

Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 28 Issue 2

Nov / Dec 2022

£1

Rhosgoch YFC Tractor Run

Rhosgoch YFC held their annual Tractor Run on Sunday 30th October. Despite the rain, a great day was had by everyone with 80 tractors taking part. The route started in Rhosgoch and headed out towards New-



church then over to Glaswcm, ending up at Hardwick Hall for lunch and to warm up with a bowl of soup, rolls, cake and hot drinks.

After lunch their journey continued heading back towards Hay into Clyro and back to Rhosgoch where they were welcomed back to hot drinks and cake.



An amazing £1800 were raised and will be split between the three chosen charities, The DPJ Foundation, Joeys Warrior Fund and Molly's Rehabilitation Journey. The winner of the John Meredith Award for the best turned out tractor went to Alfie Davies from Howey with a Massey with built in disabled lift and hand controls.

Thank you to everyone who donated and to everyone who came out to watch the tractors at the start

and as they came through Hay and welcomed them back at the finish in Rhosgoch. Also thank you to the stewards who helped throughout the day, the ladies who served breakfast in the morning and at Hardwick Hall for lunch.

A massive thank you to Andrew and Sally Ritchie for organising the event and allowing the use of their field. Last but not least, thank you to the ones who took part on the Tractor Run, the event couldn't have happened without you.



JOEY'S WARRIOR FUND!

This little warrior here is Joey, he is the grandson of Treena and Allan Davies. He is a courageous little 5yr old who has dealt with more in his 5yrs than most do in a lifetime.

Joey has spent his whole life in and out of hospitals. Joey was born with situs inversus with Dextra Cardia, meaning his organs are on the opposite side of where they are meant to be. Along with this, Joey also has congenital scoliosis which needs regular appointments at outpatients as some of his vertebrae aren't formed properly and some are missing. Unfortunately, this isn't the only issue ongoing for Joey. For a long time his parents have pushed for more answers regarding Joey's stomach issues and, despite many scans, tests and procedures they were either told everything was fine or had been misdiagnosed. This problem has led to Joey eventually only being able to eat very little and becoming malnourished to the point of needing a feeding tube running from his nose to his stomach to make sure Joey gets the nutrition that he needs, as investigations could find no structural cause. Thankfully, Joey's parents paid £300 for a referral to Great Ormand Street Hospital who, within half a day, discovered that Joey has a Recto-Urethral Fistula caused by a very rare anomaly called Bowel Duplication, meaning he has TWO large intestines, one of which is connected to his Urethra. This just goes to show that if you are not happy with the outcome or diagnosis you have received it is always worth a second opinion.

Joey has just undergone extensive reconstructive surgery to remove as much of the colon as possible. As you can imagine, this has been major surgery and Joey has spent a few weeks on a high dependency ward in GOSH. In turn, this means many lengthy stays in London for Joey and his parents, with a lot of trips from Brecon to London for follow up appointments and further procedures.

Despite all his conditions, Joey is a happy little guy who always has a big smile and something to say to everyone. He keeps fighting on through all his issues, never complaining. His family have tried to ensure that he has as normal a childhood as he can.

Joey's parents and family all worked tirelessly, struggling in silence to get Joey to this point where he can be helped so now it's time that maybe we can help them by providing a bit of support towards transport, accommodation, equipment and any



Joey with older brother & cousins

further treatment he may need on his path to recovery. A Go Fund Me page has been set up to collect donations needed for his ongoing care, with any leftover funding being donated to Great Ormand Street Hospital.

At this point, any donation big or small makes a huge difference to Joey and his family. A massive THANK YOU to all those who have already donated. It has been amazing to see all the support given in times when people really need it. The fundraising link is:- <https://gofund.me/40e60228>

LOCAL INTEREST GROUP

The September meeting for our local group is a combined meeting with the Rhosgoch Gossip to review the previous year and to make plans for the coming season.

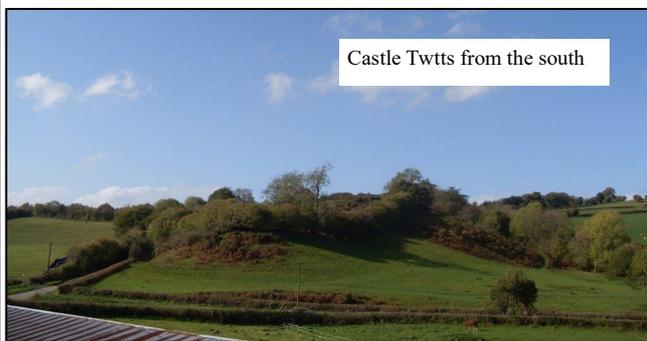
We have held hybrid meetings for the last year, welcoming our loyal supporters in Painscastle Village Hall as well as meeting others, often from further away, via Zoom. This is all thanks to John Price who continues to embrace the idiosyncrasies of technology, to weld together some interesting evenings for everyone. We will continue with hybrid meetings for the foreseeable future, as over the last few years we have found an ever widening audience of people who, for one reason or another, cannot come to Painscastle on the last Thursday evening of the month. Zoom is therefore available for anyone who may like to hold a meeting or just arrange a digital get-together, plan a group etc. If you do want to take advantage of this please get in touch with John Price or me (mlloydlundu@outlook.com).



Hergest Court from the North

October meeting Thursday October 27th 2022:-
The Residents of Hergest Court by Allan Lloyd.

We had a wonderful presentation from Allan Lloyd who told us about the history of Hergest Court, near Kington, one of the most important medieval houses in the area. Hergest Court replaced the nearby Castle Twtts.



Castle Twtts from the south

Hergest Court would have been a good defensive site, situated in the waist of the valley between Kington and the route into Wales. Hywel ap Meurig, the last controller of Castle Twtts, became the first occupier of Hergest Court. Hywel ap Meurig was an ambitious Welsh man who sided with the English and, in 1276, led an army against Llewelyn ap Gruffudd, the last native prince of Wales. The earliest building on the site was an aisled hall built in 1267, but this no longer exists. Hywel's son Philip took the name Clanvowe to sound more English and therefore more politically acceptable. He built the replacement solar in 1320, which is the oldest remaining building on the site. The Clanvowe family were very important, entertaining Richard

Swinfield the Bishop of Hereford among others. Philip's grandsons, Sir John Clanvowe and Thomas were crusading



The East wing built by Thomas Vaughan

knights and Sir John was a contemporary and friend of Geoffrey Chaucer. Hergest Court was a centre of medieval literature. However, with no direct heirs, in 1422 Hergest Court passed to the Vaughan family. Thomas Vaughan, who was custodian of Huntington castle, was a cousin.

Thomas Vaughan, or Black Vaughan on account of his black hair, married Ellen daughter of a Vaughan from Tyle Glas Talgarth. She became known as Ellen Gethin (Ellen the terrible). Thomas Vaughan was the first of 10 generations of the Vaughan family who lived at Hergest Court for more than 300 years. He died in 1469 fighting for the Yorkists. It was the Vaughans that built the east wing of Hergest Court: the ground floor was for cooking and the servants; the first floor was the chamber and also the library, which housed the Red Book of Hergest, one of only four ancient books of Wales. It consists of 362 folios or parchments of calf skin, written on both sides in columns. It was written by three different people started by the Cistercian monks of Margam Abbey and the last handwriting is that of the most famous Welsh bard, Lewis Glyn Kothi, who travelled back and forth to Hergest for decades. The Red Book of Hergest is now in the Bodlean library in Oxford.

