

Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 29 Issue 3

Jan / Feb 2024

£1

FATHER CHRISTMAS OUT AND ABOUT ON CHRISTMAS EVE



Santa came down from the North, with Marisa the Elf, and horses Victor and Zoro, on Christmas Eve. He made the trip to Painscastle where he met some children, and gave out sweets, then he travelled on to Rhosgoch where there were more children and more sweets to give out. Some horses and riders from Bryngwyn Riding School also joined in the fun with tinsel in their hair! When all was finished, Victor and Zoro took Santa up Bryngwyn dingle to their home at The North.

PANTOMIME TIME



The Pantomime (Cinderella goes to the Ball) was performed by the Rhosgoch and Painscastle Community players at Rhosgoch Golf Club, on Saturday December 16th, in front of a full house and an appreciative audience.

SCHOOL RUN

After 18 years in Long Eaton, Nottingham, working at the East Midlands Airport, Jonathan Lloyd has returned to his roots at Bryn-y-garth, Painscastle. He lives with his partner, Demi Howe, and little boy Jax who goes to Clyro School. He has just passed his bus driving test, and does a school run for Herdman Coaches.



Rhosgoch Golf & Leisure Club
Open Tuesday to Sunday

Sunday Lunch 1—3.30pm

Opening Hours: Tuesday—Friday 7 –11pm
Sat 5pm - 11pm Sun 12 - 5pm

Email: rhosgochgolf@gmail.com
Or check out our facebook page

01497 851 251

YFC NEWS

YFC held the annual hedging match on the 18th of November. It was a very successful day with continued support from the local community and a total of 10 hedgers.

YFC have also held a Christmas quiz alongside Rhosgoch and Painscastle NFU at Rhosgoch Golf Club on the 14th December. We raised a total of £132 for the DPJ Foundation - a charity set up to support those in the agricultural sector with poor mental health by providing support, spreading awareness and training those in farming to be aware of poor mental health and its impact within our communities.



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HUNTINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Wed Jan 17th @ 7.30pm The Lost King £5 per person
Thur Feb 15th @ 7.30pm Mrs Harris goes to Paris £5 per person
Sat Feb 24th @ 7.30pm CURRY NIGHT £10 per person

All enquires and booking to Pippa Lloyd 01544370692

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GARDENING CLUB NEWS

The Rhosgoch & District Gardening Club was formed in the early 2000s by the late Isa Lloyd and has around 40 members. A small annual membership fee of just £5 enables us to invite guest speakers to speak on a variety of subjects, from specialist gardening talks to general interest presentations.

We also arrange garden visits, usually in the spring/summer months, and this June will be visiting Tranquility Haven near Knighton. There are three key events each year – the annual dinner in January, Bingo at Easter, and the Annual Flower and Vegetable Show in August. The Show is a real highlight, with some great floral and edible entries, as well as arts and crafts.



Tranquility Haven

The monthly meetings are held in Rhosgoch Golf Club and usually start at 7:30pm. Meeting dates are advertised in the Gossip. There is also a private Facebook Group for Club members, and this is used to promote events, share gardening tips and photos and generally keep us connected throughout the year.

We are always keen to welcome new members; if you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Secretary using the email address below.

Chair – Edwina Griffiths

Treasurer – Pat Harley

Secretary – Allison Joyce

Assistant Secretary - Gwyneth Gore

gardeningclub@painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk

Our next get-together will be the annual dinner – DATE TBA

Our first full meeting of 2024 will be at the Golf Club on Thursday 8 February. Our speaker will be Dave Coombs from Brecon Mountain Rescue. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Pilates Emma

Pilates Emma



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

Pilates Emma :

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 Monday 11am Booths Studio Hay on Wye
 Monday 2pm Booths Studio Hay on Wye
 Tuesday 9.30am Booths Studio Hay on Wye plus Zoom connection

Tuesday 6pm Booths Studio Hay on Wye
 Wednesday 9.30am Painscastle Hall

Wednesday 6pm Clifford Community Centre

Friday 9am Booths Studio Hay on Wye

Online Pilates Emma continues

For further details including booking

07702 241725 or emma@pilatesemma.co.uk
 www.pilatesemma.co.uk www.facebook.com/pilatesemma

The Roast Ox Inn, Painscastle



January Hours:

Closed Monday to Thursday

Evenings Fri (Drinks only) & Sat 6 - 9pm

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Closed throughout February

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IN YOUR GARDEN

Whilst we all look forward to the gradual awakening - dunnocks singing, tits and mistle thrushes calling, snowdrops, viburnum, daphne, wintersweet, mahonia, flowering - it's a good time to stand back and admire the tracery of the bare branches against the winter sky, to look at the tightly closed buds and marvel at how they contain the coming season's leaves, flowers, fruit.

Snowdrops, although a native of mainland Europe, do well in our climate, and readily naturalise and increase. There are many named varieties, some with intricate or double inner segments. The big disadvantage is that they usually point downwards, and you need to get down to ground level to admire them, not an easy task for those of a certain age! This can be overcome with raised beds, or just picking them. But they're surely at their simple best when they brighten up a neglected corner, or flower in drifts through grass. Bulbs can be planted in autumn, although it is usually recommended to plant 'in the green' in February. Garden centres often offer these, as well as potted clumps.

Crocus follow on closely from snowdrops and are just



as magical. The large flowered Dutch varieties can be a vivid sight. There are many species which will naturalise and increase more rapidly. Their blooms are usually

less showy but more than make up for this, surprising us by bursting into flower in February, often before their leaves have appeared. Tommasinianus and its varieties are recommended; they will quickly make large clumps, and when they fully open on a sunny day, often attracting the first bees, they are a heart-warming sight. Unless you buy potted clumps from garden centres, they need to be planted in autumn. Peter Nyssen offers a wide range of bulbs, and offer good value when purchasing in quantity.

Check through stored taters and fruit for rots. Watch out for pigeon damage on brassicas. Draping nets across the plants is a good precaution.

Try not to tread on bare soil too much to avoid compaction and damage to the soil structure; use boards if necessary. Take the opportunity to spread organic material on flower or vegetable beds. Farmyard manure, garden compost: you can never have too much! Either leave it on the surface or fork it in.

May the lapwings be with you.

John the Gardener



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PAINSCASTLE BUS SHELTER

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

LIFE AT LUNDY



The author - Sweep

Every farm these days has a quad, and Lundy is just the same. We all like it although Ken doesn't let us have a ride - we have to run alongside. Mo will allow us a little ride sometimes, well usually Gyp as she is older than me. One day it came in very useful for the postman. One Saturday along comes the red van as usual (it comes most days). Postie goes to the house and then goes away again. This particular day he didn't go, he was stuck, the van liked being at the Lundy and so it decided not to start. Postie couldn't ring anyone on his mobile because there was no signal, so he went back to the house to use the house phone. But no-one wanted to answer him so he went back and talked nicely and then not so nicely to the van. But to no avail. So Ken, the only one at home, who was watching the square box at the time, went to see if he could solve the problem. He hitched up our quad to the van and pulled her into a good starting position and then let her go. Lucky we have hills for just such a purpose, and off she ran and started! By that time I think deliveries were forgotten and Postie and van went home.

