

# Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 24 Issue 5

May / June 2019

£1

## 'IT'S A LONG WAY!' SAYS TIM

Gwenddwr boy, Tim Banks, trained for over a year to run the London Marathon on 28 April. Tim – well-known in Painscastle and Rhosgoch social circles – now lives with his wife and two children in Cardiff, where he is Head of Research at the cancer charity, Tenovus.

With all the family to cheer him on, Tim completed the 26-mile course in well under his target of five hours, maintaining a steady pace throughout and raising a magnificent £2,262.20 for Tenovus. If any Gossip readers would still like to donate, they can do so by clicking on <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tim-banks5>.

Tim is enormously grateful to every one of the 70 sponsors who contributed to his fund-raising effort, giving him the motivation to persevere through the months of training in all weathers, and helping Tenovus to provide support and hope to those who most need it.



## FIRST MARATHON FOR ALEX



Alex Simmonds, ex-pupil of Rhosgoch School and elder son of Chris & Sally Simmonds from Cwm Helig, Llandeilo Graban, ran his first marathon at the 2019 ABP Newport marathon on Sunday 5th May. He had been training for several months to build up stamina and endurance. Alex's overall position was 205 out of 1467 runners, with a completion time of 3 hours and 15 minutes. Alex is a director at Redline Telecom in Hereford.

Pictures from YFC Fun Ride



Hundred House Tractor Run leaving Painscastle village



After many days and evenings spent on the entertainment competition, we have a few months before the rally competitions start, so we decided to go for a trip to Hay fire station. With the older members mesmerised by the large machines and equipment, and the younger members getting dressed up in full firefighting gear, it was no doubt a well enjoyed trip. Head fire fighter (and farmer), Jeremy Turner, led a very informative talk showing us what being a fire fighter now entails, from being a first responder to a diver. What a fantastic job they are doing, with some great advice on how to keep safe in farming and at home.



Some of the Fun Ride helpers



Next up it was time to block the Painscastle roads with horses, that's right, our annual Rhosgoch YFC fun-ride! After many weekends and nights preparing the jumps and courses, we had a great turnout yet again with over 110 horses taking on the course. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this funride happen, especially the Poulton family who have hosted this fundraiser since the first funride 8 years ago. This is a huge fundraiser for our little young farmers club and we are so fortunate that it is so successful every year.



Now our sign is up, the countdown to Radnor YFC Rally begins.  
Thomas Lloyd



**Boxes of DVDs**

There are boxes of DVDs located in the Bus Shelter in Painscastle, all in good order, free to a good home.

## WELSH MOUNTAIN FOAL

### FARM FOCUS

Well what a year! I can't believe that a year has gone by already since taking over the tenancy from Ken and Val. Within a week of having Fron Howey we had farm, a daughter and sheep!!

As I work full time during the week, most of the work gets done in the evening and we all have to help each other.

This year lambing was a lot busier than last year as we didn't lamb a lot because we bought couples [ewes & lambs]. We had a good harvest; we had a lot of small bales of hay. We bought lots of ewes in the autumn, which we lambed this spring.

We lambed most of the singles outside as the weather was nice, bar a few, as we had a new shed put up by J P L Groundworks just in time for the bad weather that we had. We lambed the twins in the poly-tunnel so that we could keep a closer eye on them.

It was Shan's birthday in the middle of lambing and we had a small party for her with family and friends. She definitely is a farmer in the making as she helped mam to lamb whilst dad was at work.

She enjoys every day on the farm and her favourite thing is going on the quad with dad to check the sheep before bed.

We are looking forward to the future here at Fron Howey. We are hoping to increase our sheep numbers and get some calves to rear. Let's see where the next 12 months will bring us hope - it will be as exciting as the last.

Mark Bowkett, Alaw & Shan



This is the first foal born on Ireland Moor for several years. The pedigree herds of Welsh Mountain Ponies on the hills have become uneconomic to keep. However, with a grant to help support this traditional herd, there are several foals expected which will help to maintain the future of the herds.



More pictures from YFC Fun Ride



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**GARDENING CLUB**



Some pictures from the very successful Bingo evening held on April 13th.



The May meeting on Thursday the 2nd was a floral demonstration by Sue Hamar who had been asked to 'do something different'. She certainly showed the versatility of flower arranging and produced some wonderful exhibits which were later donated as prizes for the raffle. Again this was another enjoyable evening for Gardening Club, with an appreciative audience.

**GARDENING CLUB PROGRAMME**

- Thr June 13th Evening visit to Llysdinam, 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



Hundred House Tractor Run



**RUGBY SUCCESS**



Chris Farmer, Groesvaen, winning Man of the Match on Sunday 7th April 2019 in the Gwernyfed v Monmouth Under 10s Match

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**Spring poem as recalled some 69 years later by  
the late Mrs Rosie Lloyd (formerly of  
Groesvaen, Painscastle)**

In a bank all moss and ivy  
Gay with flowers of springtime dressed,  
Almost hidden by a primrose  
There's a tiny little nest.  
Warm brown eggs are in it  
It's a robin's I am sure,  
Yesterday three eggs I found there  
Now there are four.  
If I creep up very slowly  
I can see the little pair,  
Father redbreast and the mother  
Quietly just sitting there.  
It is a most tremendous secret  
Not a word I'm going to say,  
But I'll watch and watch until  
The babies come one day.



