

Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 26 Issue 5

May / Jun 2021

£1

DROPPED FROM THE SKY

Friday April 16th seemed just like any other day at Trewylrod in April. Sheep demanding attention as usual, but just as Richard and Celia finished they heard a noise and then this small plane appeared overhead. As they watched fasci-



nated, they could see it coming lower and lower and eventually it touched down in one of their fields above their farmhouse. It appeared to be going quite fast, in fact about 65 mph, was it going to stop, or would it plough through the hedge and onto the road? But all was well, it came to rest in the middle of their field. A field that had only recently been vacated by the sheep they had been attending to.

The pilot was from Bath but he was part of a group of about 20 gliders who took off from Stroud with a vague plan of where they may go. However the flight depended upon the thermals and wind currents. The pilot said it was a bad day for thermals and so he had to find somewhere to land. He looked for a field without sheep and he chose

Richard and Ce went to investigate and the pilot contacted the back-up crew, although the first friend had already gone to rescue a fellow member who had landed further north. Eventually the pilot and the glider were picked up by truck and trailer and returned to Stroud, having enjoyed a short day-trip to Radnorshire.

A few days later a paraglider descended on the Sports field of Upper New House, Painscastle. Owner Beau Herdman asked him why had he dropped in? This man had set off from Crickhowell with a few friends and was on his way to North Wales. He had lost his thermal and so had drifted down towards Painscastle. He then needed a high place to jump off in order to harness another thermal to continue on his way North.

He packed up his paraglider into its rucksack and set off towards Hay



This daffodil also dropped from the sky! It was found flowering on Llanbedr hill, above Painscastle an escapee from a garden, but only 6 inches tall

RHOSGOCH STATUE GONE EAST



A couple of pictures sent by Mrs Dotty Spens, ex teacher from Rhosgoch School, who keeps in touch, the statue was a leaving present from Rhosgoch School and below is a picture of their magnolia and peach blossom. Don't be surprised if she appears at your door at the end of June as they are staying near Clyro for a fortnight's holiday from June 14th.



Surely there has never been a better primrose season than this one. I couldn't resist including this favourite spring-time flower along with the contrasting violets, which provide a colourful dressing for our verges and hedgerows.



**King Edward V11 Hospital, Cardiff /
Cardiff Royal Infirmary**

In the last Gossip I shared a piece about Queen Alexandra's "Letter to the Nation" on the death of her husband King Edward V11 (eldest son of Queen Victoria and nicknamed Bertie by his friends) who had reigned from 1901-1910. After sending this to Mo and still sorting my loft, I rediscovered and realised my own personal rather tenuous connection to this period of history.

In the 1960s I trained and qualified as a State Registered Nurse at the **Cardiff Royal Infirmary (CRI)**. During its history this hospital had seen much change and several name changes which I will endeavour to explain.

The earliest hospital opened in 1823 was the **Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Dispensary** with its successor the **Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Infirmary and Dispensary** being opened in 1837. By 1873 the rapid growth of industry and the needs of the population outgrew this institution and so the Marquess of Bute offered land on Longcross Common for the building of a replacement hospital. In 1883 the Marquess of Bute laid the foundation stone for the new **Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Infirmary** and the whole build and furnishing of the hospital was paid for by public subscription and fund raising. Within a year the hospital received its first patients. Other new hospitals such as the Gwent began to spring up in the region and began catering for the needs of Newport and the Eastern Valleys of Monmouthshire. As a result the hospital changed its name from Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Infirmary to the **Cardiff Infirmary** in 1895.

It remained the Cardiff Infirmary until 1911 when another name change occurred. Royal permission was sought and granted to rename the hospital and it became the **King Edward V11 Hospital, Cardiff** (NB.my tenuous link - illustrated in accompanying old postcard). The King had died in 1910 and this enabled the launching of the Cardiff City King Edward V11 Memorial Fund to finance the building of a new wing at the hospital. This royal connection and the coronation of King George V led to one of the new ground floor wards being named Coronation Ward. During the years of the Great War the hospital was requisitioned by the War office for the Royal Army Medical Corps to treat casualties. Some years later in 1921 a beautiful chapel was added in the northwest corner of the site - again funded by donations.



In 1923 there was another name change and by Royal Charter the hospital became the **Cardiff Royal Infirmary**. It remained a voluntary hospital until 1948 when the National Health Service brought to an end the era of voluntary hospitals. Today, it's hard to comprehend that before the NHS this voluntary hospital and many more were built, supported and existed for so many years purely with voluntary charitable contributions from the public.

In 1965 I entered this amazing nurse and medical training/teaching hospital with its imposing front facing onto Glosop Road. It was a prestigious hospital with a high reputation and considered one of the best in the country. All of the wards were the Florence Nightingale type with large bays at their furthest ends, many facing onto Longcross Street from where on Sunday mornings the Salvation Army could be heard and

at night the glow from Gest, Keen and Nettlefolds (GKN) lit up the sky. The wards were all named after either WW1 battles or donors including wealthy coal owners, shipping magnates and other rich people, such as the Bute family. Some ward names that I recall were Coronation, William Diamond, John Nixon, Elize Nixon, Edward Nicholl, Charles Radcliffe, Bute, Cory, William James Thomas, Thompson, Thomas Andrew, Mametz, Llanbradach, with the walls within the hospital displaying many memorial tablets to these benefactors. Newer wards/Units were simply known by their speciality i.e. ENT, Ophthalmic, Dermatology and Casualty. Within the main entrance hung a beautiful large oil painting of one of the wards full of wounded WW1 soldiers, a stark reminder of the part the hospital and its staff played during times of war.