In the 1550s the black and white part of Hergest Court was built by Charles Vaughan, the fourth generation of the Kington Vaughans, and his daughter became Lady Margaret Hawkins, founder of the school of her name in Kington. The Vaughan family of Kington ran out of heirs and so at the end of the 19th century Hergest Court fell into disrepair. It was at this time that some of the old buildings were demolished to make way for farm buildings. The Banks family bought it in 1912.



The Hawkins/Vaughan coat of arms

As usual, the evening ended with tea and biscuits. Many thanks to Allan Lloyd for a wonderful talk. He brought along copies of his latest book 'Standing on Aberyscir Hill' for sale and donations from the evening went to St Michael's Hospice. (Pictures:- Allan Lloyd)

It is hoped that we can arrange a visit to Hergest Court sometime next year.

ML

IN YOUR GARDEN

It may seem that nature gradually shuts down now. Leaves are shed, herbaceous plants die back, tender plants are blackened by frost. But underneath the leaf mould and in hedge bottoms, bulbs put out roots and shoots readying themselves for the new season. Fungal mycelium creeps through the soil, breaking down organic material and providing nutrients ready to be absorbed by roots. We can assist nature by covering bare soil with compost, animal manure, or green manure. Nitrogen can, on many soils, be leached out by winter rains. Vegetation and a healthy mycelium presence goes some way towards mitigating this. Foliage plants come into their own in winter. A fascinating climber or, more accurately, scrambler is *Fatsyhedera lizei*. This is a bigeneric hybrid between *Fatsia* and *Hedera* (ivy). It has the shrubby attributes of the *Fatsia*, and the sprawling nature of ivy. Its lovely leaves are large, glossy, and ivy shaped. At this time of the year it will attempt to flower, but these are usually cut back by frosts. It needs support and encouragement to climb up fences or trellis, and will provide year-round dense cover for dark corners or north facing walls. Now is a nice time to leaf through seed and plant catalogues. Some of the big companies seem to be asking silly prices for their wares. Do look at the websites of smaller players and specialist growers, who often are much better value. Simpson's and King's are recommended. It's interesting that quite a few seed and plant varieties have become unavailable or are in short supply. Apparently this is partly due to many suppliers in the EU refusing to send seeds to the UK owing to difficulties with Customs. Now for another rant. We are rightly urged to buy peat free compost but it seems that it's generally agreed that these can be hugely variable in quality. Some are just downright useless at doing their job of growing healthy young plants. When we hear gardening pundits saying "use a good quality peat free compost", how on earth are we to know what a "good quality compost" is at the garden centre? They come in sealed bags so we can't examine them. Do we just buy the most expensive? Or the one with the prettiest bag design? Or the fanciest name? If you have strong recommendations, do share them. Let's get back to the garden and relax. Dig a leek, pull some carrots, cut a cabbage. Look up at the winter sky and breathe. May the red kites be with you.



John the Gardener

LIFE AT LUNDY



The author - Sweep

We have had a very unsettling year this year at the Lundy, with people coming and then others going on holiday so its not always clear who is in residence and who isn't. This week Lindsey, Darren and the rest of their tribe have gone off to America. Mo says it's a long way and so their dogs, Tess and Lottie, couldn't go with them.

It seems that Lundy is regarded as a dog's home, so of course Tess and Lottie have come to stay. Luckily for them, Gyp (my mum) decided she didn't like her accommodation which consisted of a house with a veranda near the top of the lawn. So Mo has moved Gyp into 'Dog Row'. These are three purpose built dog kennels. When I say purpose built, I mean the walls consist of concrete blocks, unfortunately the builder left before the roof was completed, so it is Mo's roof, which is salvaged zinc sheets held down by weighted objects like pallets and wheels. I am in No 1 Dog Row and I have a door which was made by Matthew. Unfortunately, he seems to have forgotten how to make doors now, so Rex who lives next door, in No 2, has a pallet to serve as a door, again Mo's design, but with a little help from Ken. He built an extension to the pallet as Rex was jumping over. Gyp now lives in No 3 Dog Row and again Mo's door consists of a pallet. I do think it is lucky that we have so many spare pallets at the Lundy otherwise I don't know what she would use!

As Gyp has moved out of her house with the veranda, Tess and Lottie are living there. Tess is Gyp's daughter, therefore my sister, but Gyp finds her annoying at times, however I quite like having running races with both her and our little brother Rex. Lottie is a little, mainly white terrier and she doesn't seem to like us big dogs, although she and Tess are usually quite happy in their little abode. I think Tess and Lottie are quite glad they are staying at the Lundy as the alternative would be to stay at home at the Rhos, where there would be no-one to feed them. Mo is employed to look at the sheep and to feed the cats, although as she doesn't go every day, I think their diet could be a little sparse at times!



Our visitors, Lottie and Tess

Sweep



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Coffee Morning at Rhosgoch Mill

Friday 18th November, 10.30 – 12 noon

Donations to support Brecon Food Bank.

Brecon Food Bank serves a large area including Hay. During this year the organisation has fed 1,380 people including 150 from Hay and Glasbury; there are plans to open a centre in Hay on Fridays.

Rhosgoch Mill – LD2 3JY



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Pilates Emma

Pilates every Wednesday in Painscastle village hall at 9.30am. Also classes at Booth's Studio, Hay & Clifford Community Centre.

I will continue to offer pre-recorded classes via email or private Facebook group as well as a weekly timetabled Zoom class.

Pilates Emma :

Monday 9am Booths Studio Hay on Wye

Monday 11am Booths Studio Hay on Wye

Tuesday 9.30am Booths Studio Hay on Wye *new class - will also offer connection via Zoom

Tuesday 6pm Booths Studio Hay on Wye

Wednesday 9.30am Painscastle Hall

Wednesday 6pm Clifford Community Centre

Friday 9am Booths Studio Hay on Wye

For further details including booking

07702 241725 or emma@pilatesemma.co.uk

www.pilatesemma.co.uk www.facebook.com/pilatesemma

Macmillan/Charity Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone that supported this year.

It was much quieter than normal but we still managed to raise almost £700 on the day!

I have since received some donations and I have rounded the total up to £900.

I will be giving

£500 to Air Ambulance

£200 to Bryngwyn Riding for Disabled

£200 to Painscastle Village Hall

Since my first coffee morning at my home in 2004, then 10 years later moving to the village hall which coincided with the Red Dragon Equine Endurance Event, coming to Painscastle, we have raised a whopping **£12,493.69** for Macmillan Cancer Support.

2004 - £132.15

2005 - £141.19

2006 - £187.10

2007 - £182

2008 - £258

2009 - £312.15

2010 - £285.70

2011 - £312.72

2012 - £277

2013 - £870

2014 - £1,255

2015 - £1,820

2016 - £1,776.38

2017 - £1,855.70

2018 - £1,358.60

2019 - £1,480

2020 - Covid

2021 - Covid

2022 - £900

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me with this event, especially those that helped run stalls and donated cakes or raffle prizes, etc.

It would not have been possible without you all—I'm truly grateful!

For personal reasons, I've decided it's time for me to finish organising this annual event now, but I'm grateful to Meg Lloyd and her friend for agreeing to take it on!