I think I have talked about my younger brother Rex. He doesn't do much, but he is great friends with Geraint's Patterdale called Bowie. Bowie is shut in the garden, but she does sometimes try to escape. She digs under the fence on her side and Rex tries to help by digging from the outside; so far they haven't managed to make a big enough hole, mainly because Geraint keeps filling it back in! When Geraint's gang go away, Mo looks after Bowie and she often comes for a walk with us.

Christmas is usually a rather nice time as there are lots of leftovers for us to help the humans with, like turkey, chicken, cheese, mash, etc, and of course there are always brussel sprouts for us! However this year Matthew's pack went to Ireland, Geraint's gang went to Stockport which only left Ken and Mo and on Christmas day they went to Lindsey's place, but Mo did take us for a walk before she went. It did seem quiet. Not for long, as the Rogers' clan descended on Lundy, or at least the 'pups' did, while parents went a-partying. Children usually mean leftovers for us so we welcome visitors.

Mo has decided to start her walks again, she says it is to get fit but I think it has something to do with the fact that she has broken her car. Her car's name is Katy Dixie (KT13DXE) and they have had a lot of adventures in it. Gyp sometimes goes for a ride and she says they have a good time. I think Mo aims to do 100 miles again this January but she says she is not going to ask people for sponsor money, as she did that last year. I suggested she could ask for dog biscuits or bones instead. She would like people to invite her for a walk when she will make a donation to a charity of their choice. But I am not sure that anyone wants to walk with her, other than Gyp and me of course, and we don't do charity, we just do doggy treats!



Bowie asking Rex to help her escape

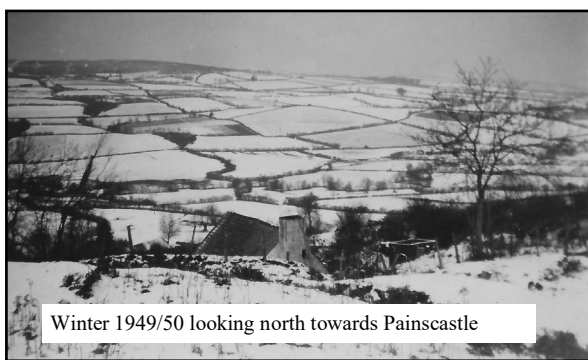
Sweep

This is Item 10 from Bridget Ashton's mother's handwritten collection, About the Houses. She wrote it when she was 78 years of age, one side of A4 lined notepaper, looking back over every house she had lived in. John is Bridget's father. They had three little girls while living in this house, Bridget aged 4, Helen aged 2/3 and Rosie the baby. Eva Marie Valerias, a German refugee girl aged about 10, also lived with the family.

TOP O' LANE, RADNOR, WALES, 1948
by Eileen Ashton

John wanted to set up his own beekeeping business, and so, following an advertisement in "Peace News", we bought a cottage in Wales for £400.

It was in a remote area in the Begwyn Mountains, far from the road, a track led up from the road to a farm, Middle Pentre, to our cottage. It was stone build, two bedrooms, sitting-room with a black range called "The Guid Housewife". No water was laid on, or electricity, and the Elsan was "round the corner".



Winter 1949/50 looking north towards Painscastle

We inherited two goats from the previous owners, and it was a new experience for me to go up and milk them on the day of our arrival. We also had chickens who were always keen to fly in through the kitchen window and stroll about on the table pecking up crumbs.

Of the four girls (Eva Marie Valerias came with us) the two elder ones went to school in the nearby village, Painscastle. They set off with Eva in tears, Bridget full of smiles. They returned with Eva in smiles, and Bridget in tears. Their experiences of school were so different from what they expected.



Mrs Ashton with the four girls at Top o' Lane, 1948

Market day in the nearby town of Hay-on-Wye was on Thursday, and the highlight of the week. The weekly bus picked us up. We did our shopping at Pearks the grocer and had a little lunch there. The customers sat around a big table. When it was time to go home the children often fell asleep on the bus and were handed down from the back to the front of the bus, sound asleep.

The only other outing was to church on Sundays in Hay. The Catholic church was on top of the public lavatory.

Every day we walked along "The Green Road" to a nearby farm house to collect our milk. We stopped and had

a chat with the Breezes, who had a daughter the same age as ours called Eileen. We were in this cottage for about a year, and then I found myself pregnant, and so we left Top o' Lane for the relative civilisation of Hay-on-Wye.

Bridget would love to know of any stories from people who remember her mother and/or her father. One man helped her father take his bees to Hondon, was that Tom Nicholls?

Does anyone have any photos of Top o' Lane cottage? Of course it has gone through a few changes since when Bridget lived there. If you do have memories or photos of, or around, Top o' Lane Bridget would love to hear from you - please get in touch.

HAY U3A

U3A Hay meet in the lovely Music room at Baskerville Hall Hotel, Clyro, HR3 5LE for our monthly meetings normally on the third Tuesday of the month. There is plenty of free parking.

Coffee is served from 10am and lunch from 12.15pm - please book it as you arrive.

Entrance is £5 for members and £7 for visitors, and new members are always welcome.

Our Interest Groups held during the month are thriving and varied too.

Our monthly meetings restart on **Tuesday January 16th** when u3a member **Julia Hopton** will be speaking to us about "**A History of the Baskerville Family**" up until and a little after they built Clyro Court.

Julia's late husband was the last Baskerville from the direct line dating back to 1066 and she is custodian of some fascinating memorabilia.

At the next U3A Hay meeting on **Tuesday 20 Feb 2024** we will be hearing about 'True stories to inspire curious minds' from the excellent Catherine Barr, local author of nonfiction picture books about nature and conservation.

On 19 March 2024 Amanda Huntley will be visiting us to talk about Treasures of the Huntley Film Archives.

Visitors and new members welcome. Email for info u3ahay@gmail.com <https://u3asites.org.uk/hay/welcome>

WYESIDE BUILTH WELLS

WARM SPACE - Funded programme for all. Every Tuesday & Wednesday 11am - 3pm. Come and have a free cuppa and chat. An array of films/workshops/talks and board games to enjoy.