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## HISTORY OF LOCAL SMALL HOLDINGS

The Small Holdings Act of 1892 made it possible for County Councils to buy land for small holders; it was intended to help agricultural labourers purchase small holdings of land by giving County Councils the power to advance money to the labourer, up to the limit of one penny in the pound of the county rate. It was an attempt to appease the rural discontent of the time and to halt the steady migration from the villages. However, few local authorities made use of the act. In response to the act, Radnorshire County Council set up a Small Holdings committee which met at the Pump Room, Llandrindod Wells, on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1893. There were five councillors in attendance:- Richard Harding (chairman), Penry Lloyd, Morgan (Rhayader), T Davies, and A Moseley. At the meeting the committee decided there was not sufficient demand for the Act to be put into operation. However, 6 weeks later, another meeting was held at the Severn Arms, Penybont, when the four councillors were told of 7 applications for small holdings from men in Newchurch, Glascwm and Gladestry. These had been received in the interim, so a local inquiry was set up. The clerk was also instructed to procure a minute book for the committee, obviously the Council had underestimated the feelings of the rural community and had not even thought it worthwhile to purchase a minute book!

After interviewing the applicants, the committee felt 'there was strong reason to believe the applications would be met privately by the local landowners'. Although Radnorshire County Council did have one or two meetings to discuss the provision of small holdings, it was not until the Small-holdings and Allotments Act 1907 that much progress was made. In that Act the Board of Agriculture suggest the Council should at once set preliminary enquiries as to the extent of demand for small holdings, with the possibility of satisfying these demands, within or without the county. By February 1908, the clerk in Radnorshire had received 57 applications for small holdings and 10 sub committees were set up, covering the whole county. By the time the sub committees reported on 13<sup>th</sup> March another 26 applications had been received, making a total of 83. On 19<sup>th</sup> March 1908 we read that Radnorshire County Council had taken a 14 year lease on its first small holding, Cwm Farm, Llanyre. The farmhouse was to be upgraded at a cost of £100 and a new house and farm buildings to be constructed for £250. Cwm Farm was to be divided into a total of 14 small holdings, two holdings having a house and farmyard, while the others were plots of land.

The Board of Agriculture was not impressed with Radnorshire County Council's progress in letting small-holdings. In 1914 Mr John Owen, the Inspector of the Board of Agriculture, wrote to the council pointing out that no land had been acquired for some time and urging the council to improve the administration of the Small Holding Acts. He also suggested the appointment of a Land Agent, which the meeting agreed on, suggesting the appointment should be for one year with a salary of £25, including expenses. After World War I, there was more urgency to provide small holdings, especially for men who were returning from the fighting. By 1921 there were 17 schemes of 102 holdings consisting of 2679 acres.

Sub committees covering Radnorshire:- Knighton

Presteigne

Llananno

Abbecwmhir & Llanbadarn Fawr

Rhayader

Nantmel

Llandrindod & Cefnlllys

Builth

New Radnor

Hay (Painscastle).

The first of the local schemes was a report from the Painscastle sub committee on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 1922, saying Mr Price, the sitting tenant of The Fferm and Penllwyn in Llandewi Fach, was leaving on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1922. The farms were bought from Walter Vaughan Morgan Esq, London, and they were divided into four small holdings, to be let from 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1924. Holding No 1 was The Fferm (52 acres), let to W Jones for £52. Holding No 2 was Penllwyn (49 acres), let to Jas Jones for £50. Holding No 3 was 2 fields of 11 acres let to B Thomas for £16, while Sidney Jones, Courtycrippen, took 7 fields of 24 acres at a rent of £25. In 1931 the rent was revised for the Fferm and Penllwyn with a reduction of £5, the next rent review was on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1948 when it was raised by 10%. Arthur Haines took over The Fferm in 1944, while A T Davies was at Penllwyn by 1931.

The Glan yr Afon & Noyadd Gristley scheme began in 1936 with the farms bought from G S Lloyd for £3,800. Three small holdings were made: holding No 1 was Glan yr afon homestead and 9 fields totalling 57 acres; holding No 2 was Groesvaen, with 8 fields and some hill making a total of 83 acres; and holding No 3 was Fronhowey with 86 acres. The original tenants were R S Lloyd, E G Davies, Lower Rabber, Huntington, who left in 1937 and W T Morgan, Maesllwch Arms, who took on both holding 2 and 3 from 1937 to 1944. W (Bill) A Lloyd took on Groesvaen in the autumn of 1944.

Radnorshire still has many of its small holdings, (24 farms totalling 1899 acres) and, as we see in this issue, Fronhowey has a new tenant so continuing the original idea which led to the first act of parliament all those years ago.

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### CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to the Bailey family, Jess and Jay, on the birth of Rowan Meical Bailey on 3rd April 2019, a little brother for Oliver, another grandson for Nigel Fromant, Llanerchir, Bryngwyn.

Congratulations on the birth of a little girl, Harriette Alice Hodge, on 16th April 2019, a little sister for Sofia who is nearly 6, and 4 year old William. Best wishes to proud parents Hannah & Louis, another grandchild for Norman & Betty Lloyd.

Best wishes to Sarah & Chris Bound on the birth of a baby girl Anna (second name yet to be decided) Bound. She was born on 17th May 2019, a little sister for Sam who will be 4 in July and Harry who was 2 in February. A first grand daughter for Richard and Celia Price, Trewylod, Painscastle.