Please support them as they move forward with fresh ideas and new helpers/support.

Thanks once again

Jane



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NEW YEARS EVE MASQUERADE BALL

Live music by - Call of the kraken
Themed buffet and cocktails

Saturday · December 31 · 7pm

Rhosgoch golf club

£15 PER ADULT £7.50 PER CHILD

AUTHOR, BRIDGET ASHTON COMES TO PAINSCASTLE

On the evening of September 22nd 2022 a large audience welcomed Bridget back to Painscastle. Let me tell you how this event came about and evolved.

Earlier this year, I read her recently published book "Hay Before the Bookshops or the Beeman's Family" and wrote a little piece about it for the May/June issue of Rhosgoch Gossip. By some miracle, a copy of Rhosgoch Gossip reached Northumberland where Bridget now lives and we have been in contact ever since.

At some point, Bridget said she was coming to visit Hay for a few days in September and could we meet. She suggested meeting in Painscastle and the whole thing progressed from there. More exciting for Bridget was the fact that the Village Hall had been the school where she had started her school life in the autumn of 1948 at 5 years of age.

Initially, when I booked the Village Hall, I did wonder how much interest there might be as it was all so long ago. However, I need not have worried as on the night people kept coming and coming and coming. People arrived from as far afield as Llandoverly, Sennybridge, Llandrindod Wells, Wigmore, Llangorse, as well as those more local from Boughrood, Gladestry, Glasbury, Gwenddwr, Hay on Wye, Clyro, Huntington, Rhulen and of course Painscastle and District.

Very ably supported by John Price, Bridget concentrated her illustrated talk on Chapter 4 of her book which was about her time living with her family at Top o' Lane. Entitled "A Child's Year in Painscastle 1949", John projected



lovely old black and white photographs on screen which Bridget then interspersed with excerpts from her story. There was much recognition from the audience when she talked about the problems of everyday living at that time, especially carrying water, primitive toilets, walking to school and how hard it was for women, especially mothers, looking after young children.

The evening closed with questions from the audience who had enjoyed a fascinating evening. After all the expressed messages of thanks, the hall became a buzz of chatter and activity. Many were too busy to even come and get a cup of tea! Old acquaintances were renewed, many meeting after decades. Stories were recalled, addresses and telephone numbers exchanged and old photographs shared. Audrey Bowen brought along a school photo which I had never seen, from c1952/53, and trusted me with it to scan, share and return to her. I can name everyone but perhaps you would like to have a go?



It was a real trip down memory lane for many but for those who did not grow up locally it was an interesting in-

sight into Painscastle rural life in the 1940s. What was also nice for Bridget was that in the audience were some of Bridget's past neighbours and also Jonathan Knowles and Yiolanda Cristou who have lived at Top o' Lane since 2004. As you can imagine, there was much to talk about.

After such a lovely evening it has been wonderful being able to pass on £70 in donations to the treasurer of Painscastle & District Village Hall.

Cherry Williams

Letter - A child returns to Painscastle after seventy – yes seventy – years October 2022

Dear Rhosgoch Gossip

I left Painscastle in 1950, and came back to a marvellous re-union on 22 September 2022 in the village hall, my first infant school. Seventy years after my father moved our family afar from Painscastle to Hay!

Fifty or so people from the hills and farms and villages round about came to the event – and listened to my tales. Walking the long frightening mile to school with Joyce Goodall from the little cottage at Top 'o Lane, above Middle Pentre; my mother washing and feeding three small girls; our goats and hens; going to Hay market on the bus. Others added their tales. Eileen Breese from The Wern remembered our goats. Tom Nicholls told how he helped my father, the Beeman John Ashton, carry the hives to the heather at Hondon. Malwyn Evans explained that my father made a hand-cart to pull the groceries delivered to Bailey Bedw to our home, and he remembered that my parents had paid £100 for the cottage in 1948. Others told about children who still had to walk miles to catch the school bus, and Elwyn Meredith how he passed his 11-plus and was rewarded with a copy of Kilvert's Diary, signed by Mr Gwillim the headmaster.

An extra surprise appeared with Ruth Illingsworth, who I knew as Ruth Watkins. When we were in Standard Two in Hay County Primary School, she and I were sitting together in the needlework class. She dropped her needle, and too afraid to tell the teacher, tied some cotton thread around a pin, forcing it through the cloth. I thought it was the funniest thing, and I still laugh about it.

I owe a huge debt to Cherry Williams who organised the event and gave advance notice through Rhosgoch Gossip. Also sincere thanks go to John Price who efficiently made a video recording, and to Grace Davies who took still photos.

The full story of my year in Painscastle in 1949 can be found in Chapter 4 in my book, *Hay Before the Bookshops or The Beeman's Family*. The copies I'd brought for sale on the night all disappeared. However, they are easily available in Hay bookshops, Green Ink Booksellers, Addyman's Annexe, Richard Booth's or the Castle shop. Also of course on Amazon. It should make some cosy winter reading by the fireside.

And if you get it and read Chapter 4, send me more of your memories. I'll treasure them and keep them carefully.

From your old and new friend, Bridget
bridgetgubbins@btinternet.com



CHRISTMAS BINGO at RHOSGOCH GOLF CLUB

on Friday 2nd December 2022

eyes down - 7.30pm.

In aid of St Michael's Church Bryngwyn.

COFFEE BREAK TIME KINGTON SCRIBBLERS

Lizzie's last Christmas in Kington by Nancy Wheatland

It was the night before Xmas eve and all was not well! Mistress Susan was definitely expecting again and had taken to her bed, just as she had with the other two. Young Master Joseph had had a fight with Billy Hussey from the Bakery and Miss Susan looked like she was going down with a chill. Poor Master Joseph was rushed off his feet in the Bank as it was his last week there as Manager and he had all the handing over to manage and his new Auction House in Hereford to organize. Just hope he had had time to get some Xmas presents for the children as Mistress Susan had not been able to get out due to her "condition"

Cresswell's the butchers had not delivered the Goose and I still had the pudding to stir. This was my last Xmas with the Sunderlands and their last Xmas in Kington, change for us all. I was going to Australia in January as a companion to a single lady, just for on the boat journey over, then on my own seeking work and a new adventure in a new land. I was quite nervous but also very excited. Master Joseph had shown me Australia in his Atlas. It was a huge country and so far away but I was not needed back on my Pa's farm and the family needed a proper cook and ladies maid in the new big house in Widemarsh St, Hereford. I was only a maid of all works but over the past 6yrs I had learnt a lot more and had become a very accomplished cook for all sorts of "proper" entertaining. However, for now, I just wanted to get Xmas dinner sorted and all packed up for the New Year. Little chance with the way things were looking, Ursula had dosed Miss Susan up with some medicine from the Chemist and Master Joseph was confined to the Nursery nursing a bruised leg and arm so at least they were quiet. I decided to take things in hand and walked down the High St to the butchers to collect the Goose. I put on my bonnet, wrapped my shawl around me. Setting off I felt the North wind blowing hard and thought we would have snow soon. The town was busy with folk having arms full of packages, children were playing in the street and a man was selling roasted chestnuts on an open brazier by the water pump. They smelt good and I suddenly felt hungry, I had not had my own breakfast as yet.