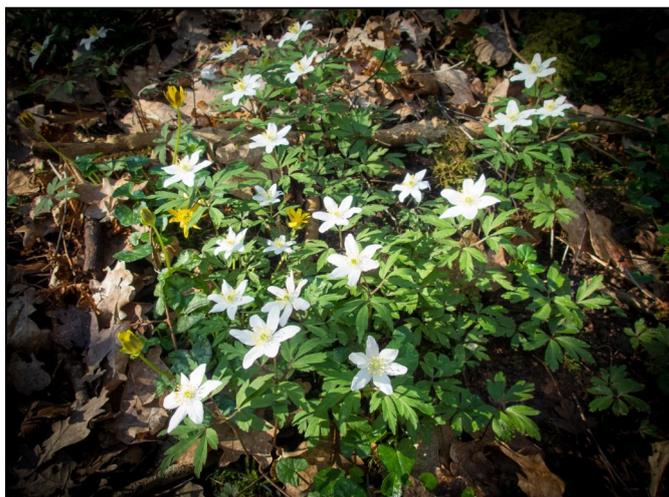
Upon qualifying in CRI, nurses were awarded the hard earned Hospital Badge which is one of my most prized possessions. We were told to wear it proudly and I know that it has been worn proudly by CRI nurses serving in all corners of the world. The badge is beautiful, hallmarked silver with enamel and a royal crown at its apex. It features Hygieia, goddess of health, cleanliness and hygiene, overseeing many stages of human life. The reverse of the badge is engraved with the name of the nurse and CRI commencement date. I wore my badge on every duty day or night of my long career. It was always a topic of conversation and on one occasion when visiting a sick, frail, elderly lady/patient in the 1990s it became so much more. She had spotted my



badge but did not let on that she too had trained in CRI in the early 1930s. By the time I saw her next she had had a friend turn her house upside down in search of her badge and was sitting there with her badge pinned firmly on her cardigan and a big smile on her face. The down side of this story is that

she expected me to remember people from her era but there was a lot that we could share. Her badge had renewed and stimulated so many memories and she happily wore it from that day onwards for the precious little time she had left.

Cherry Williams



Wood Anemones often overlooked for their more colourful companions

ANIMAL ANTICS at WATERLOO

The big tummies at the foot of Sunnybank are starting to pop!... with adorable results. First Annie presented us with Eric's jet black son Derek and his twin sister Daphne. She has picked up a tan tinge to her black coat from their dad.



Then two days later Bunty decided a little den the grandchildren have constructed in the dingle would make an ideal maternity ward. We managed to persuade her that our shed would be preferable as it would be her first time. In no time at all she easily popped out too little white kids with a pinky tinge from Eric.



Daisy and Debbie. Next week we look forward to meeting Amy's and Babs' contributions to the little flock. More Ds to follow! Time to start making cheese again and maybe having a go at making goat's milk soap later while we watch them frolicking on the bank

Penny & Ifor Williams

BEING A WOMAN

It's hard being a woman:

- You must think like a man,
- Act like a lady,
- Look like a young girl,
- And work like a horse.



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Local Interest Group

Those of us who appreciated Cherry Williams' presentation about Llandeilo Graban school will have particularly enjoyed viewing the old photographs, especially if they portrayed family members or other people you know or used to know. It is so important to keep these memories and also to share them with others. I am sure that many of you will have a few images at home or lurking in a box somewhere of which you are particularly fond and which others would find very interesting. Unfortunately, some of those photographs may now be showing their age or be bearing one or two many wrinkles or stains.

Photographic software has now improved to a point where it can do almost anything we want, so if you have an old picture that you might want to see tidied up a little please ask me to have a look and see what might be possible. I can't promise anything, but I'll have a go. Photography is my hobby, so there will be no charge for this unless you decide to have the image reprinted, in which case I might need to cover some costs. If the image is suitable maybe we shall be able to use it at a future LIG meeting or on the Painscastle web site <http://www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk>, for which I am always happy to receive old and new images showing local life or views, of course.

Please note that your original, old image will not be altered in any way, as I will be working on a scan or other digital copy. You will get your creased / chewed / torn / stained old photo back in its original condition, but hopefully you will also get a clean, clear version that you can email to friends or even put in a frame on the wall.

I can be contacted on dmozols@freenetname.co.uk or on 01497 851617.

Riddles Quiz (Answers on page 10)

1. What can you catch, but not throw?
2. What needs to be broken before you can use it?
3. When I'm young I'm tall when I'm old I'm short. What am I?
4. I'm so fragile that saying my name breaks me. What am I?
5. What can run but never walk, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?
6. Always hungry and need to be fed, but whatever I touch turns to red. What am I?
7. What has lakes but no water, mountains but no stone, cities but no buildings?
8. If you have me you want to share me; if you share me you no longer have me. What am I?
9. Light as a feather but no one can hold me for long. What am I?
10. I can be cracked, made, told, or played. What am I?



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PAINSCASTLE RECYCLING & RUBBISH COLLECTION

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

May 17th June 7th June 28th July 19th

Garden waste is collected every fortnight on Mondays from March to November for an annual fee, next collections:

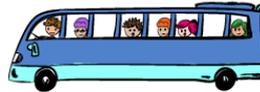
May 17th May 31st June 14th June 28th

OFFA'S DYKE 15 CROSS COUNTRY RACE

The Offa's Dyke 15 Cross Country Race, from Hay to Kington, along the route of the Offa's Dyke Long Distance Footpath, will take place on Saturday 12 June. Organised by Tempo Events, and supported by marshals from many local organisations and networks all along the route, the race will start at 10am in Hay and the first runners should be at the finish in the Lady Hawkins' School Field in Kington soon after 11.30am. There will be opportunities to cheer on the runners as they make their way through Newchurch and Gladestry, and if you fancy taking part in the race, you can enter online at <https://www.tempoevents.co.uk/>

A big thank you to all the landowners who give permission for the runners to cross their land, and to all the marshals, without whom the race wouldn't be possible.

For more information please contact Allison Joyce on 01497 851 294.



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RYAN NICHOLLS AGRI

Hello!

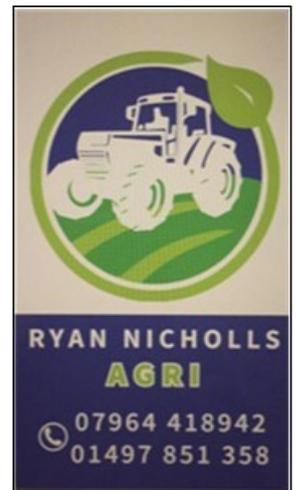
My name is Ryan Nicholls. I have recently gone self employed in agricultural engineering, working from home at Upper Pentre.