## CULINARY COLUMN

### Cosy Club, Hereford.

Chain restaurants are underrated. Yes, it is satisfying to find that hidden away perfect little joint with organic locally sourced ingredients, but life is busy. Sometimes we need the consistency of liking something and ordering it time after time tasting the same. That's not to say that chains must be mundane: Cosy Club has created a relaxed drinking and dining environment with a generous dash of something special. In their words, 'think mansion house splendour meets local village cricket pavilion pottiness.' The starters are tempting little plates of tapas, although the emphasis could be made on the 'little' and you might want to order a few to go with your first G and T. My Gentleman Friend's tempura prawns were delicious if rather sparse. The chorizo and squid would perhaps not have stood up to too much scrutiny had we been in Spain overlooking the Med, but on a rainy day in Hereford they went down well. A common complaint about chains is that they make food from low quality ingredients and are just an excuse to load up on a day's worth of calories in one sitting. Cosy Club breaks the mould here with the Super Food Bowl where you can easily tick off your five a day. Salads can leave you feeling like you have restricted yourself, but the best thing about this one was that it looked and tasted so good that not even my Gentleman Friend's hearty fish and chips created any food envy. The avocado and hummus with black quinoa and lovage pesto were bang on foodie trend. The battered fish was also very good, although why skimp on the chips when doing such a good job of everything else? The restaurant's surroundings are unusual, and the oil paintings jostling with ornate glass chandeliers give the dreamlike feeling of dropping in on your mate's bonkers stately home.

Pudding was a highlight as we chose a sharing plate which was, in fact, a three-tiered cake stand stacked with mini cinnamon doughnuts with toffee apple sauce, lemon posset with berry compote, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce and salted caramel shortbread with fresh raspberries. Healthy went to the wind and it was absolutely as good as it sounded. The different tiny puddings worked perfectly as larger portions would have been far too sickly to eat much of, but somehow a little taste of everything worked just fine.

If you want to disappear into another world far from whatever rainy grey city you happen to be in, then Cosy Club ticks that box. It is not ground-breaking food but I like the concept of lounging in familiar surroundings which exist in a number of different cities. When we have independent shops doing fantastic salad boxes, such as The Salad Project in Hay, I think we are hard customers to impress, but I would definitely keep my eye out next time we are in a city for another Cosy Club.

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

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There is nothing more sad than an overcooked chocolate brownie. All that glorious fudginess baked into oblivion! I love brownies for so many reasons and this time of year particularly as they use up so many of the beautiful eggs that our chickens are providing us with. This is a long method but it is all about that important squidge, and timing in the oven is everything.

### Ingredients

185g unsalted butter  
185g best dark chocolate  
85g plain flour  
40g cocoa powder  
50g white chocolate  
50g milk chocolate  
3 large eggs  
275g golden caster sugar

### Method

Cut the butter into small cubes and tip into a medium bowl. Break the dark chocolate into small pieces and drop into the bowl. Melt the chocolate and butter either in a bowl over hot water or using a microwave. Leave the melted mixture to cool to room temperature. Position a shelf in the middle of the oven at 180C. Line the base of a 20cm square tin. Tip 85g plain flour and 40g cocoa powder into a sieve held over a medium bowl. Tap and shake the sieve so they run through together and you get rid of any lumps. Chop 50g white chocolate and 50g milk chocolate into chunks on a board. Break 3 large eggs into a large bowl and tip in 275g golden caster sugar. With an electric mixer on maximum speed, whisk the eggs and sugar. They will look thick and creamy, like a milk shake and will double the original volume. Pour the cooled chocolate mixture over the eggy mousse, then gently fold together with a rubber spatula using a figure of eight action. The idea is to marry them without knocking out the air, so be as gentle and slow as you like. Hold the sieve over the bowl of eggy chocolate mixture and resift the cocoa and flour mixture, shaking the sieve from side to side, to cover the top evenly. Gently fold in this powder using the same figure of eight action as before. The mixture will look dry and dusty at first, and a bit unpromising, but if you keep going very gently and patiently, it will end up looking gungy and fudgy. Don't overdo this mixing. Finally, stir in the white and milk chocolate chunks until they're dotted throughout. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin, scraping every bit out of the bowl with the spatula. Gently ease the mixture into the corners of the tin and paddle the spatula from side to side across the top to level it. Put in the oven and set your timer for 25 mins. When the buzzer goes, open the oven, pull the shelf out a bit and gently shake the tin. If the brownie wobbles in the middle, it's not quite done, so slide it back in and bake for another 5 minutes until the top has a shiny, papery crust and the sides are just beginning to come away from the tin. Take out of the oven. Leave the whole thing in the tin until completely cold. If you're using a normal tin, lift out the brownie with the foil. Cut into quarters, then cut each quarter into four squares and finally into triangles.