As I walked down past the Master's bank, there were cashiers at all the counters; it had been Market day yesterday and all the Farmers were wanting their money from the auction houses. By the time I got to the High St I had bumped into several familiar faces and been wished all the best for my "adventure" in the New Year. At Hussey's bakers on the corner of the High St I was called inside and given a huge freshly baked fruit loaf. (An apology for Young Master Billy beating up Master Joseph.) I thanked them and went on my way only to bump into Ma Still, the local Midwife, who told me Mistress Susan was expecting another boy, how she knew I will never know. As I walked past the chemist I was asked if Miss Susan was better, everyone in the town said they would miss the Sunderlands, they had made quite an impression on the town.

The Grocer passed me some loose tea for my Mistress, some candy sticks for the children and 2 enormous apples for me and Ursula. Folk have kind hearts around here and it made me feel good and sad and I hoped the folk in Australia were just as good too. By the time I reached the butchers my basket was half full with all sorts including some satin ribbon from Mrs Gammage the dressmaker and I wondered how I was going to get it all home.

Mr Cresswell was so apologetic; he had the Goose all ready but the delivery boy had gone down with a chill and so he was not able to get any deliveries done. I told him not to worry I would take it and start plucking it as soon as I got back. He gave me a smile and said "all done for you. I had my wife pluck them all this year we needed to fill a new pillow for the mother in law so all right all round." I could not help but smile imagining his wife plucking dozens of birds. "Thankyou" I said "that will help me a lot." He wished me all the best in Australia and Xmas greetings to the Sunderlands. I walked back up the High St passing the water pump at the end of Church St and thought how many buckets of water I had carried up to the house. Will I have to pull water from a well in Australia, Master Joseph says it was a very hot and dry climate in Australia. I bought myself some chestnuts and sat by the pump eating them. My basket full and a huge Goose under my arm I looked down the High St with tears in my eyes. I felt the first snowflake land on my face, this will be my last white Xmas.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The eleventh of November is a very poignant day,
When nations gather round the monuments
And bow their heads and pray,
And think of all those lives lost
On this Remembrance Day.
The poppy wreaths are being laid
Poppies worn with pride
To honour all the soldiers
Who went to war and died.
The roll call in our churches
Symbolize the local men
Who went to war to save us
But never came home again.
Two World Wars behind us,
We are still counting the loss
As conflicts are still raging
With too many lives being lost.
On this symbolic Sunday
We must stand up straight and tall
To carry the flags of victory
When they won and saved us all.
So let us just remember, the verse
We all know well
"AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN,
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

Edwina Griffiths

Clyro Village Hall

HayDay Creative Café meets at Clyro Village Hall on the last Wednesday of the month at 12.30 until 3pm. This is open to anyone, with or without carers, who would like to come and have a light lunch, a good chat over a cuppa, some entertainment/activity and a sing-song. This is FREE although donations are always welcome. Transport can be arranged with Dial-A-Ride.

See our website <https://haydaycusop.wixsite.com/hayday> or call Sue Hodgetts on 01497 822523 if you or someone you know would benefit.

We work closely with Dementia Matters in Powys who have re-opened their weekly Meeting Centre at the Kensington Centre in Brecon on Thursdays at 11.30-3pm. For more information email info@dmip.org.uk.

Clyro Pop-Up Pub at Clyro Village Hall on the last Friday of the month starting at 6pm till late.

Rhosgoch and Painscastle Book Group

Rhosgoch and Painscastle now have our own book group. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.00 pm in a member's house, and we discuss a book, and chat, and choose the next one. Very friendly and informal. If you would like to join please send an email to James Martin, jamesofhay@gmail.com



Spirit of Clyro Café



Open Wednesdays Clyro village hall 11.00am - 3pm
except for the last Wednesday of each month when the Hay Day Creative Café is open.

Join us for hot drinks & a slice of cake or a biscuit or two.

Stay and enjoy reading the newspaper/magazine,

playing dominoes or draughts etc or just stay for a chat.

Volunteers always welcome to help on the day or bake us a cake, a plate of biscuits

Post Office is also open from 12-2.30pm.

Meet old friends and make new ones

Hope to see you soon



Cuppa Tea?

Join us at the HayDay Café for a light lunch and friendly conversation. We enjoy fun entertainment and creative activities. All for FREE.
Last Wednesday of every month at Clyro Village Hall. 12.30-3pm
Transport available.
Phone Sue on 01497 822523
We are Dementia friendly and welcome anyone who is lonely or living with dementia.



As you can see from the picture, our roving reporter Grace is up and about after her recent hip operation. We wish her a speedy recovery, as well as the two local ladies with bionic knees recently installed, ie Iris Lloyd and Avryl Lloyd. Keep up the exercises!



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ERWOOD WEEKLY QUIZ is back, if you are interested in this fun weekly email brain teaser, contact Pam Banks:-
pamela.banks1@btinternet.com

PAINSCASTLE VILLAGE HALL

After the recent AGM the officers are:-
Chair - Lisa Meredith, Secretary - Sian Davies,
Treasurer - Wayne Mathews,
Booking Secretary - Meg Lloyd 01497-851247

Answers to Craft Club Seaside Theme Quiz

1. Murex, conch and cowrie are types of what?
A. **Shells**
2. The current world record for the largest serving of fish and chip is...?
A. **54.99kg 12lbs 3oz**
3. The seaside town that has the most famous ballroom in the world is...?
A. **Blackpool**
4. Where is Atlantic College based?
A. **St. Donat's, Glamorgan**
5. Which seaside town is home to the Ospreys Rugby Club?
A. **Swansea**
6. How many working lighthouses does Trinity House oversee? 59 69 79?
A. **69**
7. From which European country is Punch and Judy thought to have originated?
A. **Italy**
8. What is the most popular flavour of icecream in Great Britain?
A. **Vanilla**
9. In which year was seaside rock invented? 1867 1876 1887
A. **1887**
10. Norwich is a seaside town. True or False?
A. **False**
11. What type of sea creature is a Lions Mane?
A. **Jellyfish**
12. In which seaside town was Britain's first casino opened?
A. **Brighton**
13. Which seaside town has the longest pier?
A. **Southend**
14. Seagulls fly at 30mph. True or False?
A. **False**
15. Which Welsh seaside town has a camera obscura?
A. **Aberystwyth**
16. The longest British pier is 1.29 miles, 1.34 miles or 1.37 miles?
A. **1.34 miles**
17. Puffins change the colour of their beaks for part of the year. True or False?
A. **True**
18. Which Cornish seaside town is home to a branch of a famous London art gallery?
A. **St. Ives**
19. St. David's in Pembrokeshire is a seaside town which has another claim to fame. What is it?
A. **Smallest city in Wales (Cathedral)**
20. Which seaside town in North Wales is the principle link for crossing to Ireland?
A. **Holyhead**

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SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri Nov 18th	Coffee Morning at Rhosgoch Mill 10.30am
Sat Nov 19th	Fiddle quilt workshops at Aberedw Church Hall. 10am-1pm
Sat Nov 19th	Musical evening in aid of Wales Air Ambulance at Rhosgoch Golf Club 7.30 to 9.30 Admission £5 on the door
Thr Dec 1st	Brilley Flicks in the Sticks - Phantom of the Open 7.30pm pay online - £5
Fri Dec 3rd	Christmas Bingo at Rhosgoch Golf Club 7.30pm in aid of Bryngwyn Church
Sat Dec 3rd	Fiddle quilt workshops at Aberedw Church Hall. 10am-1pm
Sat Dec 3rd	Christmas Fayre at Erwood Market Hall 3 - 4.30 pm (rumour is Santa will be visiting too)
Thr Dec 22nd	Santa is to visit Painscastle
Sat Dec 31st	New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball at Rhosgoch Golf Club 7pm
Thr Jan 5th 2023	Brilley Flicks in the Sticks - West Side Story Brilley Hall 7.30 pay online - £5

HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH

Dec 11th	No service - Newchurch Carol Service
Dec 18th	Carol Service
Dec 25th	Christmas Day service at 10am
SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30pm	

PAINSCASTLE BAPTIST CHAPEL

Carol Service will be arranged when Christmas is Nigh

**MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL,
LLANDEILO GRABAN**

Nov 13th	At church
Nov 27th	Communion Rev Andrew Wyton
Dec 11th	Carol Service Ruth Hargest
Services at 2.30pm	

EBENEZER CHAPEL, NEWCHURCH

A warm welcome extended to all, at any of these services.	
Sun Nov 13th	3pm Rev Brian Reardon
Sun Dec 11th	Carol Service 3pm

PAINSCASTLE BAPTIST HARVEST FESTIVAL

Held on 21st October, this was the first Harvest Festival since the Pandemic and despite the awful, wet night there was a large congregation.
The Minister was the Rev. Sue Lawler who has recently moved to the village and Tony Lloyd formerly of Painscastle was the pianist.
Edwina Griffiths gave us the history of how Harvest Festivals started and Doreen James entertained us with one of her poems. Abbie & Paige Lloyd sang a couple of songs - they must surely be the stars of the future.
A vote of thanks was given by Iris Lloyd.
The Chapel had been decorated with Autumn flowers and fruits by Edwina Griffiths, Iris Lloyd and Dawn Richards.
A cup of tea and refreshments were enjoyed after the service.
We will be having a Carol Service in December, the date to be confirmed.

HUNTINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Sat Nov 19th	Curry Night
Sun Dec 11th	Christmas Lunch
Thr Nov 17th	Flicks in the Sticks - Benediction 7.30pm £5 per person
No Flicks in the Sticks in December	
More details and tickets from Pippa Lloyd 01544370692	

Fri 11th Nov	Armistice Day	
10.30am	Crickadarn	Memorial Service
10.45am	Newchurch	Act of Remembrance
Sun 13th Nov	Remembrance Day	
10.30am	Aberedw	Requiem for the Fallen
10.30am	Llanbedr	Requiem for the Fallen
2.30pm	Llandeilo Graban	Requiem for the Fallen
Sun 20th Nov	Christ the King	
10.30am	Bryngwyn	Eucharist
10.30am	Crickadarn	Eucharist
Sun 27th Nov	1st Sunday of Advent	
10.30am	Gwenddwr	Eucharist
10.30am	Llanbedr	Eucharist
Sun 4th Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent	
10.30am	Aberedw	Eucharist
2.30pm	Llandewi	Eucharist
Fri 9th Dec		
6.30pm	Aberedw	Carol Service
Sun 11th Dec	3rd Sunday of Advent	
10.30am	Llanbadarn	Eucharist
2.30pm	Moriah Chapel	Carol Service
Fri 16th Dec		
6.30pm	Bryngwyn	Carols/Christingle
Sun 18th Dec	4th Sunday of Advent	
10.30am	Newchurch	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Gwenddwr	Carol Service
Sat 24th Dec	Christmas Eve	
6.30pm	Aberedw	Christingle
11.30pm	Llanbedr	Midnight Mass
Sun 25th Dec	Christmas Day	
9.30am	Gwenddwr	Nativity Eucharist
11.30am	Llandeilo Graban	Nativity Eucharist
Sun 1st Jan	2nd Sunday of Christmas	
10.30am	Aberedw	Eucharist

*God bless you and those you love.
Paul and Carolyn XX*

WYESIDE ARTS CENTRE

Taking Stock: A Century of Farming Stories

Date: Tuesday 29 November 2022, 2:30pm

Tickets: £5

Lecturer: Prof. Kirsti Bohata (Swansea University)

The farmer is an iconic figure in Welsh literary culture and the family farm is a politically charged symbol in contemporary debates about land use, climate change and biodiversity loss. The farm is often an emblem of national survival and endurance, yet farming has undergone enormous changes. A refuge and a place cultural regeneration, the farm and rural life are also connected with personal sacrifice and limitation. This talk will dip into a century of farming stories in Wales to explore how farms and farmers have been represented in the past, present and imagined futures of Wales and how these portrayals speak to us in the present.

<https://www.wyeside.co.uk/community-events-1/taking-stock-a-century-of-farming-stories>

PAINSCASTLE WELL

The well could do with an autumn clean up, the original well team are now unable to carry on, so we would like a few volunteers to help spruce up the centre of the village.

PAINSCASTLE BUS SHELTER

Donations for Bracken Trust, Llandrindod, welcomed:- used postage stamps, old currency, coins and notes, both British and Foreign, as well as old bras.

MOBILE POST OFFICE

Monday	Aberedw 9.30 to 11.30am Erwood 9.15 to 10am Boughrood 10.15 to 11.45am
Tuesday	Boughrood 10.30 to 11.45 Erwood 12 to 12.45 Painscastle 1 to 2pm
Wednesday	Boughrood 10.15 to 11.45 Erwood 12 to 12.45 Clyro 12.00 to 2.30 pm Gladestry 3.00 to 3.45pm
Friday	Boughrood 10.15 to 11.30

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GLADESTRY NEWS

GLADESTRY SHOP & PUB

The shop and pub are open:-
Tuesday to Friday 6.00 pm to close
Saturday 12 noon to close
Sunday 12 noon to 5pm Tel: 01544-370586 for bookings

POP IN CAFÉ at Gladestry Village Hall every Monday
10.30am to 11.30am. Coffee £2. After costs have been
accounted for, takings are donated to charity.

MOBILE POST OFFICE Every Tuesday 2pm - 3.00 pm
And Fridays 12.50pm to 1.50pm
At the Village Hall car park

GLADESTRY PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP
runs at Gladestry Village Hall on a Friday morning be-
tween 9.30 - 11.30. Parents and Grandparents with pre-
school aged children are welcome to join us to play, craft
and socialise with others from the local community.

The group typically runs between 09.30 and 11.30 on a
Friday morning. Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date
with events or cancelled sessions [https://
www.facebook.com/Gladestryparentandtoddlergroup](https://www.facebook.com/Gladestryparentandtoddlergroup)
Your 1st session is free and £1 per child for subsequent
visits.

Tea and coffee are provided for grown ups, we break for
snack at around 10.30 so bring a snack for your child.

W.I. meetings every third Tuesday at Gladestry Village
Hall 7pm. Further details Marlene Evans - 01544 370646
or Viv Taylor - 01544 370464

Tablet Foil Recycling

There are now several options for the recycling of Tablet
foils. You can drop off your bags of foils at:

- Hay on Wye Library: Mon- 10.30am-12.30pm 1.30pm-6pm
Thurs- 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-6pm
Fri- 1.30pm-6pm Sat- 10am-12.30pm
- Clyro Church porch
- Llangorse Church porch
- Squirrels Nest Rhosgoch - January 7th - 9th



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LETTER FROM JHC Williams

One of our regular subscribers is John Williams from
Gloucestershire. He keeps in touch not just to pay his sub-
but often drops us a line. As he says, he doesn't do modern
communications, but finds a telephone call and a book of
stamps are all he needs.