I have worked for Teme Valley Tractors for the past 10 years but recently decided to branch out on my own

Although I have worked on New Hollands predominately I have experience of many other tractors and machinery too!

I got my love of tractors and machinery from my dad Steve who I spent many years supervising!!

If you require any assistance please give me a call!



**RYAN NICHOLLS
AGRI**

☎ 07964 418942
01497 851 358

QUIZ TIME

Who Died Here? Answers on page 11

	When?	Where?
1.	22 nd November 1963	Dallas, Texas
2.	21 st October 1805	Cape Trafalgar
3.	23 rd April 1616	Stratford upon Avon
4.	30 th January 1948	New Delhi
5.	14 th October 1066	Hastings
6.	22 nd August 1485	Bosworth Field
7.	30 th April 1945	Berlin
8.	31 st August 1997	Paris
9.	8 th December 1980	New York City
10.	28 th June 1914	Sarajevo

CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND TV QUIZ

1. In which children's book will you find the characters Mole, Ratty and Mr Toad?
2. Paddington Bear, Winnie-the-Pooh, Rupert Bear - which is the oldest?
3. In James and the Giant Peach, what provided the power for the peach when it floated through the air?
4. In which book do the Waterbury family appear?
5. Where is Paddington Bear from?
6. In what series of books will you find Thingummy and Bob?
7. In the Mr Men story, what is the secret of Mr Strong's strength?
8. What was the name of the puppet that appeared on TV with Annette Mills?
9. What is the name of Postman Pat's cat?
10. Which cartoon character was continually trying to outsmart Officer Dibble?

Answers on page 11

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WEEKLY QUIZ

Erwood Together produces a weekly quiz that is emailed out each Wednesday around 2pm, to anyone who'd like to receive it. It's free and just for fun! You can send an entry in or just do your own marking when the answers are sent out on Thursday mornings (there are no prizes either way!).

Anyone interested please email Pam Banks pamela.banks1@btinternet.com to be added to the mailing list.

This quiz has been running for the last year so well done to them for sustainability and longevity!

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CONGRATULATIONS

Belated congratulations to Matthew and Zoe Croose on the birth of their daughter Harper Miriam Croose born 7th January 2021. This a first grandchild for Gareth and the late Wendy Croose, from Baynham Hall, Newchurch. Wendy of course was cook in Rhosgoch School at one time.

Congratulations to Kelly Davies and Lewis Price on the birth of a baby girl Olivia Jean Price on 23rd February 2021. A first grandchild for Ian and Angela Price, Tymawr, Clyro.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Collingwood and Jonny James on the birth of a baby boy William Bramble Collinwood James on March 18th 2021. This is the first grandchild for Lucy Trench and Robert Collingwood from Lower Pengarth, Painscastle.

Best wishes to all

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If you know of anyone, in the Brecon, Radnorshire or Herefordshire area, who may want to benefit from our wide range of services, please contact Mollie Gibbons for more information.

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Email: mgrehabandcare@hotmail.com

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Rhulen Chapel

We are still looking for someone as a cleaner/caretaker for us. It's essentially about 4 hours work on average on a Friday changing beds, cleaning round and generally tidying and getting the Chapel ready for the next guests. We can make arrangements for the laundry, and are prepared to pay travelling expenses and time. It's most Fridays during the summer, and some weeks over the winter, We live in North Oxfordshire so would rather not be coming down every week to do it ourselves!

If you know of anyone please ask them to get in touch. Please note our new landline number: 01869 345378

Martyn Simmonds

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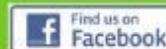
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HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH
SERVICES TO START SOON: SUNDAY AT 2.30pm

MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN
Resuming services from May 9th
Sun May 9th 2.30pm Rev Andrew Wyton
Sun May 23rd 2.30pm Ruth Hargest
Sun Jun 27th 2.30pm Penny Robinson

EBENEZER CHAPEL, NEWCHURCH
Sunday May 9th 3 pm Rev Brian Reardon
Sunday June 13th 3 pm United with Hermon
Sunday July 4th 6.30pm Keeping the Anniversary
Date - Special Programme

ERWOOD & PAINSCASTLE CHURCHES
Dear Friends,
The Spring season has been a beautiful time as we have felt the sunshine once more. A tangible light has begun to pierce the prevailing darkness of disease that we have been living with for so long. We feel the effectiveness of vaccinations and venture to meet up with the people that we love and have missed. The days have lengthened and Lambing also affirms that God's cycle of nature never ceases.
Through the last year, many people have had the very gift of the breath of life wrenched away from them. So many have been unable to breathe through the choking of grief. Most of us in some awful apprehensive way have held our breaths as we have heard the relentless news of disease, iced by restrictions upon our sense of life. Oh, how many have been made tragically aware of the value of breath; the breath that is life itself.

May I venture that we are perhaps beginning to breathe deeply again; a breath that now fills the soul and energises the Spirit within us. The breath of God is the very wind that swept over the waters to bring the created world out of the formless void and God's divine wind, his breath and his Spirit are all one. Please allow yourselves to believe that as we breathe we are breathing in the light and power that is the healing Spirit of God.

The Festival of **Pentecost** on the 23rd of May this year, celebrates the coming of God's Spirit into our lives and hearts so we may carry Christ and his divinity through our humanity into the world. The celebration of the **Most Holy Trinity** on the 30th May reminds us of this truth that God, Christ and the Spirit are one as they work through us. The **Ascension of Our Lord** to be with his Father on the 16th May makes it possible for the Spirit to be sent to us.

Breathing the breath of God's Spirit into the World enables us to enjoy the lifting of the darkness and also to allow compassion to flow through us for all the suffering that has been experienced and is still present for so many families and nations. The breath of the Spirit is the breath of love! A love that is freely given and flows through us without limit. Please use this inexhaustible gift of love which makes Christ manifest in the World; breathe out the Spirit into your work, your play, your loves and your responsibilities and let the Spirit flow prayerfully to where it is needed.