Taken from [www.bbc.goodfood.com](http://www.bbc.goodfood.com)

## WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB

The Wednesday lunch club has to all intents and purposes disbanded. From now on anyone wanting to go to the golf club for lunch on the third Wednesday of every month should ring them direct on 01479 851251. They have an answering machine if no one is there. They will carry on as long as numbers keep up. If you can't go then there is no need to ring. The cost of lunch remains the same at £10.00.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

May 23 - Jun 2 Hay Literary Festival  
 Sat Jun 1st Breconshire YFC Rally at Pentre, Merthyr Cynog.  
 Sat Jun 8th Fun & Wellbeing Day at Gladestry 2 - 5pm  
 Sat Jun 8th Radnorshire YFC Rally at Ackhill Farm, Presteigne.  
 Wed June 19th Second Green Drinks meeting at The Greyhound, Builth Wells, 7pm—9pm  
 Fri Jun 21st—Sun Jun 23rd Midsummer festival weekend at Old Radnor  
 Sun Jul 28th Kilvert pilgrimage

**ADULLAM CHAPEL PAINSCASTLE**

Sun July 28th UNITED SERVICE 2.30pm preacher Mr Graham Morris  
 Sun Aug 11th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE 6.30 pm

**HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH**

ALL SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30pm  
 Sun June 2nd ANNIVERSARY SERVICE  
 Sun June 9th JOINT SERVICE NEWCHURCH CHAPEL at 3pm  
 Sun July 28th UNITED SERVICE PAINSCASTLE 2.30pm  
 Sunday School every Sunday morning 10 – 11 am

**MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN**

May 26th Ruth Hargest  
 June 9th Crickadarn Special Service  
 July 28th United Service Mr Graham Morris. 2.30pm  
 August 11th Anniversary 6.30 pm.  
 Aug 25th Ruth Hargest  
 Services Sundays at 2.30pm

**ERWOOD & PAINSCASTLE CHURCHES**

Dear All,

One of the many joys of living and ministering in the country is that the rather strange and mysterious period in the Church year between the excitement of Christmas and the Passion of Easter coincides with the lambing season. For those of us who are not directly involved, we are filled with humility as we see new life burgeoning all around us through the utter dedication, necessity and hard work of our rural communities. In the life of the Church, we echo this dedication by renewing our faith during Lent and following our Lord to the cross during Easter. It is so fitting that we call him the Paschal Lamb who is sacrificed for us. So, simultaneously, as your lambs are being brought into the world, in our churches we are praying to the Lamb of God for your strength and well-being.

Now Summer is here and, within the Church, all the activity, work and passion are transmuted into the steady and constant nature of Ordinary Time that we return to after **Pentecost**, which we celebrate on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. The season begins with the glorious celebration of **The Most Holy Trinity** on the 27<sup>th</sup> June, and is consequently known in Anglican tradition, rather wonderfully and naturally, as the **Trinity Season**.

One of the strengths of our tradition is that we are always offered times of spiritual renewal through which we may draw close to Christ. This is a beautiful season in the Christian year, with no less power than more obviously symbolic seasons. As the land flourishes around us, we may settle into the gentle rhythms of Mother Church that sustain us without being over-conscious of maintaining the fierce spirit of endeavour that is often felt throughout Advent and Lent. This is a season of surety – the Spirit is with us, making us one with Christ and this links us with his Father, resting in the depths of his love for us. Enjoy the rhythm of this time of the year as we rest in the essence of God's Trinitarian nature; draw in your strength from God in Christ and make the Summer a long outgoing sigh of warmth as you breathe out his Spirit into the world. There is no end to the transformation of our relationships and communities if we believe in the power of this love working through us.

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

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**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

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**ERWOOD & PAINSCASTLE SERVICES JUNE/JULY 2019**

**Sunday 2nd June 7th Sunday of Easter**

9.30am	Lladarn-Y-Garreg	Eucharist
9.30am	Gwenddwr	Eucharist
11.00am	Llandeilo Graban	Morning Prayer
11.00am	Newchurch	Holy Communion

**Sunday 9th June Pentecost**

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

**Sunday 16th June Trinity Sunday**

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

**Sunday 23rd June 1st after Trinity**

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

**Sunday 30th June 2nd after Trinity**

9.30am	Llanbedr	Grouped Parish Eucharist
11.00am	Llandeilo Graban	Grouped Parish Eucharist

**Sunday 7th July 3rd after Trinity**

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

**Sunday 14th July 4th after Trinity**

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

**Sunday 21st July 5th after Trinity**

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

**Sunday 28th July 6th after Trinity**

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

**Sunday 4th August 7th after Trinity**

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

**Sunday 11th August 8th after Trinity**

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

**KILVERT PILGRIMAGE Sunday 28th July 2019**

Assemble Newchurch 10.30  
 Lunch (BYO) and Readings at Bryngwyn 12.30 to 1.30  
 Break at Ireland 3pm  
 Tea at St Peter's Llanbedr (provided) 4pm  
 Short Readings and Final Blessing at Llandewi Fach 5.30  
 Disperse 6pm Transport available.  
 Everyone welcome.

**COLVA**

On Sunday July 14th 2019 at 6.30pm, at Colva Church, Cherry Williams will be talking about the life of her Great Grandmother Mary Lloyd, Danyfron (1858-1929) as recorded in her diaries.

There will be light refreshments.  
 Field parking.  
 A small donation will be welcomed for the Church Funds.

**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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**EDITOR'S NOTES**

I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. Most of 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, (P14)! Thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way to this issue. Special thanks for the suppliers of photos. Please continue to send articles, news and events, all comments are gratefully received. [mlloyd@outlook.com or 01497-851609]. ML (Editor).