His links with Painscastle go back very many years.
He says he and his parents arrived at Bryngwyn 80 years
ago, on Tuesday 27th July 1942, and that was the day of the
early morning bombing at Rotherwas which resulted in the
greatest loss of life in Herefordshire during the War.

Maybe he will let us have a few more of his memo-
ries of life in Painscastle during the War.

EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. Thanks
to the many people who have sent contributions in. Special
thanks for all the photos.

We continue with the Kington Writing Group cof-
fee break item; this time it is a non-fiction piece from King-
ton's past. We are always looking for pieces large or small
to make this a good local read.

I would like to thank our delivery team for their
outstanding efforts. Deadline for next issue [Jan/Feb 2023]
is 31st December 2022. [mlloydlundy@outlook.com or
01497-851609].

Subscriptions are £6 from September each year for
local delivery, £12 if posted, or pick up a copy from Clyro
Filling Station, Boughrood Shop or Gladestry pub. Pay-
ment can be by cash to your local delivery agent or direct to
me, or cheque or BACS. For more details please email me
mlloydlundy@outlook.com.

Articles are the opinion of the respective writers.
All errors and omissions excepted (E&OE).

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

We were delighted to be joined by Beau Herdman last month at an event at Number 10 celebrating the lifting of the USA's decades old ban on importing British lamb. Sheep farmers from across the UK were invited to mark the occasion at Downing Street.



Following a chance meeting at Newport train station with Welsh Secretary David TC Davies, Beau took no time to deliver the message from Brecon and Radnorshire.

The first exports of British Lamb were sent to the USA from Carmarthenshire in October, the first time for twenty years. The move follows the US removing a similar ban on British beef imports two years ago. Estimated to be worth £37m in the first five years of trade, farming groups and the Government are now working together marketing and promoting our world class Welsh lamb. The US is one of the world's biggest importers of lamb and mutton— second only to China, and so the reintroduction of this market is incredibly important for the future of Welsh Lamb.

We join Exhibitors, traders, competitors and the surrounding community in looking forward to the return of the Royal Welsh Winter Fair on November 28th & 29th. We also look forward to welcoming Mark Spencer MP, Minister of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to the Show Ground in Llanelwedd. The Winter Fair is a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase everything wonderful about Wales and its produce and we promise to show him the absolute best of what we have in Brecon and Radnorshire during his visit.

Fay.Jones.MP@parliament.uk

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NEWS FROM WELSH ASSEMBLY

A lot has happened since my last article for the Gossip, and Rishi Sunak is now our Prime Minister! After a tumultuous period at Westminster, we need some calm and stability in order to take on the challenges our country faces. For my part, the main focus is on people here in the constituency. You are my priority – and always will be.

As Brecon and Radnorshire's representative in the Welsh Parliament, I am always busy! Down in the Senedd, I've been busy speaking on a variety of issues which affect people in our area and indeed up and down Wales. For example, I recently spoke in a debate on business rates. Wales has the highest business rates in Great Britain thanks to Labour Welsh Government policies, and I'd like these rates to be reduced to lower the tax burden on our small and medium-sized businesses who create wealth and jobs in our area.

I also spoke in a debate on gynaecological cancer, which kills 470 women each year in Wales. It's a terrible statistic which needs to be reduced. I called for a cancer action plan to be implemented by the Welsh Government quickly and efficiently so we can properly tackle the issue - this isn't a political issue, it's something that we need consensus on to save lives.

With two Senedd colleagues from Labour and Plaid Cymru, I was also pleased to co-sponsor an event with Cymru Versus Arthritis who do great work in supporting people to live well with their condition, providing assistance to people of all ages with arthritis including young people. Remember, 16,000 children and young people in the UK have some form of arthritis so it really is something that impacts people of all ages.

I was also pleased to see a boost for our sheep farmers, with Welsh lamb being exported to the United States for the first time in decades. This will boost jobs and growth, opening up a new market of over 330 million people across the Atlantic. We know how brilliant our lamb is, and now Americans from Philadelphia to Phoenix will too!

As ever, if you have any issues or concerns then please get in touch with me. My email is james.evans@senedd.wales

James Evans MS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Sian Davies, Lletycoed: 07747 402200

Vice-chairman, Bruce Evans, Lower Pentre: 01497 851259

David Nicholls, Castlefield Close: 01497 851331

Jenny Smith, Penrhiw: 01982 560289

Becky Miles, The Cwm: 01497 851263

Iris Lloyd, Caemawr: 01497 851639

Ollie Price, Pen-y-felin, Rhosgoch: 01497 851608

Russell Bowkett, The Fferm: 01497 851233

Clerk: Marion Hughes, Waun y Pentre 01497 851628

Minutes are on the Painscastle-Rhosgoch website:

www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk

Meetings are held on third Monday of every month.

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NEWS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

Over the last two months I have continued to deal with issues raised by members of the 4 Community Council areas that I represent.

Highways continue to be high on the list of issues raised and in addition to following up on these individual issues I will be attending meetings, with other local councillors, in the two depots that serve the Llanellwedd Ward over the next month.

From the County Council perspective, I attended the full council meeting in October during which the members supported motions in respect to:-

- i. Supporting the fight to maintain an Air Ambulance base in Welshpool.
- ii. Declared a nature emergency.

I also continue to attend the Planning and Health and Care Scrutiny Committees, and I have been appointed as the Vice Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee and I have also recently joined the Governing Body of Franksbridge C P School.

The key issue facing the County Council over the next 2 – 3 years will be the financial pressures caused by higher than expected staff pay awards, the increases in fuel and energy costs and the impact of increasing interest rates during a period of economic uncertainty. The Council's Cabinet is currently developing its plans for the 2022-23 budget, but it is expected that there will be some painful changes to service delivery.

The County Council has launched a hub on its web site in respect to the cost of living crisis.

The hub can be found at www.powys.gov.uk/costofliving and has been developed to offer and signpost the residents of Powys to as much advice as possible and contact details for services such as Foodbanks, Money, benefits and debt advice, support for businesses etc.

Linked to the above, the Council has launched a scheme to provide eligible residents grants to help with their fuel costs. Details of the scheme and an eligibility check are available at :

Fuel Support Scheme 2022/23 - Powys County Council and Discretionary Cost of Living Support Scheme - Powys County Council

Powys County Council and Welsh Government are currently undertaking a number of consultations, the full details of which can be found on the Powys web site:- <https://www.haveyoursaypowys.wales/hub-page/powys-county-council>

The consultations that may interest you are:-

The outcome of the engagement exercise to explore the options for Secondary School Options in Llandrindod Well and Bwlth Wells. <https://haveyoursaypowys.wales/ysgol-caloncymru>

Powys County Council Participation Strategy – Closing date for views 18th December.

Your big ideas for Powys – The regional partnership board requesting people's thoughts to develop its Well-being plan and Area plan – Survey to be completed by 13th November.

