web-master or to me at mlloydlundy@outlook.com

POWYS PRATTLES
by COUNTY COUNCILLOR JAMES GIBSON-WATT

The Bargain

We could all be forgiven for feeling that our lives are often out of our own control. Too often it feels like things are being done to us, rather than for us. I am sure many people in Powys feel that way about the county council membership's vote to support, at the second attempt, the council Cabinet's proposal to impose a record 9.5% increase in Council Tax (CT) from 1st April for the coming year. Compound that with significant cutbacks to service provision, an increase in school meal prices, increased council house rents and severe cuts to voluntary sector, youth and local arts organisations and one has a toxic mix. In my view it amounts to a complete failure by the county council to keep its side of the 'bargain' with its residents. That 'bargain' should be that, in return for people and businesses paying their taxes, the council delivers a full range of services to everyone in the county; provides good quality care services to its most vulnerable residents that keep them well and safe; and, provides an education system that gives all the children and young people of the county the best possible learning opportunities and future life chances.

It will be scant comfort for you, dear reader, to know that I and my group of colleagues, acting as the main opposition group, both voted against the CT increase and proposed an alternative budget. This would have included a lower CT increase (6.95% - still uncomfortably high) and putting an extra £2 million into services, instead of that amount being put in to bolstering the council's reserves, which is what will happen now. But it was not to be. Despite the support of other opposition groups, our alternative was not actually debated, because the council's Chief Finance Officer would not allow it to be put forward, as he would not 'sign off' any proposal that did not include putting that £2 million into reserves. For the nearly half of the council who voted against the Cabinet's budget, this too feels like something being done to us, not for us; and the long-suffering residents of Powys are now being forced to pay for years of a lack of political control by successive council Cabinets of the departmental budgets under their control. Nearly half the current Cabinet stood for election on a pledge to freeze CT rates! A bargain broken indeed.

Taking Back Control!

Talking about 'control', we have heard a lot about 'taking back control' over the past couple of years. Without wishing to sound smug, contrary to the claims made during the referendum that voting 'Leave' would enable the UK to 'take back control', on the morning after the June 2016 EU Referendum I commented to my dear wife that 'we have actually just handed control of our destiny to the 27 other EU member states.' So it has transpired. Who knows what will have emerged from the chaos by the time you read this, but I am sure that whatever it is it will not be pretty.

Please contact me anytime on 01497 820434 or 07971048737 or at cllrjgw@powys.gov.uk

James

ASSEMBLY NEWS

The future of our libraries

Much of my attention in recent months has been focused on the future of libraries across Powys. The Cabinet at Powys County Council had proposed cuts to the financial support given to library services, which would have affected the mobile library that serves our most rural spots. The plans also put at risk the future of Hay Library, as well as libraries in Builth Wells, Talgarth and another four sites in Brecon and Radnorshire. Understandably I was approached by many people who were concerned at these developments.

Of course, it is not the first time similar cuts have been proposed. Library services seem to be a go-to area for the Council when they are looking to make savings. Consequently, there are well-established community campaigns that seek to protect these services for their communities. There is also a vocal set of opposition Councillors at County Hall who consistently make the case to protect our libraries, including my Welsh Liberal Democrat colleagues.

My position on libraries has always been clear. I believe they are educational assets – there are significant benefits to reading at a young age and libraries can also play an important role in lifelong learning. I believe they are cultural assets – they are a gateway to literature, history and a host of information that enriches our society. And I believe they are community assets – community spaces are becoming increasingly sparse, libraries can fill this role and can also host a number of important services.

As a result, I thought it was very important to support the campaign to keep Powys' libraries open. Discussion over libraries often focuses on falling usage, but I wanted to shine a light on the other side of the coin.

Around the time of budget discussions, I published '*Library use in Powys*', showing that our communities value libraries more than the majority of council areas in Wales. In 2016/17 there were 716,039 library visits in Powys. Only six of the 22 council areas in Wales had more. In the same period there were 5,411 library visits per 1,000 head of population. Again, only six council areas had more. In this context, I encouraged the Council to maintain support for libraries, in line with the message that was coming so strongly from communities.

I am therefore pleased that, after the initial budget was voted down, a revised budget abandoned the plans to cut support for branch libraries.

Of course, a long-term solution still needs to be found. As I said, these cuts have been proposed before, and there is no guarantee they will not happen again. Excessive austerity from the Westminster Government stretches budgets at all levels of government, and I hope to see a change in approach before too long. I also hope that anyone who values their library services can make use of them as much as possible.

If you have any questions about this, or any other aspect of my work, please do contact me at

kirsty.williams@assembly.wales or on 01874 625739.

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NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

Children across Wales recently campaigned against climate change. Groups of students gathered in towns across Brecon and Radnorshire to protest about global warming and its potential harmful effects on future generations.