I am working towards an earlier print date for the next issue, so please could we have all articles etc in by July 7th.

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](http://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 webmaster or to me at [mlloyd@outlook.com](mailto:mlloyd@outlook.com)

## POWYS PRATTLES

by COUNTY COUNCILLOR JAMES GIBSON-WATT

### HEADLESS CHICKENS ABOUND

The people of the UK could be forgiven for thinking that the 'lords and masters' ruling over their lives are acting like proverbial 'headless chickens'. So it is at Westminster at the moment. By the time you read this the people of the UK will have expressed their views about all that through the ballot box, at a European Parliamentary election that the 'headless chickens' had told us must never happen!

Personally, being someone who has never hidden my view that the UK would be better off staying in the EU, I am comfortable with voting. But for anyone of the opposite view this whole thing must seem like a very bad dream indeed. It's a bad dream with consequences that will affect every one of us. 'Uncertainty' has been the buzz-word of the past three (yes, that's really three) years of political shenanigans of eye-watering expense for the tax payer and businesses alike; and, brace yourselves, the uncertainty will continue for some time to come, whether we 'leave', 'remain' or do something in between.

So, what has this to do with Powys County Council, I hear you ask? You're supposed to be telling us what on earth is going on in County Hall. Well, to use but one example, the fiasco I have tried to describe above is a main source of the difficulty the council has in providing home (domiciliary) care packages for elderly and vulnerable adults, including some who are ready to leave hospital. The result? 'Bed blocking' (or DTOC as it's indelicately known) and much distress for the individuals and their families involved. A wait of many weeks for a home care package is now not unusual, the risk to people's well-being increasing. It's a rotten deal for the tax payer too – caring for someone in hospital costs at least four times as much as providing care in people's homes or in residential care. The situation is approaching crisis point and, for once, it has nothing to do with the Council lacking money. Why is it happening? Because the care provider businesses that the council contracts with simply cannot recruit enough staff. Why not? In large part because a lot of care workers from other EU countries have left the UK to return home, due to the above-mentioned uncertainty, shrinking the general pool of care staff across the UK. This is making an already-difficult situation here in Powys that much worse.

Although the County Council has belatedly woken up to this looming crisis and attempted, with limited success, to fill recruitment gaps, the inherent political instability in the council itself, with members in both ruling coalition groups in open revolt on a range of issues, is not helping. To be blunt, annual depopulation of about 1000 people of working age, but especially of the young, is also at the root of so many of these problems in Powys. Until the Council and its partner agencies come up with a coherent strategy to halt and then reverse that trend, this problem can only get worse, regardless of 'leave', remain or something else.

But, hey ho, cheer up. Summer's on the way, and not a moment too soon.

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

James

## ASSEMBLY NEWS

It was 20 years ago this month that I was elected to represent Brecon and Radnorshire in the National Assembly for Wales.

I think, over time, the Welsh Assembly has become more established. Introducing presumed consent over organ donation was a radical change, one that has since been adopted across the border. The Welsh Assembly also voted for a smoking ban in public places before Westminster did and free prescriptions continues to be one of the most high profile policy differences.

I take particular pride in the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act, a private member's bill I was able to take forward. Wales is the first country in Europe to introduce legislation on safe nurse staffing levels in our hospital wards. On a personal level, it is a real honour to think that the people of Brecon and Radnorshire have elected me on five separate occasions. Thank you. Much has changed over the course of 20 years but the continuing strength of our communities, and the number of people willing to advocate for the people around them, makes this role such a privilege. One of my first speeches in the Assembly focused on suicide in the farming community; sadly this is an issue that has not gone away and continues to devastate families and communities.

There is a lot more awareness of mental health nowadays and suicide is more acknowledged than it used to be, but there's still a long way to go. Farmers still face huge pressures, often combined with regular isolation, and suicide rates are among the highest of any occupational group.

I talked about high suicide risk in the farming community again last month, when supporting the launch of the Mid Powys Mind suicide prevention pledge card. NFU Cymru and Farmers' Union of Wales have both consistently encouraged farmers to open up about their mental health. Specific campaigns have been run to highlight the importance of it. Organisations including Mind Cymru, Samaritans Cymru and the The DPJ Foundation can be vital sources of information and support.

My message to farmers, to anyone struggling, is that it's okay to talk. Take care of yourself and take care of your wellbeing. And, if you feel you need it, please do seek out the help that's available to you.

If I can be of assistance with any issue please do not hesitate to contact me on 01874 625739 or at [kirsty.williams@assembly.wales](mailto:kirsty.williams@assembly.wales).

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## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

International Nurses Day 2019

Last weekend was International Nurses Day, a day when people across the country recognise the vital role nurses and other health professionals play in ensuring the public is well looked after in hospitals, surgeries and at home.

In 2018, I was proud to be made a nursing champion by the Royal College of Nursing in recognition of my ongoing support for and promotion of the nursing community since becoming MP for Brecon and Radnorshire in 2015.

Since my election, I have focused a large proportion of my work on helping raise health issues in the House of Commons. Health is a devolved policy here in Wales and the Welsh Government has control of the NHS here. Sadly, the Welsh NHS has performed poorly in comparison to the English run NHS and I look for opportunities where our health service here can take tips from across the border to improve and vice versa.