Free Entry: Pre-Booking for events required

Jan 11th & 25th 10.30 - 1pm Have-a-go Shakespeare

WYESIDE ARTS CENTRE FUNDRAISER:
Sat Jan 27th 7.30pm Gershwin in Hollywood (Tickets £18, Concessions £16, Under 16s £10)

International Gershwin expert and pianist Alan Durman tells the story of superstar composer George Gershwin's time writing music for Hollywood movies in the 1930s, and his legacy in later years, playing Gershwin's music from the films and ending with his own arrangement of 'Rhapsody in Blue'.

For more information including films please check the website: <https://www.wyeside.co.uk/>

**An Overview: "The Man, Arthur Gomer Lowe
(Known as Gomer)**

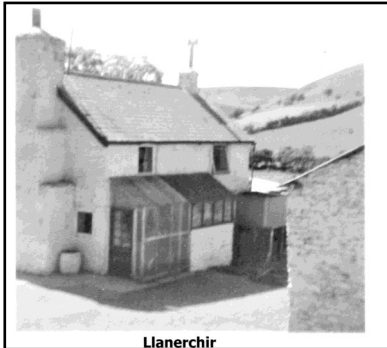
**Llanerchir, Bryngwyn Radnorshire Hill Farmer and
Countryman 1908-1965"**

In the last issue of The Gossip you will have read a letter from Rhian (Lowe) Barker regarding a memoir that she has written about her father Gomer Lowe. She wrote the story for her family, some of whom were not born when he passed away in 1965 aged just 58 years. These shared and treasured memories will now transcend the generations and be a wonderful legacy.

Rhian has donated a copy to Bryngwyn Church which, as she says, can be taken away to read and then returned. There has been a lot of interest expressed and so with Rhian's permission I will attempt a condensed version of her story about her dad's farming life on an upland farm on Bryngwyn Hill and hope I can do her story justice.

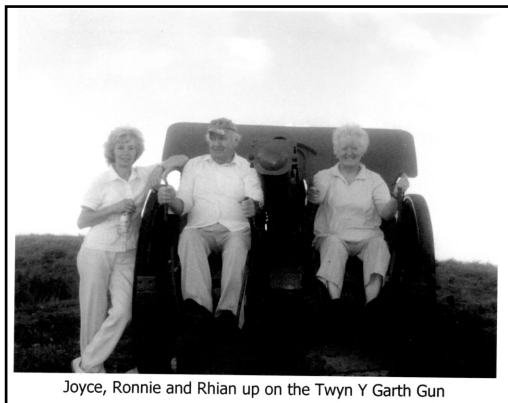
Gomer was born in 1908 at Folly Farm, Newchurch, and in 1911 moved with his parents and four siblings, Nelly, Vangie, George and Agnes, to Llanerchir, Bryngwyn, a farm that his grandparents had farmed until their deaths. Another brother was born after this move but sadly died at just 6 months of age. Parents Clara Anne and Arthur Edwin died young, age 48 and 51 respectively, leaving their young family to manage as best they could. Gomer stayed on at Llanerchir whilst his siblings gained other employment or marriage. At Bryngwyn church, in 1936, he married Mary Agnes Price originally of Garth Farm, Llandeilo Graban, and for a while lived at Llwynmeibon whilst renovating Llanerchir, which by then was in a poor state

of repair. Together they had three children, Ronnie in 1936, Rhian in 1940 and Joyce in 1945. Rhian's story of life on their upland farm is very descriptive and recalls many memories of times past and a bygone age which I will endeavour to now abridge with subheadings.



Llanerchir

The Garth Gun: Maternal grandfather Samuel Price lived at Garth Farm and was one of the men who managed to install the gun on Twyn y Garth. The gun had been purchased by Mrs Lionel Trafford and duly arrived at Erwood Station. Ownership rivalry broke loose between the men of Erwood and Llandeilo Graban with the Llandeilo men at night smuggling it, some pieces being hidden at Garth Farm. It got reassembled and was placed where it can still be seen today. In 2000, in poor condition, it became a millennium project by



Joyce, Ronnie and Rhian up on the Twyn Y Garth Gun

The war years: Being born in 1940 at the beginning of WW2, Rhian was issued with a baby sized gas mask but thankfully never had to use it. It was returned to the govern-

ment when war ended. Gomer himself was in the Painscastle Home Guard where they would be up on top of Bryngwyn Hill in an old quarry on look-out duty for anything untoward. Rhian just remembers him going out late at night dressed in the funny clothes and carrying a gun but always being back by morning. Did you know that the Northern Lights are visible from the top of Bryngwyn Hill?

Home life: Hard working and devoted to his family, Gomer would take on any job to provide for them and was always looking for ways to improve their lives. He made sure they were warm and well fed with most food being home produced e.g. meat, butter, eggs, seasonal vegetables and of course there were rabbits. Christmas time was the only time for fruit treats with an apple, orange and dates in a stocking. July and August was time for whimberries when living on the hill and knowing the best places was a bonus. A pig was killed each year and Gomer also did pig killing for other local farmers. With no freezers back then, farmers would share the meat except the hams and sides which were salted and hung to dry. Rhian recalls breaking up the large salt block and crushing it for this purpose. No part of the pig was wasted. To raise extra cash he even had a go at growing mushrooms which wasn't too successful and concentrated on growing vegetables thereafter. Rearing chickens in a Deep Litter shed was another enterprise that didn't last long mainly due to disease.

Hay on a Thursday: Market days were held in the street where Rhian's mum and dad would sell eggs, dressed poultry and any other surplus goods, usually selling to the same dealers. The money made was spent on flour and whatever else they could get, particularly when there was still rationing. Whilst a grocery list was put in at the Star Grocers, it was a treat to go to Wye café for something to eat and a catch up. Most weeks wireless batteries were taken to Webb's Garage to be recharged and the ones left the week before would be collected. Favourite programmes recalled were 'Journey into Space,' 'Dick Barton' and 'The Archers' with 'Mrs Dale's Diary' for mum and 'Football' for dad.

The Church: Gomer, along with Arty Griffiths, was very involved in the church and was a deeply religious man with great faith. He was church warden, treasurer for over 25 years and bell ringer. As a family, they attended church often twice on a Sunday usually walking over Bryngwyn Hill. The children rode their ponies to Sunday school tying them up in an old house by the church. He maintained the churchyard, cutting the grass with a scythe and made hay, carrying it home with horse and gambo to feed his animals. He was involved in moving the ancient Ogham stone from the churchyard and into the church. Another task for many years was grave digging which was done by hand. As Ronnie grew older he was able to help. A great joy for Gomer was walking both of his daughters down the aisle of his beloved church on their wedding days. Very proud moments for Gomer.