In the evening of the day of his resurrection in the locked room, before his Ascension and before Pentecost, Jesus allows his disciples literally to feel the power of his divine breath:
Jesus came among them and said,
"Peace be with you."
They were overjoyed at seeing their Lord, and he said to them again,
"As the Father has sent me so I am sending you."
After saying this he breathed on them and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."
(John: 19a - 23.)
Such is the power of the breath of God. What a gift; what a responsibility!
Breathe deeply again, again and always.
God is love, feel his breath and his life.
All Blessings.
Father Paul. XX

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EDITOR'S NOTES
I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. Thanks to so many people who have sent contributions in during this difficult time. Gradually, as restrictions ease, I think there will be more opportunity for news and articles, which are always welcome. Please consider sending in an article, there must be many interesting stories, maybe from before you came to the area. Remember everyone has at least one book in them, so perhaps you should start with a piece in the 'Gossip'. I would like to thank our delivery team for their outstanding efforts. Please continue to send articles, news, etc, all comments are gratefully received. Deadline for next issue [July/August 2021] - 30th June 2021. [mlloydlundy@outlook.com or 01497-851609].
Articles are the opinion of the respective writers. All errors and omissions excepted (E&OE).

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SERVICES IN ERWOOD AND PAINSCASTLE

Sun 9th May	Easter 6	
10:30am	Llandeilo Graban	Eucharist
Sun 16th May	The Ascension of the Lord	
10:30am	Bryngwyn	Eucharist
Sun 23rd May	Pentecost	
10:30am	Gwenddwr	Eucharist
Sun 30th May	Most Holy Trinity	
10:30am	Crickadarn	Eucharist
Sun 6th June	1st after Trinity	
10:30am	Aberedw	Eucharist
Sun 13th June	2nd after Trinity	
10:30am	Llandeilo Graban	Eucharist
Sun 20th June	3rd after Trinity	
10:30am	Bryngwyn	Eucharist
Sun 27th June	4th after Trinity	
10:30am	Gwenddwr	Eucharist
Sun 4th July	5th after Trinity	
10:30am	Aberedw	Eucharist
Sun 11th July	6th after Trinity	
10:30am	Llandeilo Graban	Eucharist
Sun 18th July	7th after Trinity	
10:30am	Bryngwyn	Eucharist
Sun 25th July	8th after Trinity	
10:30am	Gwenddwr	Eucharist

We are still taking a cautious approach to opening our churches. Remember - there is no pressure to attend - please go on your instincts and if you have any reservations – simply stay home and feel safe!

We may have more churches in use than is acceptable for some - but it is lovely for us to meet and invoke Christ's healing presence among us.

We are continuing with one weekly service:

The first Sunday of the month will be in Aberedw.

The second week will be situated in the middle of the churches - Llandeilo Graban.

The third week in Bryngwyn for the Painscastle area.

The fourth week in Gwenddwr for the Erwood area.

Llanbedr and Crickadarn will alternate for when there is a fifth Sunday or any extra services.

Thanks to all who keep the churches readily maintained with respect to the regulations. It is quite a responsibility and people, though willing, cannot always be available for the necessary cleaning and monitoring.

We are remaining circumspect and are reviewing things regularly.

Peace be with you and God bless you!

Hope to see you soon.

Paul and Carolyn xx

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LOCAL INTEREST GROUP

Wed May 12th 10.00am Walk from Glascwm following the ancient boundary of Lower Elfael and visiting the Six Stones Stone Circle. Booking essential.

Thurs May 27th 7.30pm Visit to Gladestry

For more information please ring Mo: 01497-851609 or email mlloydlundy@outlook.com

MEMORIES OF ST JOHN'S SCHOOL, HAY-ON-WYE

I began attending St John's School, Hay-on-Wye when aged 8, on September 1st 1950. It was a small private school of about 20 pupils aged from 5 to 15, held in St John's Rooms, adjoining the St John's Chapel. I moved there from Peterchurch School with a few other local youngsters, Colin Morris, Diana Williams and Ralph Walter. St John's Rooms are in Lion Street opposite a pub named The Wheatsheaf, which is now the Tapas Bar, known as Tomasinos, run by Peterchurch girls, Thalia Rouse and Tricia Jones. St John's Rooms were attached to a small Chapel belonging to St Mary's Church, which we didn't use, and have more recently been the home of a restaurant named Chapters.

We had 2 teachers; Miss Lewis, from Talgarth, was the head & taught the upper class downstairs. Mrs Evans, who lived in Bear Street, taught the lower class upstairs, classes being decided by ability not age. Several of the children were from local farming & business families & some still live in or around Hay. Miss Lewis came down from Talgarth on the service bus, as did several of us who came up from the Golden Valley. This meant that school days were short as I remember we didn't arrive in Hay until around 9.15am & left to catch the 2.45 bus but we didn't have break times except for lunch. Tasty lunches for us country children were taken at Mrs Stephans' Café in the black & white building, now housing Hay Booksellers. Our parents paid her each term when they came up to pay Miss Lewis the school fees. On weekdays we sat downstairs but on Thursdays, upstairs, as the lower area would be full of folk who were in Hay for market day. Among our number were Graham & Diane Lloyd from Archenfield whose mother had been my mother's school friend at Brookfield School in Brook St., & the 2 small girls, Jocelyn & Gillian Eckley from Llydadyway. Afterwards, usually joined by the Hay pupils including Norman Keylock & John Grant, who had been home for their lunch, we were free to play around the highways & byways, hide & seek being a favourite game, until it was time to go back into school. Someone must have had a watch but I can't remember time being so important then!

Sadly after a year, Miss Lewis became ill & died during the summer holidays. Mrs Evans must have contacted parents as I remember my mother going to her house in Bear Street to enquire as to what would be happening. The school closed & I transferred to Manor House School in Hereford. I don't know how many years St John's School had been running but I remember it as a very happy place. Miss Lewis was an excellent teacher, a tall, slim lady with lovely white hair coiled into a bun at the nape of her neck. Mrs Evans was grey haired, short & plump & very motherly, in fact a slightly older edition of my own mother. Recently I met someone [I just can't remember who it was,] who had had an aunt, a teacher, named Mrs Evans, who lived in Bear Street. I think she may have been the same lady.