I speak with professionals on the ground regularly, visiting local hospitals, care homes and spending the day with district nurses, visiting patients around Brecon and Radnorshire to see just how vital their role is in ensuring a decent quality of life for those with severe illnesses.

My wife works as a therapeutic radiographer and has done so for many years. So, I understand the importance of having an effective and well-funded health service that can provide what the public needs and expects.

I believe in the coming years technology will play a vital role in modernising our health service, making detection and diagnoses much faster than we currently do. Technology and science will ensure that we can help tackle diseases such as cancer in a much more effective way than ever before, whilst doing it in a much more cost-effective way for the taxpayer.

Our medical staff will be on the frontline of this technological revolution we are currently going through and their work and dedication to the people they care for are second to none. I hope we can all appreciate the hard work and compassion they show on a daily basis looking after the sick and vulnerable. I for one cannot express my thanks and respect to those on the frontline enough.

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](mailto:chris.davies.mp@parliament.uk), 6 Market Street, Builth Wells, Powys, LD3 7SX. Or visit my website for details at [www.chrisdavies.org.uk](http://www.chrisdavies.org.uk)

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## PAINSCASTLE RECYCLING & RUBBISH COLLECTION

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

3rd June      24th June      15th July      5th August

## 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](http://www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk)

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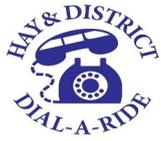
Website: [www.carryoncampers.net](http://www.carryoncampers.net)

## 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.



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haydialaride@gmail.com



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### BRYNGWYN WI PROGRAMME

- Mon June 3rd Powys Moorland Partnership - Catherine Hughes & Mo Lloyd
- Mon July 1st Blaenhow Farm - Deer farming - Katherine Shaw
- Mon Aug 5th Visit to Hereford Resource Centre & Cathedral: Althea Mackenzie

Meetings are held in Painscastle Village Hall, at 7.00pm, unless otherwise stated. Visitors and new members are welcome. Please contact Mollie Moore (851296) or Edwina Griffiths (851824) for more details.

### PAINSCASTLE LOCAL INTEREST GROUP

Programme:-

- Thr June 27th Maesyronnen Chapel
  - Thr July 25th Llandeilo Graban & StTeilo's Pool
- 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.

### PAINSCASTLE LOCAL INTEREST GROUP

#### The Drovers

As many of you will know, Painscastle was an important centre for the drovers and, at one time, the village boasted six pubs, probably because of this trade; in fact, the Roast Ox was once called The Drovers Arms. In April, Bruce Smith came to give a talk on the subject of droving to the Local Interest Group. This meeting was extremely well attended – 56 people in total – and we were treated to an extremely interesting and well-illustrated talk which covered the background history to droving, as well as a more in-depth look at local routes and characters.

Cattle (especially Welsh Black) were the main animals moved to markets in England, but sheep and geese were also driven. In the case of cattle, the animals were taken to England to be fattened up on the better pastures there before being sold for meat at the main markets, located for the most part in the more populated and wealthier parts of the South East and Midlands.

Droving was hard work. The men and their animals could walk up to 20 miles in a day and they were always on the look out for thieves along the way. All along the main routes, there would have been inns which offered accommodation and refreshment for the men and fields for the stock (like Halfpenny Field in Painscastle, near the Roast Ox, so named because it cost a halfpenny/head of cattle/night to keep the animals in the field). Inns with a good reputation were often "marked" by small groups of pine trees. The routes that the drovers used can often still be recognised today because they had wide grassy verges where the animals could graze "on the hoof". The lead drover was called the porthmon and he would take all of the major decisions en route. Many of the drovers would be young lads, most of whom were obviously hoping to work their way up the ladder over the years.

In Wales, the routes were mainly on unmetalled roads, like the one which came over Llanbedr Hill, past Twm Tobacco's grave and down into Painscastle. However, once the drovers crossed into England, they would usually find that the roads were metalled and so many of the inns also had a blacksmith shop where the cattle would be shod for their onward journey. Being close to the border, Painscastle did have a number of blacksmiths' shops, but the main local shoeing centre was at the Rhyd-spence, which is right on the border. Shoeing cattle was a very difficult job and it required four men to complete; one of these, quite literally, would sit on the animal's neck to hold it down. It is no wonder that it cost 10d to shoe each beast. The shoes themselves (ciws) were sickle-shaped and were very thin and so wore out easily; they were designed to last for only one journey.

The coming of the railways in the 19<sup>th</sup> century did signal the end of droving. The cost of a cattle truck with 38 beasts from Aberystwyth to Rugby in 1860 was 6s/head by rail, but over 7s 6d/head by foot, so change was inevitable. Between 1840 and 1920, more and more of the stock were being moved by rail truck and so droving was becoming less and less common. By the 1920s, lorries had taken over and road transport is still the most important means by which stock is moved today.