Make do and mend: It seems that Gomer would have a go at making, repairing, improving anything, his motto being 'if you ain't got it make it.' Rhian remembers her dad buying an Army Surplus Nissen Hut and a job lot of doors which he used in the house. The bathroom door had 'Office' on it, others 'Private,' 'Drying Room' and 'Agent's office.' In time he modernised the home himself as best he could, starting with a bathroom and then an extra bedroom on the end of the house over a shed.

Harsh winters: The winters of 1947 and 1963 were particularly memorable in lots of ways. 1947 was a dreadfully harsh time for this young family. Rhian tells of her and her brother out looking for sheep buried in the large snow drifts; of her

dad with other farmers walking to Hay for provisions; of boiling up the snow for their water; and the struggle to feed the animals. 1963 was no better, frozen water and pipes, having to carry food and shortage of fodder for the animals, the price of which almost broke him.

Children's schooling: School for Ronnie and Rhian was firstly Cwmgwillim, Newchurch, their mum taking and collecting them on horseback. Joyce also went to Cwmgwillim but also spent a couple of years in Rhosgoch. Next it was Clyro Secondary School but it seems that because of age differences neither child was in the same school at the same time.

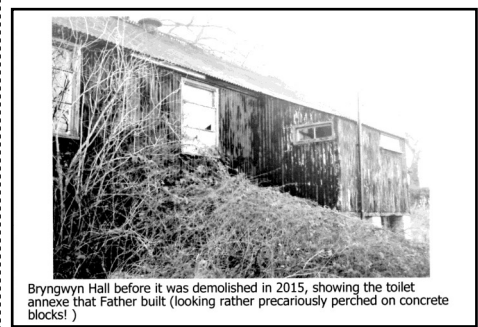
From four legs to four wheels: Gomer saw the transition from working with horses to using a tractor. He had a little grey Fergie and transport box which could carry most things. Also, Gomer was one of the first in the area to own a car, a battered Ford Eight which they called Lizzie. That car ended up carrying everything including livestock. Remembered was a sheep which head butted and broke the back window. Also, Gomer buying a foal which was transported home from the Black Mountain area with the girls hanging on to it in the back! Lizzie had to earn her keep and use as little petrol as possible.

Rural crafts and leisure: Gomer could turn his hand to most things and was a competitive hedger and shearer. He could divine for water; he helped the gentry in the grouse shooting season and he loved football particularly supporting 'The Vale of Arrow'.



Father Competition Shearing at Pontypinna, Vowchurch

Friendships and community: His family remember him as a kind, peace loving and sociable man who had a great sense of humour, being helpful and welcoming to everyone he met including newcomers to the area. There was camaraderie amongst the local farmers and occasions such as the hill gatherings were to be enjoyed. He befriended many people who he met on the hill, some of whom were lost or just on a walk. Another person was a beekeeper from Hay on Wye who he allowed to have a hive on one of his fields near the heather. The community was important to him and he involved himself with all things relating to the Bryngwyn Hall e.g. parties, dances, etc, and even built the toilet annexe. The hall is no longer standing having been demolished in 2015.



Bryngwyn Hall before it was demolished in 2015, showing the toilet annexe that Father built (looking rather precariously perched on concrete blocks!)

Health: In the early 1960s, Gomer's health began to deteriorate. He survived to see his first grandchild born in 1964 and sadly died in hospital in 1965. He was just 58 years of age. Llanerchir had to be sold and his wife Agnes moved to a bungalow in Clyro parish where she lived in comfort until she was 95 years of age.

Conclusion: There are many more memories and names of local people contained within Rhian's memoir and I hope that you will visit Bryngwyn Church to read the story in full. It was a hard life and very hard work which I'm sure some readers will themselves be able to relate to. Country people get by helping each other and by sheer determination and long may that continue. And so, a very big thankyou to Rhian and family for allowing us to share this wonderful insight into the life of her dad Arthur 'Gomer' Lowe.

PS: For sight of another copy please contact either Mo or myself. Cherry Williams

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CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to Alex and Angharad Simmonds on the birth of a baby boy, Twm Alwyn, born on November 22nd 2023. A first grandchild for Chris and Sally Simmonds, Cwm Helig, Llandeilo Graban.
 Congratulations to Peter and Felicity Robinson (nee Jones) on the birth of a son Evan at the beginning of December 2023. First grandchild for Glyn and Rachel Jones, Upper House Farm, Huntington

A QUICK LAUGH

Why do they call it Rush Hour - When nothing moves!

"I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them." - Phyllis Diller

"Insomnia sharpens your math skills because you spend all night calculating how much sleep you'll get if you're able to 'fall asleep right now.'"

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed Jan 17th	Film - The Lost King Huntington Village Hall 7.30pm
Fri Jan 19th	Racenight at Rhosgoch Golf Club for W&BC racing
Sun Jan 21st	Live Theatre - The Merchant of Venice by The Willow Globe Community Company at Wyeside, Builth Wells at 3pm
Sat Jan 27th	Alan Durman tells the story of George Gershwin's music for Hollywood movies at Wyeside, Builth Wells. 7.30pm
Thr Feb 1st	Film - Oppenheimer Brilley Village Hall 7pm
Sat Feb 3rd	Paincastle Village Hall Live Rugby @ 4pm Racenight at 7.30pm
Thr Feb 15th	Film - Mrs Harris goes to Paris Huntington Village Hall 7.30pm
Sat Feb 24th	Curry Night at Huntington Village Hall 7.30pm
Sat Feb 24th	Desert Island Flicks Brilley Village Hall 7.30pm
Thr Mar 7th	Film - Eternal Daughter Brilley Village Hall 7.30pm
Thr Mar 14th	Film - Past Lives Brilley Village Hall 7.30pm

HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH

Fri Mar 29th	Good Friday Service 7pm
Sun Mar 31st	Easter Sunday 2.30pm

SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30pm

MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL,

- Sun Jan 28th Communion Rev Ifor Williams
- Sun Feb 11th Communion Paul Sweeting
- Sun Mar 3rd Communion Rev Ifor Williams
- Sun Mar 24th Church with us Rev Andrew Wyton
- Services at 2.30 pm

EBENEZER CHAPEL, NEWCHURCH

A warm welcome extended to all, at any of these services.
 Sunday 14th Jan at 3pm Service led by Mr Gary Cable
 Sunday 11th Feb at 3pm Service led by Rev Janet Russell

EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. Thanks to the many people who have sent contributions in. We are always looking for pieces large or small to make this a good local read.
 Deadline for next issue [Mar/Apr 2024] is 29th February 2024. [mlloydlyndy@outlook.com or 01497-851609].
 Subscriptions are £6 from September each year for local delivery, £13 if posted, or pick up a copy from Clyro Filling Station, Boughrood Shop, Erwood Station Gallery, or Gladestry pub. Payment can be by cash to your local delivery agent or direct to me, or cheque or BACS. For more details please email me mlloydlyndy@outlook.com.
 Articles are the opinion of the respective writers.
 All errors and omissions excepted (E&OE) .