Discretionary visitor levy for local authorities – Closing date for comments 13th December

Changes to Guidance on School Uniforms – Closing date for comments 28th November

If you wish to raise or discuss an issue with me, you can contact me on my mobile (07464) 166262 or via my two e-mails Teddyllanyfelin@me.com and Cllr.Gareth.Jones1@powys.gov.uk

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POWYS GARDENS NEWS AND OPENINGS FOR CHARITY

The National Garden Scheme extends sincere condolences to all of the Royal Family and especially their Patron since 2002, His Majesty King Charles III. Throughout her life The Queen was a constant supporter of the National Garden Scheme, founded in 1927 in memory of Her Majesty's great-grandmother, Queen Alexandra. The Queen supported our charity by opening the gardens of three of her homes, Sandringham, Frogmore House and Windlesham Moor. Her Majesty the Queen loved the gardens of her various homes for the outdoor peace and tranquillity they offered, as places to walk with her dogs and to enjoy nature's beauty. She also took a keen interest in the gardens' changes and planting throughout the decades of her reign. Today Sandringham is one of only two gardens opening every year since 1927 and the National Garden Scheme has always been profoundly grateful for ongoing support of Her Majesty The Queen.

Other News

We're delighted to celebrate **10 years of support for Parkinson's UK**. During this time we donated almost £1.5 million to the charity, funding 17 Parkinson's nurses posts. Thanks to our garden owners and visitors, in excess of 7,000 people now have access to a nurse and vital support when previously they did not.

Following their sell-out success, a second series of **garden workshops** in the lovely surroundings of Bryngwyn Manor near Raglan will commence in October, courtesy of owners Louise and Peter Maunder. Dean Peckett, an accomplished horticulturalist, speaker and teacher will lead the workshops that include: Winter container displays and bulb planting; Putting the garden to bed for winter; Christmas decorations from the garden; Fruit pruning and training; Rose pruning and training; Shrub and wisteria pruning. For more information ngs.org.uk/product-category/tickets/gardening-workshops/
Applications open for 2023 nurse-led innovation scholarship.

In May 2021, the Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) and the National Garden Scheme announced the creation of a new scholarship programme for community nurses, the NGS Elsie Wagg (Innovation) Scholarship. Funding is available for nurse-led projects promoting the health benefits of gardening and garden visiting among a group of people in the community. We encourage applications that aim to improve people's physical, mental or emotional health,

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or a combination of these. We also welcome proposals that contribute to the wider environmental agenda and sustainability within health services, for example by reducing plastic waste or carbon footprint, as long as the project is garden focused. Completed applications to be received by 5 pm on Friday 28th October. For more information visit ngs.org.uk/applications-open-for-new-gardens-and-health-innovation-scholarship

Looking forward to Thursday 17th November 7pm when Arabella Lennox-Boyd, the international doyenne of garden designers, will give the **2022 Annual Lecture**. Through a career spanning half a century, she created magical gardens all over the world with a clientele that includes royalty, aristocrats and pop stars. In 2021 she drew the strands of her career into a book, "Gardens in my Life", giving us the title of our 2022 Annual Lecture. For a ticket for the in-person event at the Royal Geographical Society, London or the live streamed event visit ngs.org.uk/shop

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Booking essential

The pub will be partially closed until November 17th when the hours will return to normal

PAINSCASTLE RECYCLING & RUBBISH COLLECTION
Recycling is collected every Monday, rubbish collection is every three weeks and the next dates for rubbish are:

Nov 14th Dec 6th Dec 26th Jan 16th

GRASSLAND TRIP TO SCOTLAND

Autumn is the time when local farmers go on their annual 'bus-mans' holiday. As usual, Richard Price, Trewyrlod was leader, with the faithful Ce by his side.

We left early on Sunday 9th October from Builth. The first problem that Richard faced was to find breakfast on a Sunday morning, (apparently farmers must have their breakfast even if they are away), and as he didn't want a mutiny on the first day we stopped in Oswestry, next to a Premier Inn which served a choice of English or continental. It was a good start. We made our way north, stopping at the Teebay services which is the only independent services on the British motorway system. We then went on to Banockburn to stay overnight in the hotel next door to the site of the famous battle of 1314 when the Scots beat the English.

The following morning disaster struck, Sylvia Aberley, one of our group, fell and was taken to hospital, so she missed the rest of the trip. The rest of us went to the Banockburn exhibition for a bit of history, before moving on to Dundee. Here Richard had arranged a tour of the port of Dundee. We saw a drilling platform in for refurbishment, parts for wind turbines, as well as a boat load of fertilizer being unloaded; some of the farmers were keen to try and smuggle a bag or two into the bus! The bus then drove up alongside the east coast and we arrived at our hotel in Aberdeen, just in time for our evening meal.



Port of Dundee

More history the next day with a visit to Knockando woollen mill which began life in the 1700s. Then we were off to Speyside Cooperage where they make and repair casks for the whisky industry.

The next day we visited a sheep farm in the morning, we drove around lots of fields of sheep. We discovered just how big these Scottish farms are, very different from farms around Painscastle. There were very few hedges, mostly fences and a few walls. There were a lot of sheep to be seen as they sell more than 900 rams in a year. In the afternoon we went to Mackies ice-cream farm. Here the cows were inside throughout the year, with robots doing the milking, feeding and cleaning. Solar and wind power made the enterprise carbon neutral. The milk goes just next door to be made into Mackies ice-cream, and of course we had to do some quality control on the product.



Who's talking to who?

Next day's visit was to a fruit farm. Richard said he wasn't feeling well so left Celia in charge, with a few friends! The fruit farm produced cherries, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries and supplies M&S, Tesco's etc. It was a mammoth operation, all under plastic, with up to 600 employees, mostly from abroad, at peak times. In the afternoon we visited Forest Farm, the first organic dairy farm in Scotland. With about 150 cows, they pasteurize the milk and sell it direct to the public through milk vending machines. They also make ice-cream and very good it was too!

Friday we started on our way back south calling by

a Tigercat workshop. This is gigantic forestry harvesting machinery, which is imported from Canada, at a cost of approximately half a million pounds. We travelled on to Edinburgh and enjoyed a trip up the Firth of Forth, much appreciating the three iconic bridges overhead. We stayed the last night at a hotel near Peebles, and much admired the Great Polish map of Scotland, a large concrete sculpture 50m by 40m built in the 1970s.

On our last day we made our way via Gretna Green, Penrith and Preston, and arrived back in Builth in the early evening.

Sylvia is now home after a couple of weeks in hospital in Falkirk; we wish her a good recovery, she missed a wonderful trip. Thanks to everyone for making it a good week away!
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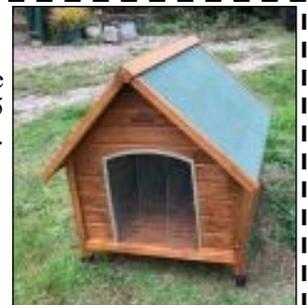
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RHOSGOCH & DISTRICT CRAFT CLUB

Autumn Competitions
Theme Seaside

We would like to thank everyone who helped, entered competitions and supported us on the day. Also special thanks goes to our judges, Betty Lloyd, Anona Lewis and Tim & Helen Williams. It was lovely to be back after missing two years. Thank you to everyone who loaned us seaside items to decorate the hall, Ariel our mermaid came from Gladerstry WI.