Sadly I never had a single photograph of it or we pupils but have never forgotten it. I remember that year at St John's as the happiest of my whole school life. Maybe because I was considered quite bright [then] I was in the senior class, which may have made me feel a bit important or maybe because it was before the stresses of 11+ then GCE came upon me.

Eva Morgan



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POWYS PRATTLES

by County Councillor James Gibson-Watt
Blackthorn Winter

Apparently there was a frost somewhere in the UK on every night of April just gone, of which we had quite a few locally! A veritable 'Blackthorn Winter' – for those not familiar with the phrase it's a cold, dry snap which arrives while the Blackthorn is in flower. Sometimes these cold spells are sunny, sometimes under a bitterly cold cloud cover. Mercifully we have had the sunny variety. I cannot recall one that has lasted this long before, baking the ground, stalling grass growth and reducing the brooks and rivers to levels as low as during a summer drought. As I write the BBC is saying that heavy rain is forecast for Bank Holiday Monday (naturally) to break the drought, but it will still be cold!

Such Springs can be frustrating and this one has slightly 'taken the edge' off the pleasure of the gradual easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, made possible by the success of a combination of the vaccine roll-out and the long three-month lockdown we have endured. Wales still leads the way in both vaccines given and the lowest levels of infection per 100,000 people of all the UK nations, yet the Welsh Government has received little credit in the UK media, which has preferred instead to credit the UK Government for its handling of the pandemic. This despite the fact that the UK has suffered the highest death rate pro rata from Covid-19 of all advanced nations, with the second wave being particularly deadly. There is an inbuilt bias in the UK media against reporting what happens here in Wales, although the pandemic has at least raised public awareness of devolution as the devolved governments in Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast have been seen to be running their national control strategies. Wales's First Minister received much flak, but in my view showed a sure and steady hand throughout. Thank goodness easier times are ahead of us.

Honours-for-Votes

Purely by co-incidence you may have noticed that the 'sleaze' shenanigans that have been playing out in Westminster have been slightly replicated by goings-on in Powys County Council. I refer of course to the 'Honours-for-Votes' issue that recently surfaced in the local media, in which a councillor reported that he had been assured by a Council Cabinet member that he would be recommended to receive an Honour in return for securing his support for the Cabinet's Council Tax and Budget proposals in what promised to be a 'tight' vote. The councillor roundly rejected the idea and voted against the Budget anyway. All this was not quite in the Downing Street John Lewis-gate furnishings league but was still quite a shock to hear about. Maybe I am being naïve and the offering of such inducements are commonplace in local government, but I would certainly like to think not. Certainly in my 18 years as a county councillor I have seen nothing like it before!

Post Office Bus

A Post Office Bus is coming to Clyro from Whitney on Wye on a Tuesday at 13.45 until 14.45, parking by the Baskerville.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, David Nicholls, Castlefield Close
Vice-chairman, Sian Powell, Lletycoed
Jenny Smith, Penrhiw
Becky Miles, The Cwm
Iris Lloyd, Caemawr
Andrew Ritchie, Castle Brook
Bruce Evans, Lower Pentre
Clerk: Marion Hughes, Waun y Pentre 01497 851628
Minutes are on the Painscastle-Rhosgoch website:
www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

As I write we are in the final days of campaigning for a new representative for Brecon and Radnorshire and I look forward to welcoming the new Member of the Senedd following the election on May 6th. Throughout the pandemic, businesses and individuals have expressed their frustrations with the inconsistencies between Wales and England. Fingers crossed, by the time you read this, Brecon and Radnorshire will have a united team, working to strengthen the whole of our area.

The plans to close the roads in Hay-on-Wye have caused considerable disquiet and I've tried to make sure all concerns are heard. Our businesses here are small, family run, independent enterprises – they keep our area thriving and we need to make sure we give the best possible chance to recover from the Coronavirus pandemic. I'm really grateful that Hay Town Council is actively looking at compromises and above all, they have confirmed that these are temporary measures. Hopefully, a useful compromise can be found soon.

One recently announced positive for Hay is the Cash pilot Scheme. 3 major banks have agreed to take it in turns to provide a banking service in the parish Hall. I thank everyone involved in the Access to Cash project which is so important for rural areas like ours.

The tourism and hospitality industry has been one of the sectors worst hit by the pandemic. Alarming around half of Welsh Association Visitor Attractions members told a survey they feared they would not survive the next six months. As Brecon and Radnorshire re-opens we must encourage the responsible enjoyment of our area. The last thing anyone wants to see are cars parked in irresponsible places, litter left in our beauty spots or sheep worried by dogs not on leads. Like so many people, I've become a new dog owner in lockdown and it's really important that we find ways to socialize our dogs and ensure they are responsible around livestock. I'm glad that the Countryside Code has just been updated as it's important that people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits that nature offers, while giving it the respect it deserves.

Following BBC Panorama's evidence that water companies have been illegally dumping untreated sewage into our rivers, it is all the more unfair that the Welsh Labour/ Liberal Government has introduced a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone across the whole of Wales. Rather than press ahead with these plans, I have asked the Environment Minister to scrap them while the allegations made against the water companies are fully investigated. We all know that poor water quality in our rivers is due to a number of factors and so the responsibility should be shared equally. Above all, we need action not dithering and finger pointing.

My inbox is always open, please do get in touch if I can help.

Fay.Jones.MP@parliament.uk

Answers to riddles on page 4

1. A cold
2. An egg
3. A candle
4. Silence
5. A river
6. Fire
7. A map (or Atlas)
8. A secret
9. Breath
10. A joke

LIFE AT LUNDY

I am really getting quite excited as I think I am now part of the Gossip workforce, so I hope that means I have some perks, I understand they often have work dos, although that seems to be mostly at Christmas. Then there are salaries, pensions and holidays. I am wondering whether being a 'Gossip columnist' would be a better option than a Lundy dog?