IRFON, WYE AND EDW MINISTRY AREA. The Grouped Churches of Erwood and Paincastle.

Sun Jan 14th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Llandeilo Graban	Eucharist	10.30am
Sun Jan 21st 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Bryngwyn	Eucharist	9.30am
	Crickadarn	Eucharist	11.00am
Sun Jan 28th Candlemas	Llanbedr	Eucharist	9.30am
	Gwenddwr	Eucharist	11.00am
Sun Feb 4th 2nd Sunday before Lent	Aberedw	Eucharist	10.30am
	Llanddewi Fach	Eucharist	2.30pm
Sun Feb 11th Sunday before Lent	Llandeilo Graban	Eucharist	10.30am
Wed Feb 14th Ash Wednesday	Llandeilo Graban	Eucharist/Ashing	10.30am
Sun Feb 18th 1st Sunday of Lent	Bryngwyn	Eucharist	9.30am
	Crickadarn	Eucharist	11.00am
Sun Feb 25th 2nd Sunday of Lent	Llanbedr	Eucharist	9.30am
	Gwenddwr	Eucharist	11.00am
Sun Mar 3rd 3rd Sunday of Lent	Aberedw	Eucharist	10.30am
	Llanddewi Fach	Eucharist	2.30pm
Sun Mar 10th Mothering Sunday	Llanbedr	Eucharist	9.30am
	Gwenddwr	Eucharist	11.00am
Sun Mar 17th 5th Sunday of Lent	Bryngwyn	Eucharist	9.30am
	Crickadarn	Eucharist	11.00am
Holy Week			
Sun March 24th Palm Sunday	Bryngwyn	Eucharist/Palms	11.00am
Thurs March 28th Holy Thursday	Aberedw	Eucharist/Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament	7.00pm
Fri March 29th Good Friday	Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Stations of the Cross	2.00pm
Sat March 30th Holy Saturday	Aberedw	Easter Vigil	7.00pm
Sun March 31st Easter Day	Llanbedr	Eucharist of the Resurrection	9.30am
	Aberedw	Eucharist of the Resurrection	10.30am
	Llandeilo Garban	Eucharist of the Resurrection	11.00am

Fr Paul Keown. 01982 560823. paulkeown@cinw.org.uk

LOOKING FOR PART-TIME INDOOR WORK?

Welsh Fruit Stocks at Bryngwyn is looking for help over the winter months.
 Flexible hours around 10am-4pm weekdays
 Starting end of November
 Please contact office@welshfruitstocks.co.uk or call 01497 851 209

PAINCASTLE BOWLS

Paincastle Bowling Group will be re-starting in Paincastle Village Hall on Wednesday January 17th at 7pm. If you would like to join them, everyone is welcome. They can also arrange taster sessions for small groups to have a go. For more details please contact Dennis Moore 01544-370307

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
Gladestry 2 to 3pm
Wednesday Boughrood 10.15 to 11.45 Erwood 12 to 12.45
Clyro 12.00 to 2.30 pm
Friday Boughrood 10.15 to 11.30am
Gladestry 12.50 to 1.50pm
Still no signal for Painscastle Mobile Post Office

GLADESTRY NEWS

JANUARY & FEBRUARY at THE ROYAL OAK, GLADESTRY Pub closed from Jan 2 to Jan 18th inclusive

Winter Hours:-
Monday Closed
Tuesday & Wednesday 5.30 - 10pm No Food
Thursday 5.30 - 10pm Food 6 - 8pm
Friday 5.30 - 11pm Food 6 - 8pm
Saturday 11.30am - 11pm Food 12 - 2pm & 6 - 8pm
Sunday 12 - 5pm Food 12 - 2pm
Booking is advisable: [01544 370 586](tel:01544370586) or [07582 235 765](tel:07582235765)
Further details: <http://theroyaloakgladestry.co.uk>

Donations to Kington Food Bank are collected from the church porch of St Mary's Gladestry throughout the year by Howard & Ann Dean. Donations always welcome.

Clyro Village Hall

HayDay Creative Café at 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 usually be arranged with Dial-A-Ride.

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

The Spirit of Clyro Café is also open every Wednesday in Clyro Village Hall from 11-3 for tea/coffee and cake in a warm friendly environment (except for the last Wednesday of the month when HayDay Café takes place) along with the Post Office from 12-2.30pm.

The Spirit of Clyro Pop-up Pub is now a regular monthly occasion on the last Friday of the month from 6.30-11pm at Clyro Village Hall

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MORE TEA, VICAR?

Rev Ifor Williams

In my early days as a Baptist minister, we lived next door to the local Primary School, and as we had 5 young children and I was the local minister, Penny and I were very involved in the school on a number of levels. Amongst other things, Penny was the school caretaker, I was Chair of Governors, and once a week I led the school assembly. Penny and I shared the caretaker duties, and I would often unlock the school in the mornings before the teachers arrived.

One morning I walked into the school yard and noticed a strange car. A lady got out and informed me she was a School Inspector and would be leading the Ofsted inspection. Initially she thought I was a teacher but I told her I was just the caretaker, come to unlock the school. She began her inspection by following me around as I opened up all the classes and checked the toilets for toilet rolls etc. At the end of the week she presented the Headmaster with an informal initial report, which the Head passed on to me, in my role as Chair of Governors. There was one sentence which the Head and I found hilarious. It went something like this...
'On my first morning I was quite intrigued to find the caretaker leading the morning assembly. Two days later I was even more surprised to find that the caretaker was Chair of Governors! In my experience this is most unusual.'

In those days I used to have a lot of fun with school assemblies. On one occasion we'd had some baby ducklings, and I took them into school in a covered basket and hid them at the back of the Hall because I wanted them to be a surprise. As the children trooped into the Hall for assembly, the Head and I were standing at the front. The children were supposed to line up in absolute silence, but some of the ducklings started to cheep. *'Who's making that noise?'* said the Headmaster in a stern voice. Of course none of the children owned up, and the Head was not amused. He was even less amused when the cheeping sound started up again. *'WHO IS MAKING THAT NOISE?'* he said. I was hoping I would get away with it, but I had to lean across and whisper an explanation in his ear. That was the last time I took ducklings into a school assembly.