The UK has a proud record on the environment in recent years and is a global leader in reducing emissions. Just look at the changes every UK citizen has made over the past ten years when it comes to household basics like recycling. We are now a nation of recyclers and this is having a huge effect on the amount of waste we produce that used to end up in landfill and the oceans.

In 2018, UK CO2 emissions fell for a record sixth consecutive year and emissions in the UK fell to the lowest level since 1888, outside years with strikes. This is a huge achievement when developing countries around the world are increasing their CO2 output and damaging the planet.

Ocean plastic has been another area where the West can be proud. The ten most polluted rivers in the world are responsible for 90% of the plastic in our oceans; not one of these rivers is in Europe, the vast majority are in Africa and Asia.

We are making real progress in the UK at protecting our climate and I hope that schools and teachers are promoting this to our pupils and not scaring them with doomsday scenarios.

If we really want to tackle climate change, we must lead a global response in order to tackle this issue.

If you would like to book an appointment to discuss any issue or topic with me then please contact my office at chris.davies.mp@parliament.uk, 6 Market Street, Bulth Wells, Powys, LD3 7SX. Or visit my website for details at www.chrisdavies.org.uk

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Jenny Smith, Penrhiw
Vice-chairman, 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
Minutes are also on the Painscastle-Rhosgoch website:
www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk

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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 meetings are :- April 17th & May 15th. For further information contact Jeanette Cruse 01497-851756

CHARITY COLLECTIONS

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

Also required for charity are good handbags and shoes as well as old batteries, AAA, AA, C & D.

YFC are collecting old mobile phones. All these items can be put in the box in the bus shelter in Painscastle.



Hay & District Dial-a-Ride February Parish Magazines Editorial 2019

Silver Anniversary Celebrations!

Dial-a-Ride is been at the heart of Hay & District for many years, and we are delighted to be celebrating its 25th birthday later in the year. To mark the occasion of our silver anniversary we will be holding a number of events and fundraisers. Watch this space!

Dial-a-Ride is open to anyone in need of transport, and who lives within a 9 mile radius of Hay. We have two accessible minibuses and our DBS checked drivers are fully trained in providing this excellent, reliable and friendly service that has been a lifeline to many over the years. Membership is £10 per annum and fares start from as little as £2 within Hay. In addition to health and medical journeys, we can also take you to shops, community clubs and social groups, or simply to meet friends for coffee. Our monthly social trips out and about are always very popular, and we also run a monthly "bank bus" to Brecon.

If you think we can help you with your transport needs, please call the office for a membership pack.

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- Mon Apr 1st Pilates - the benefits—Emma Towersey
- Tues May 7th OPEN MEETING Cavalry of Heroes by Catherine Lovatt
- Mon June 3rd Powys Moorland Partnership - Catherine Hughes & Mo Lloyd
- Mon July 1st Blaenhow Farm - Deer farming - Katherine Shaw

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 (851824) for more details.

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PAINSCASTLE LOCAL INTEREST GROUP

This year's programme is:-

- Thr Apr 25th Drovers - Bruce Smith & Christine McCann
- Thr May 9th Visit to Cwm Byddog reserve led by Stephen Mullard
- Thr June 27th Maesyronnen Chapel
- Thr July 25th Llandeilo Graban & Teilo's Pool

Please note our May meeting, the first of the summer outings will be to Cwm Byddog on May 9th we have chosen an earlier date in order to see the reserve at its best.

Winter meetings are held at the Adullam Hall, Painscastle at 7.30pm on the last Thursday on the month. During the summer we have evening visits, meeting in Painscastle at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.



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MIKEY'S DIARY

Mo tells me it's time for me to write to you again to tell you how I am. Well I am a little stiff these days, I can't run after the young'uns any more. Talking of babies, Mo says this month there is almost a full page of baby announcements. I am not sure why so many people wanted to go and get babies, as in my experience they only grow up to be children, who seem to need an awful lot of looking after, which is time that could be spent looking after me and my pals. My observations suggest that children really are great time wasters. There is a lot of time feeding them and then teaching them stuff. As I have said before, of course they are slow to learn. I could play football before I was a year old, in fact I think it is only now that Gez is getting the hang of it, assuming that is the reason he goes to play with Radnor Valley every Saturday.



However, it is not only the human population which is on the increase. A few weeks ago, Mo decided to go on holiday. The day she went my friend Gyp, the brown sheepdog, woke up surrounded by puppies. Well it doesn't seem long since she had the last lot so I don't know why she wanted some more. They are now nearly six weeks old and, when I asked her, Gyp said she wasn't sure it was a good idea either! Last time she had nine, this time she has gone one better and has ten. They are all black and white while some also have a bit of brown on them. They are quite cute, but Gyp seems to be a bit tired of them already, and Mo says they are eating her 'out of house and home'.