Results

Open Ruby Bagley Cup - Gaynor Price
Grandparents Clyro Perperual Cub - Edwina Griffiths and Cherry Williams
Open Pre-school Mrs G Jones Cup - Gruff Phillips
Primary School Mrs T Herdman Memorial Cup - Ioan Phillips
Craft Club Mrs Val Price Cup - Gaynor Price
Men Only Grace Davies Cup - Mike Morris



Estyn Meredith Cup for best Jam Tarts - Gaynor Price
Sheila Meredith
Rose Bowl for the best Floral Exhibit - Bethany Price
Craft Club Cup for Best Craft Exhibit - Gwyneth Gore

Next year the theme is "In your Garden". We will have the winter schedule for 2023 in the next issue of the gossip.

Winning Story from the Autumn Competitions by Joan Hughes

'A Day at the Seaside'
1946

Sunday School outing to Swansea, how excited my two sisters and I were. We had heard of Swansea because in the war years our parents would take us upon the tump field to see the search lights, they would tell us that Swansea had been bombed, we were glad to be far away and safe.

The day of the outing, we were up early dressed in our summer frocks which had been made. We set off to walk two miles to meet the bus at School turn, taking with us our food for the day. Arriving in Swansea we were overwhelmed to see the sea, what a wonder!

It was drizzling rain, so waited a while to go to the beach, then the donkeys came, so we had a ride. My donkey was lovely, his name was Neddy and I loved him. My mother said we would look around the town, we saw St Mary's Church, a heap of rubble, but the clock tower stood, the clock having stopped at the time the bomb fell. Back on the seafront it was time to eat our food. We went to a Chapel room and how delicious were the tomato and lettuce sandwiches, we had fairy cakes washed down with powder lemonade.

On the prom we saw the trams going to Mumbles, so we climbed aboard merrily trundling along, arriving at the magic place, the seagulls crying and riding the waves. It all looked like a seaside postcard. With the sun shining we went to the sea-shore for a paddle - what a thrill. We picked shells, pretty stones and seaweed to take home. We saw a fisherman facing the storm of the wild seas. We looked out to sea and saw a lighthouse, we knew this was to warn the ships of the rocks. To our delight here came the ice-cream cart, we could not believe it, we had only seen this in books. The kiosk had lovely gifts. I chose a seaside spade as I thought I could dig my little garden back at home.

We said goodbye to the Mumbles, now time for our homeward journey, we set off with everyone singing all the way. One of the mothers had made some homemade sweets which we all shared. What a treat!

Arriving back at School turn we made our way home on a beautiful evening with the sun setting in the west, tired and happy, me clutching my bag of shells and little spade.

I have been on many seaside outings since but will always remember the day I first saw the sea.

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GARDENING CLUB NEWS

We've had a good couple of meetings recently, and welcomed some new members to our Club. In September we were delighted to see the ever-popular Penny Platts with husband John once again. This time the talk was on their travels in India. As well as some super photos and great stories about their trip, we also watched some short videos from their holiday. These were an excellent addition which provided a real taste of the atmosphere of this vibrant part of the world.

In October we were entertained by Simon Thomas from Lyonshall Nurseries who came to talk to us about getting the most from our house plants. He brought a huge number of indoor plants for us to see (and buy) and gave a very illuminating talk. He assumed that most of us were not very good at looking after house plants, so shared with us ideas for plants which were indestructible. He also themed his talk around the rooms in a house, with ideas for what plants worked best in which room. It was a clever way to plan his talk and everyone really enjoyed his presentation style which was down to earth and witty.



Diary Dates

November - Our next meeting will be on Thursday 10 November when Stewart Roberts will be talking about Our Local Flora and Fauna, based on his walks in, and photos of, the area. The Room Competition is a Photograph of Countrylife.

December - Our last meeting of the year will be on Thursday 8 December and will be our AGM followed by a social evening with a few fun activities and some festive treats. The Room Competition is a Decorated Yule Log (only the decoration to be judged, not the cake).

Venue - Rhosgoch Golf Club: doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start

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HARVEST IS HERE AGAIN

As the old song goes, "We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand." Christians believe that God dictates all we do by His power to control everything that happens. This is especially true of the weather and at Harvest we celebrate God's contribution to a bountiful crop.

Traditionally Harvest gave the peoples of the world enough to eat during the oncoming winter. This is particularly true of the northern climes, where winter can be so harsh as to kill anything living. So the crops are ready in the Autumn and many animals go to sleep until Spring. Christians believe this was not the case of simple coincidence but resulted from a planned succession of events, like lowering temperatures and light that triggered both the harvest and the hibernation.

The entire orchestration over events always seems to be beyond the power of man, as the complexity and coincidences are too great to manage. The belief that a God manages it all is not restricted to the Christians. Many belief systems hold that it takes a powerful deity to manage it all. This belief is very compelling. And it has another very powerful facet. The wonder of believing in God fills us with warmth and pleasure, for we hold that some greater power than any man is looking after us, understands us, and will always be there to talk to if we need comfort. That is why we call our God "Father" because he is exactly like we want a Father to be, always there for us, supportive and strong. To prove this, God showed he loved us so much that He gave us His son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins.

So that's why we go to the Chapel to celebrate harvest. It marks the time when, thanks to our Father God's care, we put away enough to eat for the hard times to come.

And as for the Chapels around us, all of them celebrate this time in a similar way. We sing the same old favourite hymns in a cheerful and happy way, we proudly display produce for all to see and marvel at, and we are as happy as at any other time in our calendar of worship. All the local chapels have had a go; Mariah, Adullam, Ebenezer and my own chapel, Hermon.

The picture shows Hermon Chapel Secretary Carol Sheen (on left) with Rev Janet Russell, a frequent, very popular visiting preacher.



Mike Head, Deacon, Hermon Chapel



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W.I.

Bryngwyn WI meets in Painscastle Hall on the first Monday of the month. New members would be welcome. For further information phone Helen on 01982 560492

PAINCASTLE AND RHOSGOCH TODDLER GROUP

Autumn is very much upon us now and on dull, wet Tuesday mornings, what better way to spend your time than by coming to Toddler Group! We have had lots of new faces joining us this term and it has been brilliant to welcome back our regular little ones along with so many grandparents too!

The majority of the craft/messy play has had a seaside theme so far this term. The children have made paper plate jellyfish, decorated fish biscuits, trimmed and dyed the mermaids' hair and saved the sea creatures from the frozen rock pools. Some of those activities were in preparation for the Painscastle and Rhosgoch Autumn Craft Competition. There were lots of lovely entries in the Pre School section so a big well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to Gruff Phillips for winning the Mrs G Jones Pre School Cup. For the rest of the term we will get messy and have fun with a focus on winter and Christmas. As well as the crafts, the children have loved playing with the ride on toys, slide, mini trampoline and duplo train. Thank you to Hazel Morgan for donating some lovely toys and puzzles for the baby area – the rain stick is a big hit!

Our Facebook page is updated weekly with 'what's on' and confirms if group is running that week. Pam and I are still in the position of being the only committee members, however we are so grateful for all of the help that we have received this term with packing away at the end of sessions and washing up. It makes such a difference! Please get in touch if you feel you could help setting up (needn't be every week, could be on a rota) or would like a place on the committee.

Toddler group runs in term time on Tuesdays from 9.30 – 11.30am in Painscastle Village Hall for children age 0-4. For £1, your child can have lots of fun playing, crafting and singing. Please bring a healthy snack for your little person. Tea and Coffee are available, along with lots of fun faces so please come along and join us!

Caz Phillips