One of my more memorable assemblies was when I turned water into wine. To do this I prepared a tray with a glass jug and half a dozen glasses. The jug was filled with the clearest white wine I could find, but I pretended it was a jug of water. One of the glasses was already filled with water, and I gave it to the children to pass round while I told the story of Jesus turning water into wine. Then I took an empty glass and poured out some 'water' from the jug, and miraculously it turned into red wine before their very eyes! When I came to the part in the story where Jesus told the wine steward to take some wine to the host, I handed the glass to little Johnny, and suggested he take it to his teacher, to confirm that the water really had turned into wine. His teacher, guessing I'd put some red food colouring in the glass beforehand, was quite prepared to play along. She smilingly accepted the glass from little Johnny, lifted it to her lips, and drank. The look on her face was the funniest thing I'd seen in years. In complete shock she turned to her colleagues and said, *'It IS wine!'*

For a moment, even the teachers thought I was God!



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NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

The end of 2023 saw some big changes to my life personally with my wedding to my husband Tim. But also, as Brecon and Radnorshire's MP in that, not only will I be continuing to champion the constituency I love, but also Wales since my appointment as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Wales Office.

My new responsibilities span Welsh agriculture, the Mid and North Wales Growth Deals, the Cardiff and Swansea City Deals, and the Union, and enable me to more extensively hold the Welsh Government to account on education, health and many other critical services which I know from countless conversations over my time as an MP the Welsh Government falls short on.

The Autumn Statement certainly made for a busy start to my role and was especially significant given the £500,000 awarded to Hay Festival and I really welcomed the cut in National Insurance.

I am really cross with the banks after the decision to close another branch in Brecon and Radnorshire. I have held meeting with the Banking Minister and Barclays and will do all I can to ensure constituents are properly serviced by the high street banks.

My thoughts remain with those who lost loved ones last year, a New Year brings different times for many of us.

My inbox is open and appointments are available, please get in touch if I can help in anyway.

Fay.Jones.MP@parliament.uk or 02922 338545



PAINCASTLE WELL

Many thanks to Andrew Meredith for the new sign at the Paincastle Well. The Well garden will need some clearing up again once it stops raining, so we will be looking for volunteers to help. If you do have an hour or so to spare at any time, don't be afraid to do a little clearing. Also if anyone has any perennial plants spare, a good home awaits!

NEWS FROM WELSH ASSEMBLY

As we bid farewell to the challenges and triumphs of the past year, I extend my warmest wishes to each and everyone of you. The arrival of 2024 is not just a change in date but an opportunity for renewal, growth, and a collective commitment to shaping a brighter future.

Each passing year leaves an indelible mark on our lives and communities. In the political sphere from the Senedd, we have seen the implementation of a number of controversial policies from the Welsh Labour Government including the default 20mph speed limit, a universal basic income pilot, and plans for 36 more politicians. Let us take a moment to reflect on this and decide if these were the priorities that the people of Wales wanted in 2023.

The year 2024 brings with it more change here in Wales. We will welcome a new First Minister after the departure of Mark Drakeford, and let's hope and pray that the new First Minister puts the people's priorities first, delivering a stronger NHS, a thriving Education system and the public services that we all pay for and deserve. I know that they are my priorities in 2024, and that with shared efforts we can bring about meaningful transformations in our lives that we all need.

It is vitally important that your views are heard in shaping that future. We need to protect our Air Ambulance Base in Welshpool – make sure you have your say in the Phase 3 consultation that will start in 2024. We will also have further consultations on proposed Energy Parks. To date, we have seen plans for Nant Mithel, Aberedw and Bryn Gilwern. Again, I urge everyone to make their views known and have their say. Welsh Government will be launching consultations throughout 2024 and your voice needs to be heard – especially on Senedd Reform and Council Tax Changes.

We all make New Year's Resolutions, some kept for a day, others for a lifetime. Make 2024 the year of the voice – your voice – where your views, concerns, ideas are made known so that together we can shape our communities, protect and nurture them and make them fit for decades to come.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy New Year

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

PAINCASTLE RECYCLING & RUBBISH COLLECTION

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

Jan 8th Jan 29th Feb 19th Mar 11th

Bulky Waste Collections are available on a **Tuesday**. To pay, see Powys County Council website.

Garden waste is collected every fortnight on Tuesdays from March to November for an annual fee:

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Bruce Evans, Lower Pentre: 01497 851259
Vice-chairman, Becky Miles, The Cwm: 01497 851263
Sian Davies, Lletycoed: 07747 402200
David Nicholls, Castlefield Close: 01497 851331
Jenny Smith, Penrhiw: 01982 560289
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 Paincastle-Rhosgoch website:
www.paincastle-rhosgoch.co.uk
Meetings are held on third Monday of every month.

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NEWS FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

I hope that you all have had a great Christmas and enjoyed bringing in the new year and can I thank everyone who supported members of all our communities during the recent very wet weather with lots of water on the roads and some localised flooding, and a particular thanks to those who cleared some of the drains etc. during the very heavy rain on the 2nd January. I am aware of some issues in the Community and will raise them with the Highways Team, but if you have a particular issue, please let me know. I would much rather be informed of an issue many times than not at all.

Powys County Council

November and December have been busy with a full Council meeting at the start of December and the continued work that I am involved in in respect to :

- The review of car parking arrangements and charges
- The review of leisure services

Both reviews are expected to be completed over the next six weeks and hopefully I can provide more information in the next update.

2024-25 Budget

The County Council received its draft budget settlement in Christmas week and, at a 2.8% increase in its draft settlement, it is 0.3% below the Welsh Average. The Cabinet is currently considering their budget strategy, but have stated that significant reductions in services, cuts will be required whilst proposing a increase in Council Tax of around 5%.

The main budget pressures are:-

- Energy Costs
- Staff pay and employers on cost pressures.
- Increasing Service demands in both Adult and Children's services.

The pressure of an increasing number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, who the authority has been given the responsibility to support.

A significantly above inflation, or 9%, increase in precept from the fire authority.

As this is the last year of a three-year indicative budget, the position for the future years is currently unknown, but the authority is planning for no increase in the settlement received for both the 2025-26 and 2026-27, which, if correct, will result in further budget efficiencies.

The Cabinet will approve their planned budget in the middle of the month, following which I and the other opposition members will be able to challenge and make suggested changes to the planned budget.

It is my group's view that the front-line services should be protected as much as possible and that any reductions should come from reductions / improved efficiencies in the central services.

Current Consultations (Have your say)

The Council and other bodies have a number of engagement / consultations currently in process and these can be found at <https://haveyoursay.powys-wales>

Current Consultations are being held on:-

The Budget – Consultation closed on 7th January 2024

The Structure of the School Year – Closing date for responses 12th February 2024

The Fire Service Risk Management Plan – Closing date for responses 15th January 2024

Each of these, together with links to other surveys, can be accessed via the above link.

Broadband Scheme

Discussion continues to be undertaken with the new owners of Broadway and with one or more other potential providers and at a meeting a week before Christmas we were informed that there may be an emerging proposal for both the Aberedw/Glascwm and Painscastle projects and hopefully we will have some more

information by the February half term.