At Lundy I am an apprentice sheepdog, I am allowed yard work, but nothing too challenging. I do have a good voice, although the humans seem to spend more time telling me to keep quiet than they do appreciating my dulcet tones! They don't understand that I shout at the sheep in order to tell them what to do. Sheep are notorious for not understanding what is required of them so I think a bit of music helps to get my message across and livens things up as well.

Sheep are fairly difficult at any time of year but at lambing time they are very challenging. Joe says you have to treat 'em rough! That means sometimes we have a bit of fun if one or two of the ewes want to defend their lambs. It is alright if we are all there as we three dogs can then pitch in, and the ewe doesn't know which dog to concentrate on, so she usually admits defeat and follows the rest of the flock. We tend to follow Joe as he is the oldest so therefore he should be the wisest, however that is not always the case. Joe is very possessive of the quad and guards it at all times, either when it is on the yard or if it goes out to the fields. I am not sure what he is afraid may happen to it if he lets it out of his sight. Gyp, my mother, likes to have a ride on the quad and she will get up on the seat in front of Mo and help with the steering. I am not usually allowed to have a ride as I am the yard dog so I have to stay to look after things there and also Mo says in any case I am too big.

I would rather be allowed to go on adventures, out in the fields, but at the moment I just have to listen to the stories Gyp and Joe tell me when they return. The other day they told me they went to round up 4 itinerant sheep from a field they had moved themselves into. They took Mo and the quad and usually they have a pretty good system, Joe likes going around the outside of the field while Gyp waits for the sheep to come a bit nearer to save her legs. Somehow they got a bit mixed up and the sheep ran around in circles and then went back completely the wrong way. So off the three of them went to try and get the sheep to the gate, but one of them decided she preferred to get through the fence and into a different field. So now there were only 3 sheep! They eventually got them back to the gate and down the road. Mo told Ken that a farm should either have good dogs or good fences and they weren't sure that Lundy had either!

We now have more hens, the old ones passed on, which was a pity as I used to have great fun rounding them up. These new ones have a house and a fenced in area which I can't get into - I have tried! So they do not provide the sport that the old ones did. They have escaped once or twice but someone soon seems to round them up again before I have a chance to play with them. Perhaps one day they will get out and I can show off my hen herding skills again.

Another of my favourite occupations is to chase vehicles, I don't bother with the quiet ones but the really rattly ones. Those with trailers make a lot of noise and so are worth my attention. The post van is good as that seems to make lots

of rattly noise. Of course Mo does not approve and shouts at me. She says it is because she doesn't want me to get run over, but I think it is because she is jealous that she can't run as fast as me! So she has put me on a training programme. I must not run after vehicles, even if they invite me to do so. As punishment for disobeying I am put to bed and told to think about my actions. She says I am improving - if I remember and I see her before the dreaded vehicle starts, I can sometimes resist the urge. Gyp is now nearly cured of the problem, she doesn't often chase, but I think that is probably because she is just too lazy. See you next time. Sweep

A Little Frivolity!

GIVE THE FROG A LOAN

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her nameplate that her name is Patty Whack.

"Miss Whack, I'd like to get a £30,000 loan to take a holiday."

Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it's okay, he knows the bank manager.

Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral.

The frog says, "Sure. I have this," and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed.

Very confused, Patty explains that she'll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office.

She finds the manager and says, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow £30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral." She holds up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean, what in the world is this?"

The bank manager looks back at her and says, "It's a knick knack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

Never take life too seriously!

WHO DIED HERE?

Answers

1. John F Kennedy
2. Admiral Lord Nelson
3. William Shakespeare
4. Mahatma Gandhi
5. King Harold
6. Richard III
7. Adolf Hitler
8. Princess Diana
9. John Lennon
10. Archduke Franz Ferdinand

CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND TV QUIZ

Answers

1. The Wind in the Willows
2. Rupert Bear is the oldest as he was created in 1920. Winnie-the-Pooh was first published in 1926 and Paddington Bear was created in 1956
3. Seagulls
4. The Railway Children
5. (Deepest Darkest) Peru
6. The Moomins
7. Eggs
8. Muffin the Mule
9. Jess
10. Top Cat

BRANCHING OUT WITH '9TREES'

A Prime subscription that cuts climate change!

A subscription that cuts climate change and grows your own woodland

9Trees has started an ambitious task to plant nine trees for every UK person each year. Planting 9 trees each year will balance the average UK carbon consumption. This progressive approach is not going to be easy. Without support to plant 'Nine Trees Each Year', our mutual journey to carbon neutrality by 2050 will be arduous. Springing into action, 9Trees has created a pioneering subscription service allowing people to grow their own forest. As a result, three thousand broadleaf trees on the border of England and Wales are currently being planted on two hectares of land (two rugby pitches) in Radnorshire. Eight species of broadleaf tree will reforest the land. With eight more sites confirmed in Wales and England, 9Trees will plant a further 10,000 trees by December 2021.

Although planting trees is no substitute for stopping the burning of fossil fuels, it can help mitigate against climate change. Climate change is one of the biggest threats to our ecosystems. Planting nine trees per person per year, will suck carbon from the air and provide much-needed habitat for our local wildlife. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) suggests that around 30,000 hectares of broadleaf and conifer woodland need to be planted each year for 30 years to hit net zero emissions.

Michael Cunningham, 9Trees Co-Founder and Director explains, "The trees we plant now will be your legacy for the future. In 25 Years, they will be sequestering roughly 40lbs of carbon per annum. In 50 - 100 years' time, each tree should have captured one tonne of carbon. To reduce our carbon footprint, we need to draw down the carbon that we continue to create through our daily lives."

9Trees are pushing the boundaries of common tree planting at Powys with these three processes:

1. The woodland is planted using annual subscriptions, a process 9Trees hopes will spark a national 'Nine Trees Each Year' promise.
2. Each tree is geolocated so that subscribers can take a mindful walk in their very own woodlands throughout the UK.
3. The Woodland will be as natural as possible. No chemicals will be used in the making of this woodland. To protect the trees during early growth, chestnut fencing has been erected, eco matting has been handmade and cardboard collected from local businesses will be recycled to act as a grass suppressant.