Of course, at this time of year most farms have lambs, but we don't have many at the Lundy, only one or two - I suppose they will arrive eventually. I love lambing time, it is really exciting and I can often cadge a lift on the quad. I always go and have a talk with all the mothers and babies, sometimes they get quite aggressive but I make sure they are in their pen; I don't like being knocked over nowadays.

These days I spend as much time as I can in front of the Rayburn. I have my own day-bed and I have a night-bed in my own room (usually called the alley). I do like to keep Mo company, so I still go out when she does but our best time is when Mo goes to sit in the front room. I climb up on to her lap (sometimes I have to have a bit of help) and we watch telly together. The worst thing is when the phone rings, as she will go and answer it - Ken doesn't usually hear it. I have told her to ignore it as we are having a good time but she is always afraid of missing something. A few weeks ago, I was sitting in my day-bed but I didn't feel very warm and then I realised there was no heat coming from the Rayburn. What had the humans done? Forgotten to order oil for it and so it was cold. We were nearly a week without any heating. It has been declared that Ken is responsible for the oil, so we have all told him that he must do better!

The other day when Mo and Ken went to visit the 'Rhoose contingent' (because that's where they live), Tom gave them his white stripy tiger because he is now too old for fluffy toys. The tiger sat in the back seat of the car, along with Grace who went for the ride - she did have a shock, when she got in, as his big eyes were looking straight at her. Apparently, he is supposed to live at the Lundy. Abbie and Ava certainly love him, but I am not sure where he should be kept. We probably ought to have him in a cage. However, so far he has slept in the washing basket. I am not going to let him share my bed as I don't think there would be any room for me!



I thought you may like this picture of me on one of my walks on the hill. This is a boundary stone erected on the Red Hill in 1882, to mark the boundary of the Maesllwch estate belonging to Walter DeWinton and the Aberedw estate be-

longing to Sir Joseph Bailey from Glanus. As you can see I wasn't that interested when Mo was telling me all that, because I have seen that boundary stone hundreds of times! However there were a few interesting messages around its base, and I thought you may be interested, so that you can learn some history.

Well I think that is all for now, I will see you after lambing.
Mikey



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NEWS FROM RHOSGOCH MILL

At the end of January the carpenters, 'Taurus Oak' Dicken, Tom and Stuart), arrived on site and another stage of the renovation began.



First they repaired the old oak wall frame on the ground floor, giving it a deep, new sole plate. Then they built in replacement rafters and a massive new beam with timbers from David Williams' sawmill at Tirmynach Farm. They copied the details they found in the existing beams.



A chipboard floor at first floor level gave a platform for the carpenters to conserve and repair the two oak roof trusses; these were re-erected and purlins (oak) and rafters (Douglas fir) are now in place. The oak purlins came from Whitney sawmill.

The old mill door that opened onto the mill pond has been framed out and the carpenters are working on a replacement dormer window (overlooking the mill pond) and on the gable roof that will be seen from the road.

The next part of the process will be the roof covering, then the second floor and internal partitions. At some point soon the structure that supports the mill machinery must be repaired.



Janet Russell, March 2019

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Pilates Emma wishes everyone a Happy Easter & please contact me for class schedule during the Easter holidays

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Rhosgoch Golf & Leisure Club

Room available for Weddings, Parties, Dinners, Bingos, Quizzes, Meetings & more

SUNDAY CARVERY

1pm to 2.30pm

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

2 courses £15

rhosgochgolf@yahoo.co.uk
www.rhosgochgolf.co.uk

01497 851 251

AFTERNOON TEA

On the 1st and 3rd Friday every month from 3.30pm until 4.30pm, Cartref Care Home, Brecon Road, Hay on Wye have tea and chat afternoons. There are home-made cakes and lots of activities, crafts, games, puzzles etc or people can just relax with a cup of tea. There are singers, guest speakers with the idea to reach out to the older people of our community with support, friendship and company.

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

Everyone (all ages) is very welcome.

For further details Tel: 01497-820621

*'Now is the
Month of Maying'*
The Monday Choir
at Hardwicke Church
Friday, 10 May at 7.00 pm
An evening of Music for Spring

Tickets £8 from John Neville on
01497 831051 / johnjane.neville@gmail.com
or unreserved on the door
Interval refreshments included

RHOSGOCH CHAPEL NEWS

The Chapel is safe for you and your children
Part of Rhosgoch Chapel's obligation within the Congregational Federation of Churches is to look after its worshippers, both old and young. This is also a legal obligation and covers both the structure of the Chapel as a public place and the duty of care for the children, for instance in the popular Sunday School. Accordingly, the Chapel was thoroughly inspected by a specialist to make sure it is safe and those who had direct access to the children were carefully vetted with a Due Diligence check by a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). All were found to be in order and we have the certificates to prove it.