Wind Energy Parks

BUTE energy undertook the initial consultation on their proposals for the two energy parks at Bryn Gilwern and Aberedw Hill, which are to each side of Hundred House. The sessions were attended by over 400 members of the communities but the outcomes and their next steps in relation to these two parks are not expected until the Autumn of this year.

The next stage - proposals in relation to the proposed energy park on Radnor Forest and the new 60-mile pylon line - is expected to be made in late Spring.

I, together with other local members, continue to have regular communication with the staff representing BUTE, especially in relation to the governance arrangements for the Community Benefits Schemes, should the project gain planning permission

If you have any issues that you want to raise with me, please ring my mobile **07464 166262** or send me an e-mail: Cllr.Gareth.Jones1@powys.gov.uk

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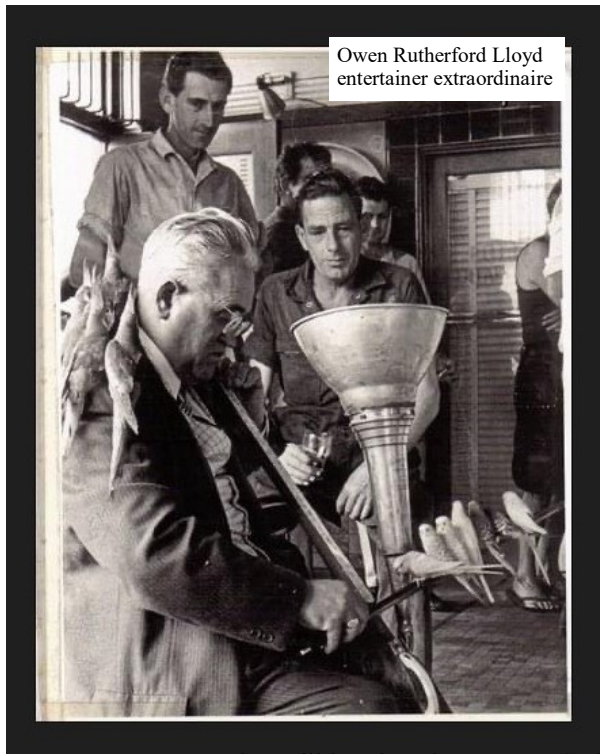
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QUICK QUOTE

Lonely is not being alone it's the feeling that no one cares. -
DPJ Foundation

PAINSCASTLE LOCAL INTEREST GROUP

The last meeting for 2023 was on Thursday November 30th when Cherry Williams told us about her family members who had emigrated to Australia in the 19th century. Owen Rutherford Lloyd, who was born in Australia in 1907, became a travelling showman in Australia and New Zealand and enjoyed an exciting life, with a book published about him which Cherry had managed to purchase. Cherry also met his granddaughter, Tawera, when she came over to this country last summer. Cherry told us many stories about various family members as well as pictures of people and places. Having researched her family history, she was able to take Tawera to some of the places where their ancestors had come from.



Owen Rutherford Lloyd
entertainer extraordinaire

Our next meeting will be Thursday January 25th at 7.30pm when we explore Elfael since the Normans or the Rise and Fall, and Rise and Fall and... of Painscastle.

As always, it will be a hybrid meeting with an audience in Painscastle Village Hall as well as people joining via Zoom. Everyone is welcome; for more details please email mlloydundy@outlook.com or phone 01497-851609

The group was set up to investigate and record the local area, both in the past and the present, to preserve the local identity for the future. We don't have membership, everyone is welcome at our meetings, visits or walks. I have an email list to inform everyone of things of interest so if you do want to be included in that list please email me [mlloydundy@outlook.com].

If you have a project you are working on or would like help with please let me know. It is now so much easier to research people and places either via the Internet or our libraries and Powys Archives, both of which offer free access to Ancestry and Find my Past. Suggestions for meetings or visits are always welcome. We like to invite newcomers to tell us a bit about how they came to the area, either at an evening of LIG or perhaps an article for this magazine. After all, we are not only what we eat, we also develop from our environment, and it is a Welsh custom to ask where do you come from?

The group covers anything of interest in the local and sometimes not so local area, so please join us.



ERWOOD STATION GALLERY

Open 7 days a week
from February 2nd 2024

9.30 to 5pm
Café closes at 4.30pm

Erwood Station Gallery and Café is now closed for maintenance work throughout the whole of January. We will be opening from Friday 2nd February at the usual times of 9.30am to 5pm. We will have a licence for that weekend and look forward to welcoming our customers back for the new year.

We will be making the café area more efficient and re-designing the gallery area of the Station, with general touch ups throughout (train carriage having a coat of paint etc).

Jenny, Steve and Stacey (and Laska the Husky)
For more details: 01982 560555

Spring Season Flicks & Live Show at Brilley Village Hall

Thursday 1st February: Oppenheimer (please note 7pm start and an interval) £5

Oppenheimer chronicles the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer, an American theoretical physicist, who was pivotal in developing the first nuclear weapons as part of the Manhattan Project, and thereby ushering in the Atomic Age.

Saturday 24th February 7.30pm: Spilt Milk Dance present Desert Island Flicks £12 Bar open

A blockbuster, adventure and rom com rolled into one, Desert Island Flicks sees two leading ladies reimagine, remake and spoof 90 of the most memorable movie moments of all time in just 90 minutes, taking on all the lead roles, stunts, and special effects! Somewhere between a dance performance, sketch show, a night at the movies and an epic game of charades, Desert Island Flicks shines a spotlight on life lessons learnt from the big screen, all set to a sensational soundtrack.

Thursday 7th March 7.30pm: Eternal Daughter (part of Borderlines film festival) £5.50

Starring Tilda Swinton in the dual roles of an artist and her elderly mother confronting long-buried secrets together as they return to a former family home, now a hotel haunted by its mysterious past. Shot in Wales and featuring a towering, deeply moving performance from Swinton, this beguiling film is dressed as a gothic thriller, with swirling mist, looming shadows and ghostly presences galore. Beautifully composed and intricately layered, it's a captivating study of motherhood, memory and loss.

Thursday 14th March 7.30pm: Past Lives (part of Borderlines film festival) £5.50

Nora and Hae Sung, two deeply connected childhood friends, are torn apart when Nora's family leaves Seoul. Two decades later, with Nora now married to Arthur, they are reunited in New York for one fateful week to confront notions of destiny, love, and the choices that make a life. A wistful, transporting romance that beautifully depicts and considers a decades-long, world-spanning love story.

Tickets are on sale now via www.pay-brilley.co.uk

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AUTUMN COMPETITIONS

Autumn Competitions will be held on Saturday 19th October 2024 at Painscastle Hall.