Bruce embellished his talk with numerous anecdotes that he has gleaned from farmers along the main routes and in the main gathering centres. It was a fascinating evening with plenty of local interest. Bruce has his own website which is well worth looking at: [www.localdroveroads.co.uk](http://www.localdroveroads.co.uk)

**PAINSCASTLE LOCAL INTEREST GROUP**



**Cwm Byddog**

On 9<sup>th</sup> May, the Local Interest Group was treated to a guided walk around Cwm Byddog, led by Stephen and Judy Mullard, the volunteer wardens for the reserve. The woodland belongs to the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and is a fantastic place to see early purple orchids and blue-



bells in spring time. However, it is the ancient trees that make this 10 acre woodland even more special. There has been a woodland cover here for many hundreds of years and 18 ancient trees have been identified – one ash, one alder and 16 magnificent oaks. The oaks, hybrids of sessile and pedunculate oak, are believed to be around 400-500 years old. As oaks become old,

they go through a process of hollowing which makes them stronger and more stable in strong winds. As well as the magnificent ancient

trees, Cwm Byddog is also home to a very rare beetle (only recorded in three places in Wales)



and an equally rare bracket fungus called an oak polypore (the fourth recording in Wales and virtually extinct within Europe). Many of the wildflowers found here are indicators of ancient woodland, including bluebell, yellow archangel, early purple orchid, moschatel (town hall clock), wood sorrel, wood anemone, sanicle and there is one greater butterfly orchid. In terms of fauna, Cwm Byddog is home to various bat species as well as the elusive hazel dormouse, and there is a great variety of woodland birds, including blackcap, garden warbler, chiffchaff, nuthatch, great spotted woodpecker and pied flycatcher. It is a wonderful place and is well worth a visit, particularly in the spring when the wildflowers are at their best, although there is something to see at all times of the year.

**NEWS FROM RHOSGOCH MILL**

It is May. The primroses have been and gone but here is a reminder of how beautiful they were.



Inside the scaffolding, the roof structure has been finished and the roof is almost complete. The former roof covering was local stone tiles, the new fabric is a thick, grey, Welsh slate. The roofers, 'Tanat', from Brecon, have done a wonderful job – it will be revealed when the scaffolding comes down at the end of May.

Colin Lewis Joinery, from Talgarth, have made the



lovely windows that are now in place on the first and second floors; they used the old windows to make a pattern so that the new ones would be in keeping with what went before.

The Mill is Listed Grade 2, so there are quite a lot of constraints when it comes to design and finishes.

The external stonework has been re-pointed and internally the old plaster has been removed – revealing, as expected, a blocked-up fireplace on the first floor. The large chimney has been swept and a modern flue liner installed ready for a stove in the living room.



The roof taking shape

The inside faces of the external wall will generally be insulated with cork and then finished with lime plaster. The exception to this will be the area around the mill workings; these walls will be finished with a lime wash because they were never previously plastered.

Visitors to the open day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May were able to see the shape of the space at ground floor level and the layout of rooms on the first floor. We all had to manage without staircases between floors, so access to the first floor was either by way of the pond or the garden; both fairly hazardous routes. It was good to be able to welcome so many people to the Mill. I would like to say a big 'thank you' to Mo Lloyd, Carol Sheen and Maggie Warne for their help as co-hosts, guides and cake-bakers. Rev Janet Russell



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## MIKEY'S DIARY

Hi everyone, lambing is now over so what comes next? Ken & Matthew are always playing with their sheep. Attending to their feet, because sheep nearly always seem to be lame, or drenching them, that by the way is not pouring water over them to get them soaking wet, it is squirting a liquid down their throats, they don't really like it but the humans say it is good for them! Soon it will be time to shear them, I quite like that day as I always try to help, although not everyone seems to appreciate my help. A 'gang' arrives early and sets up their shearing trailer, which is specially designed for the sheep to sit on while one of the 'gang' takes their wool off them. There is usually a lot of shouting as the ewes are told to go into the catching pens, some of them are quite reluctant. After a while the 'gang' stops for 'bait', that is the best bit as I try to get my share, after all Mo says I am on the staff now! The ewes do look funny without their coats and often their own babies don't recognise them. I am glad no-one thinks to shear my coat off me, I don't think I would like it at all.

With the nice weather Mo sometimes takes me for a walk. One day we went to the Begwns to meet Ozzie (my son) and Bailey as they have moved to live at Clyro. They brought Kate with them, as she had to drive the car. I hadn't seen them for a long time so it was nice to spend a bit of time with them. We also took Abbie and Pam which was fun, Abbie wanted to lead me but I prefer to have a bit



of peace and quiet to read the messages, rather than have someone yank my lead every time I stop. After a little while I did get tired and so Mo gave me a ride in her backpack, but the zip kept opening and I was nearly falling out. I think she needs to find a proper doggie carrier before we go again.

Everyone talks about Hay Festival, I have never been. Mo says they have lots of people who are writers, so I do wonder why no-one has asked me? Maybe it is because I only have a column in a newspaper and haven't got my own book, perhaps I need an agent or a publisher. Mo is not much good as a literary agent, she just nags me to get my column done by the deadline. Maybe one year I will go to the festival, although Mo says I wouldn't enjoy it as there are a lots of people walking in all directions, most of them quite lost, and I would probably get trodden on. So maybe she is right, that doesn't happen often, perhaps I wouldn't like it, but it would be nice to be asked.

Last weekend Mo & Ken went to the seaside and Abbie was in charge of looking after me. This weekend Abbie has gone on holiday so it is very quiet as she likes to play



with me and I don't mind as long as she is kind. She is not as rough as Sweep when he comes out of his house. His old house has been taken down and so he now has to share with Gyp. It was Matthew's idea, but I am not sure that he asked Gyp what she thought of the plan, because Sweep, being a young sheepdog lad, is quite boisterous. He likes to play and sometimes he thinks up some very wild games of chase and jump. I must admit though he very often manages to jump over me rather than knock me down, and I am very grateful for that! Well I think that is all the Lundy news at the moment, so see you next time.