 Erwood Players Present a
Murder Mystery Supper:
**"WHO KILLED
THE VICAR?"**
by Chris Martin
Friday 17th May at 7.30pm
in Erwood Market Hall
Tickets £10 including supper,
tel. 01982 560675
(please buy in advance, for catering)
**Work in teams to solve the mystery
and win a prize – can you guess
'whodunnit'**

In aid of Erwood Market Hall 

RHOSGOCH

This Congregational Federation Church has been checked and awarded a Safeguarding Certificate

This certificate demonstrates that the Church:

- ✓ Values every person young or old by putting their welfare first.
- ✓ Seeks to protect the participants in groups and their leaders by following good practice.
- ✓ Takes care in the selection of its leaders by undertaking safeguarding checks as appropriate.
- ✓ Has a Safeguarding Policy which is renewed every year.
- ✓ And because Safeguarding is so important, they aim to do even better!


Congregational Federation
"They keep you safe on your way and your feet will not stumble" (Proverbs 10:1)

Issued by: The Safeguarding Office, Congregational Federation, 5 Castle Gate, Nottingham NG1 1AB

**Easter at
Rhosgoch
Chapel**

with
Meredith Powell on Good
Friday at 7.00pm and
Geoff Cable on Easter
Sunday at 2.30pm
ALL ARE WELCOME

GLADESTRY NEWS

We've been having our Gladestry Family Services in the Village Hall of late. It's warmer than the church and less intimidating for non church-goers. The family services are first Sunday of the month at 11.15am.

The service this month was a bit 'off the wall' - well, more 'off the wall' than usual. It began with Pancake races. Firstly, there was the straightforward 'Flip As You Go' race; fun and a bit messy, but not at all bad really. Then there was the 'I'm walking backwards for Christmas' race and, finally, the Obstacle Pancake race. All the races began with the competitors being given a stern talking to about the "Queensbury Rules" - i.e. no spitting, biting or hitting over the head with pans - and all competitors, it transpired, were very good sports.

Norman Evans (left) & Mark Beaton (right) can flip pancakes with their eyes closed



Mark then told the congregation all about Ash Wednesday, the day on which Lent begins. He took a small amount of ash from a little box and drew a cross on his head. The cross reminds us what Jesus, God's Son, did for us in forgiving us. The ash came from the leftover palm crosses of last year, some of which Mark had burnt. He went on to say that there are several names for the Tuesday before the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time of fasting and prayer and generally asking God's forgiveness for not putting Him first in everything; it is a serious time. Traditionally, we eat pancakes on the Tuesday before and make it a time of feasting, ready for the fasting. Various names have been given to this day, Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day and Mardi Gras, which means 'carnival time.' The French words, Mardi Gras, actually mean "Fat Tuesday".

Following Mark's talk, everyone sat down to enjoy loads of pancakes, but not the ones used in the races!!



RHOSGOCH AND PAINSCASTLE TOTS GROUP

Spring has sprung and our tots are definitely enjoying being able to play outside again with the outdoor toys. Let's hope this beautiful weather continues!

During half term week, the children from toddler group and many other children from the wider community enjoyed The Ugly Duckling Puppet show performed by Sea Legs Puppet Theatre. The children enjoyed floating downstream in the musical adaption of Hans Christian Anderson's classic tale of belonging and identity. It was a fabulous show and everyone enjoyed meeting the puppets at the end. Thank you to Sarah for all her hard work in organising the show and to the Golf Club for hosting the event and preparing yet another scrumptious lunch.

In the past few weeks the children have had lots of fun taking part in craft and baking activities and have painted paper plate chicks and toilet roll penguins, printed and collaged fish for the display, made egg box daffodils, decorated pebbles and baked animal shortbread. On Shrove Tuesday the children went home with full tummies after enjoying pancakes with various toppings at snack time. Much lip smacking was heard as the children shared some final treats ahead of Lent.

Exciting news! The much discussed new shed has been ordered. We are looking forward to it being delivered and installed to make setting up and tidying away much easier for the committee members.

The library van visited us on Tuesday 19th March. The children enjoyed climbing aboard and choosing books to take home to share with their families. The next visit is Tuesday 16th April. Please support this service which is so important in our rural location.

The theme of Fur, Feathers and Fins continues for a few more weeks so please come along and join us! Tots runs in term time on Tuesdays from 9.30 – 11.30am in Painscastle Village Hall. For £2, your child can have lots of fun playing, crafting and singing as well as having a healthy snack.

Contact Sarah Emmerson 07931701840

Facebook - Rhosgoch and Painscastle Toddler Group