The trees in Powys will grow into a network of habitats and over the next 50 years will be inhabited by a wild assortment of creatures living, nesting, and resting amongst native trees. These trees will support a range of wildlife during their lifetime. The saplings and young trees will make great song- posts for Tree Pipit and, as the trees mature, we hope the wood will fill with the sweet songs of Pied Flycatcher and Wood Warbler, species so evocative of the Welsh oak valleys. One day, pine martens may call this woodland home and red kites will drift lazily overhead. Each one of the three-thousand trees has been specifically chosen for the location, putting the right tree in the right place to complement and maximise the biodiversity value. The species include Oak, Silver Birch, Hawthorn, Rowan, Downy Birch, Elder, and Blackthorn.

Ash Kent, 9Trees Co-Founder and Director, explains, "It's not just about planting trees to sequester carbon; we need to be creating woodlands that support the local wildlife and connect up existing habitats without destroying valuable species-rich grasslands or peat bogs."

9Trees hopes that their efforts will encourage our nation to make a promise and plant nine trees per person per year. A national movement will be a big step towards carbon neutrality and create woodlands for creatures and folk to enjoy for generations to come.

Looking for Landowners

Landowners who are interested in working with 9Trees can follow this link to the website for more information. Alternatively, get in touch at info@9trees.org

Can you help spread the word?

You can help others to find 9Trees by following us on social media. Sharing our posts will have a massive impact. Help grow this grassroots organisation. Tag your friends on our Instagram or forward this Newsletter!

Daggins and Wood Chip

There's something growing on the semi-improved hills of Radnorshire!

Nestled between the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and a sheep farm, 3000 Trees have been planted for subscribers and now the hunt is on for Daggins/ Tailings & Woodchip.

These will act as a weed suppressant to enable the trees to establish.

Now the non-profit 9Trees, a locally conceived Community Interest Company, would love to hear from you if you are local and have daggins or woodchip, which can be delivered to a site near Painscastle; please get in touch. www.9trees.org/07791687573/ info@9trees.org

We have already covered two-thirds of the site with cardboard eco mats and made a start with woodchip. We want to test how good sheep's wool is and the extra nutrients in daggins could be a real bonus.

As this needs careful coordination, please contact us directly.

We have volunteers ready for this next phase. If you would like to get involved in the organisation in any capacity do drop us an email.

Creating broadleaf woodlands, for wildlife, wellbeing & rural jobs.

Watch our Youtube video 'Introducing 9Trees CIC'
Let's make a difference together!

PAINSCASTLE BUS SHELTER

Please remember to take any old postage stamps or old bras to the bus shelter to help raise funds for The Bracken Trust in Llandrindod Wells.

Old printer cartridges are also required for re-cycling, to raise money for the Centre of Alternative Technology.

It must be a virgin cartridge ie an original cartridge eg HP, Lexmark; a cartridge that has not been refilled previously and a cartridge that does not carry any other branding than the original (Cartridge World, Tesco, Asda not allowed).

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A BORDER LANE

From out of Wales
 The long lane winds along the Cefn's back,
 And round each bend
 Are far flung views of blue hued distant shires.
 The lane winds on
 From Brilley Mountain down to lower land
 Above the silver ribbon of the Wye
 To England's end.
 In Summertime
 Below the blackthorned hedge and apple 'blow'
 Are bluebell banks and primrose paths
 Where blackbirds sing,
 And when wild winter winds blow blinding snow
 To fill the banks beneath the rimey hedge,
 The lane lies dead.
 Along this upland cefn meol
 Lived early Neolithic man
 Who left his flints and burial mounds:
 And Celtic Cymry came with herds
 And harp and song to settle down:
 The Romans marched along the lane
 To leave behind their roads and law:
 Next Saxon Sais came plundering,
 And Offa built his Dyke to keep
 The Cymry out (or Saxons in!):
 When Normans brought their Marcher Lords
 The lane became a thoroughfare
 On which rode knights and fighting squires
 Til Cromwell drew his Border map
 To create Welsh and English Shires:
 And peace descended on the lane.
 And now along the lane are left four farms,
 Penlan, Penllan, Apostles and The Cross.
 We farmed Penlan, and reared our young
 And calves and lambs and crops:
 We used and loved this quiet lane
 On which still pass the ghosts of Border history.

S M Joyce 1994 ©

NB: In the Celtic languages, the words designating English nationality derive from the Latin word *Saxones*. The most prominent example, a loanword in English from Scottish Gaelic (older spelling: *Sasunnach*), is the word *Sassenach*. *Sasanach*, the Irish word for an Englishman with *Sasana* meaning England), has the same derivation, as do the words used in Welsh to describe the English people (*Saeson*, singular *Sais*) and the language and things English in general: *Saesneg* and *Seisnig*.



Little Penlan mentioned in the poem, one of the places on the 'Border Lane'.

Thanks to Allison Joyce for this piece



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May – June

A feast, not just for the eyes, but for the ears: birds in full voice, the chorus of foraging insects: bass Hornets, baritone Bumble Bees, tenor Honey Bees, alto Hoverflies, soprano Flies. And with the grass in full swing, 97 dB of lawnmower engine...



Now's the time for Bearded Iris to strut their wonderfully flamboyant stuff. There's hardly any other flower which has such a wide range of colours and textures. Spots, stripes, bicolours, tricolours, selfs; modern breeding has given us a bewildering variety from which to choose. The trouble is, many of the large flowered ones have a tendency to be top heavy, and will topple in the June monsoon rains unless staked. For instance, Night Owl, a wonderful deepest velvety purple, has massive blooms and is beautifully scented, but each flower stem often needs strapping up. Some of the older, smaller varieties are fully self supporting but harder to obtain, unless you can beg them from a neighbour. The best time for propagation is immediately after flowering, when they will be starting to produce their new roots. Plant so that the rhizome is not covered, and cut back the leaves to about 30cm. It is always recommended to have the rhizome facing south, but this doesn't seem particularly necessary. To be honest, I don't think the climate out here is ideal for them, but if you manage to find a site - full sun, not too rich soil - in which they're happy, they are superbly rewarding.