MIKEY



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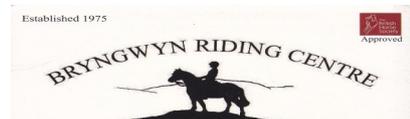
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**GLADESTRY NEWS**



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*Offa's Dyke Association 1969 - 2019*

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**In aid of Air Ambulance Wales** 

Children's fancy dress and **bring your own** Teddy Bears picnic, games, face painting, dressing up box & chill-out tent.

*'Vintage Style Café'* serving afternoon tea, to include vegan, vegetarian, gluten free and dairy free options.

Contact: Viv Taylor 01544 370464

**RHOSGOCH CHAPEL NEWS**

**Easter at Rhosgoch Chapel**

To many Christians, Easter is the most important event of their lives. For it was at Easter that Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead in a matter of days. We believe that Christ died for all our sins and that as he came back from the dead. He pointed the way to life beyond death for all believers, a life full of joy and happiness, free of pain and sorrow.

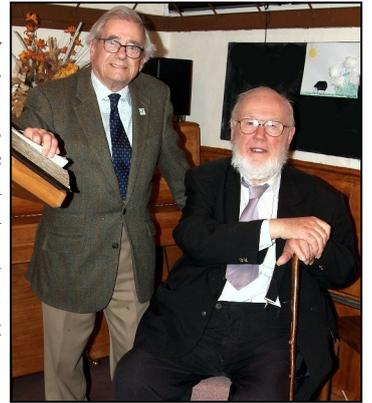
To celebrate Easter, the Chapel holds two services, on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

We are lucky enough to have as host the Rev. Meredith Powell (seated in the picture) on Friday. Rev. Powell is an old friend of Rhosgoch who has a powerful and moving faith which he freely shared in a service that summed up the horror of the crucifixion and the amazing fortitude that Christ showed.

On Sunday, our own minister, the Rev. Geoff Cable, spoke of the joy of Christ's resurrection, witnessed at the time by many hundreds of people.

Both services were supported by the sterling playing of John Meredith on the Chapel organ.

The Chapel now reverts to its regular service: every Sunday at 2.30pm



**Pilates Emma**



Pilates lengthens and strengthens the body whilst improving your flexibility, balance, posture and core.

**Class times**

- Monday 9.30am - Booth's Bookshop Studio, Hay
- Monday 2.00pm - St Peter's Centre, Peterchurch
- Tuesday 9.30am - Eardisley Village Hall
- Tuesday 6.15pm - Booth's Bookshop Studio, Hay
- Wednesday 9.30am - Painscastle Village Hall
- Wednesday 6.15pm - Clifford Community Centre
- Friday 9.15am - Booth's Bookshop Studio, Hay

My classes last for one hour, are suitable for all ages and fitness levels and are charged on a pay as you go basis. If you are interested in any of the above classes please call me on 07702 241725 or [emma@pilatesemma.co.uk](mailto:emma@pilatesemma.co.uk) [www.pilatesemma.co.uk](http://www.pilatesemma.co.uk)

**SONGS FOR SILAS**

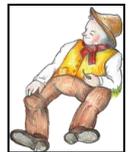
**Friday 21st June, 7.30 pm. St Stephen's Church, Old Radnor, nr Presteigne LD8 2RH. Tickets £10 from 01544 350655 /**

[mail@harpinnradnor.co.uk](mailto:mail@harpinnradnor.co.uk)

Our *Songs for Silas* are original compositions and arrangements of traditional songs written by Dave Newell for The Village Quire and inspired by H.E. Bates' wonderful collection of stories: *My Uncle Silas*.



This event is the opening event of the Harp's Summer Festival, Harpfest 2019, raising funds for St Michael's Hospice and St

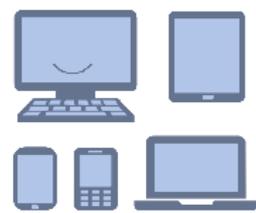


**AFTERNOON TEA**

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



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## RHOSGOCH AND PAINSCASTLE TOTS GROUP

Here comes another installment about the goings on at Painscastle and Rhosgoch Toddler Group; a thriving, happy group for busy minds and fingers.

In the run up to Easter and over the past few weeks the children have had lots of fun taking part in craft and outdoor activities, such as making Mothering Sunday cards, painting pebble mini beasts, crafting baskets for Easter egg hunting, digging and planting in the flower bed (thanks to Angharad McGreevy for all your hard work with this) and celebrating May Day/Beltane by making and decorating willow headbands to welcome in the summer.

The current theme of Growing continues for the rest of the summer term so please come along and join us for much fun and excitement!

We are a weekly playgroup meeting on Tuesday mornings between 9.30-11.30 at Painscastle Village Hall. We are very friendly and welcome new mums and dads (or grandparents) with babies or preschool aged children. Sessions cost £2 or £1 for siblings. Under 6 months free. This covers a craft activity, healthy snack, lots of toys and 'ride-ons', plus tea or coffee for grown ups. We look forward to seeing you there!

Contact Sarah Emmerson 07931701840

Facebook - Rhosgoch and Painscastle Toddler Group



PIC • COLLAGE