Sow winter brassicas, sweet corn, carrots, beetroot, courgette, beans, peas.... And it's not too late for leeks. Grow them in a seedbed and then plant out to follow the early taters. Finally a word on that most indispensable of garden tools, the wheelbarrow. And with it, as most gardeners know well, comes the frustration of punctures. The new solid puncture proof tyres, are a life-changing investment. Go on. Spoil yourself. May the Meadow Pipits be with you.

John the Gardener

New for Summer 2021

Afternoon tea



At Offa's Dyke Lodge, Gladestry

Open Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm - 5pm

From Saturday May 22nd

Booking essential

***Baking provided by Gaynor's Catering**

please contact Viv for further details

01544 370464 or 07504224245

vivienne.taylor@gmail.com

TEA GARDEN

We would like to welcome you to our new "Tea Garden" at Offa's Dyke Lodge, Gladestry where we are offering Traditional Afternoon Tea. We are open from 2pm - 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Offa's Dyke Lodge, Gladestry is situated in the middle of the village with beautiful views all around, notably of Yew Tree Bank at the end of Hergest Ridge. We offer a tranquil place where you can sit inside in the dining room or outside in the garden. It is very peaceful and natural, a place where you can sit and listen to the birds singing or watch Red Kites flying around.

When the weather permits we welcome you to our "Tea Garden" where you can relax and enjoy a traditional Afternoon Tea either on the patio, around the pool or on a picnic blanket on the grass, the choice is yours.

The Afternoon Tea menu consists of a selection of dainty sandwiches, sausages rolls, quiche & savoury biscuits with a variety of cakes, scones with jam & clotted cream. All served with a pot of tea or coffee.

All the baking is freshly made and home baked by Gaynor's Catering.

We serve a variety of teas, coffee and soft drinks, and you can bring your own prosecco by prior arrangement.



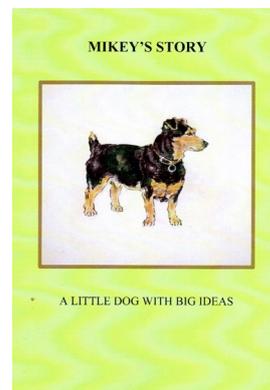
Our Food Hygiene Rating is 5.

We are very aware of and compliant with Covid 19 safety regulations and social distancing. Because of this it is essential that you book your table in advance.

Our special introductory price for Afternoon Tea is £13.50 per person.

For more details or to book a table please contact Viv on 01544 370464 or 07504224245
email: vivienne.taylor@gmail.com

MIKEY'S STORY



This is a collection of a Terrier's diary entries, recording some of the adventures of his colourful life. It is a light-hearted read, suitable for children or adults. Price £8 or £10 if posted and any profits will go to Painscastle Village Hall.

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WISE WORDS

If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way.

A moment of patience, in a moment of anger,
saves you a hundred moments of regret.

Be the person your dog thinks you are.

HERMON CHAPEL NEWS

Chapel report

Hermon Congregational Chapel at Rhosgoch has built a reputation over the years of always holding a service every Sunday at 2.30pm where all were welcome. But this year, like everyone else, we have seen great changes in our way of life which has affected our Chapels and Churches in a way we would not have thought possible before COVID-19.

We were in lockdown from March 2020 and then allowed back on 16th of July 2020 (which meant we missed the Easter services), but later on were able to hold the Harvest service, Carol service and Christmas Day service, all with no singing or organ accompaniment, and obviously properly spaced and masked. Easter service 2021 went ahead with the same restrictions. We held no United Services at all but did manage to welcome a few visiting preachers.

As things start to ease, we look forward to singing again and to joining in with the traditional United Services with Painscastle Adullam, Newchurch and Moriah Chapels. During the lockdowns, we have had no fellowship meal, but we did manage to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support, though without the usual coffee morning.

We remember with sadness the death of John Meredith, our beloved organist, who bought so much to our services with his enthusiastic playing. Sadly, we were not permitted a funeral service for him but many of us in the community paid our respects outside the Chapel when his coffin passed by.

There has been no Sunday school but we are looking forward to its starting again. We missed the children singing and taking part in the Anniversary and Carol services.

We have been advised that it may not be long before we can welcome children to the Chapel once again. It seems a decision will be made around the whole matter of worship very shortly, probably after the election. We also expect to revert to our old ways of welcoming all through our doors – followed by tea and cakes.

We have continued our practice of praying for those who have struggled with their health this year and pray for a better and healthier year to come for them. Geoff and all members and friends who have taken part in all the services deserve credit, particularly Geoff's meticulous preparation.

Please watch the Chapel notice board for news of a return to our full programme. In the meantime, God bless you all.

Mike Head, Deacon, Hermon Congregational Chapel



This picture was taken during happier times. Hopefully it won't be long before we can all return to our chapels and churches and join in unrestricted services. Enjoying the singing and the companionship for which they are renowned.

RHOSGOCH AND PAINSCASTLE TOTS GROUP

With all the gorgeous weather we've been having, our little people have been sowing, growing and hatching and keeping our community green. They've planted all sorts from potatoes to peppers and have enjoyed getting soil between their fingers. Litter picks have been happening to keep the environment safe for our furry friends and many have been walking, riding, scooting or cycling to pre school and school. What a super star bunch of Eco Warriors we have amongst us! There have been lots of birthdays in the past month and many milestones have been achieved. Book Day and St David's Day celebrations have been enjoyed and we are, as ever, hugely proud of how well the children of the community are dealing with the situation that we all find ourselves in.

With restrictions lifting, setting up some group outdoor activities for our toddlers is something The Committee will be discussing at the next meeting so keep an eye on the Painscastle and Rhosgoch Parent and Toddler Group Facebook page for updates.

Caz Phillips



Thanks to everyone for these wonderful pictures of the youngsters as they enjoy learning both at home and in school or nursery.