Winter Schedule
Theme: Rural Life

Open

- A Jar of Chutney
- A Jar of Jam
- Bottle of Cordial
- Knitted or Crocheted animal you would find in the river or on the river bank
- A Bird (Any Medium)
- Birthday Card
- A Photograph of a Farm Animal with a caption
- A Scarecrow depicting a Country Sport - Needs to be free standing (Can be entered as an organisation e.g. WI, YFC, Playgroup or an individual)
- A Poem titled "Rural Life"
- A Bug Hotel (Any Medium)
- A Cross Stitch
- Any craft not otherwise specified

Under 18s

- A Photograph "Sporting Event"
- A Craft Item (Any Medium)
- A Card using Dried or Pressed Flowers

Every exhibit must be the bona-fide work of the exhibitor

The main schedule will be printed in the summer.
For further information please contact Gaynor on 01497 851 243 or Gwyneth on 01497 851 264



Craft Club Dinner at the Roast Ox. Grace won the competition

Come and join us at Painscastle Village Hall Saturday 3rd February, from 4pm.



Live rugby @ 4:30

Followed by Race night, 1st race 7:30. Everyone welcome.



Food and Refreshment will be available.



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BRYNGWYN AND DISTRICT WI

Bryngwyn and District WI don't meet in January but will be back in Painscastle Village Hall on the first Monday of February to indulge in some country dancing.

Our March meeting is our annual general meeting. A good time to join as it's the start of the new membership year.

In November we met at the cafe in the park in Llandrindod Wells for a sociable lunch. In the afternoon we went to the County Archives. We were shown around and it proved to be a very interesting afternoon. At our December meeting Sylvia came equipped with felts, sewing materials and patterns and we made cheerful Christmas decorations to hang on our trees. A week later we met at the Roast Ox, together with some husbands and partners, and had an excellent Christmas dinner.

New members would be very welcome, for more information phone Helen on 01982 560492



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COFFEE BREAK STORY

The famous painting by Jack Vettriano, *The Singing Butler*, was the theme for one of the homeworks set for Kington Scribblers. We each wrote a story that could have been the reason for dancing on the beach in very inclement weather.



On a blustery, very wet afternoon, four figures (two umbrellas between them) struggled with the elements to find a level, fairly solid, piece of beach.

Lady Agatha Barney, resplendent in a long red evening gown with matching gloves, and Mr Christopher Renshaw, looking dapper in black evening attire, led the little party to their positions on the beach.

Two little boys, examining rock pools, looked up as the party arrived. 'Who's that?' queried one, after relocating his jaw from the dropped position.

'Ah dunno Archie. Bit funny ain't it, where's their fishin' nets or at least sticks to poke around the rocks. Their clothes is all wrong an' all!'

'You'm right there Bill, looks like the gentry.'

The boys gazed, hidden from view by a tall, shiny black rock.

'My ma says,' Bill continued with the air of one who knows what he's talking about, 'that the gentry eats lots of posh seafood, like oysters and crab an' suchlike and my ma says it makes 'em go a bit'the boy demonstrated a drilling effect with his right fore-finger to his right temple.....know what I mean?'

Archie nodded sagely. 'Anybody as eats oysters must be 'alf daft already if you ask me.'

The boys returned to their investigating of the rock pools, their interest in the new arrivals piqued but not to the point of total distraction.

'Oh this dratted wind, an I'm soaked to the skin already.' Alice loved her mistress, Lady Agatha, but she did have some strange ideas sometimes. Was this one of hers she wondered or was it Mr Renshaw, who was so besotted with her he'd do anything....even....this?'

Mr Golightly, the butler, had been with the family for years, serving Lady Agatha's parents before her. Even he had been roped in. He'd told me to try, as far as possible, to keep Lady A dry.... (whilst dancing?. Is he mad?).

Mr Golightly had to endeavour to keep Mr Renshaw dry....again whilst dancing! He, Mr Golightly, would sing a popular, romantic tune, with the words which he had been practising, so the couple had some sort of melody which would hopefully (fat chance if you ask me) enable the couple to keep in step.

My stars, 'ow I kept a straight face, I don't know, I think I pretended to grab me cap to prevent it being blown away.

Mr Golightly, singing in his lovely tenor voice, 'Love is the Strangest thing' and closing his eyes the better to remember the words, wasn't aware of Mr Renshaw's backward and speedy advance. He collided with Mr Golightly, sending the butler's bowler hat skidding across the sands. Trying to be helpful, I ran to retrieve it, umbrella still in hand, but Mr Golightly got to it at the same time and our umbrellas became sort of entangled.

'Get back to Lady Agnes!' Mr G hissed.

Quite upset at his unusually aggressive behaviour, I ran back to my post.

I managed to steal a glance at a battered leather overnight bag given into my charge and devoutly hoped it contained towels and flasks of hot coffee. I was thankful it was still where I'd left it.

After about ten minutes, Mr G stopped singing and called me over to his side indicating to bring the bag.

'I'm sorry,' he whispered, 'but nothing must go wrong.'

Then, everything happened at once. Mr Renshaw, holding Lady Agatha's hands in his, knelt down on one knee and proposed!

Lady A burst into tears and said 'yes of course.'

Mr G took a tiny box out of the bag and handed it to Mr Renshaw who opened it and held it out to Lady Agatha.

It was the most beautiful sapphire and diamond engagement ring....not showy, Lady A wasn't like that, but it was just, ...her! Mr Renshaw put it onto her finger and she held it up and, even in the dark afternoon, the stones shone and sparkled.

I received a hug from the happy couple, drying my eyes on my now sopping apron and we drank their health with champagne, which, along with the glass flutes, had also been secreted in the bag.

Mr Golightly explained all, and the necessity for secrecy. He even took his jacket off and wrapped it around my shoulders. Funny, I'd never really noticed his kind, grey eyes before.

The two little boys, now well and truly distracted from their rock pool pursuits, stared at the goings on.

'See Archie. That's wot 'appens when ya eats oysters an' crab.'

Ann Dean

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HERMON CHAPEL, RHOSGOCH

Rev Gordon Bingham and Helen came to Hay with their 3 eldest children, David, Bekah and Hannah, in 2013, Gordon was inducted as Pastor of Bethesda Evangelical Church, Hay-on-Wye. In November of that year their 4th child, Keziah, was born.

Gordon quickly involved himself in the local community. He now takes regular assemblies at Hay and Clyro Primary Schools, he served for several years as Chairman of Hay School governors and he is involved in the running of Hay Markets. He also takes regular services at Cartref Care Home. One of Gordon's first projects at Bethesda Church was the planning and facilitation of a complete renovation of the building. It has been transformed from one room to a modern church with 2 floors, full disabled access and facilities including disabled toilet and passenger lift and a kitchen.

The church under Gordon's leadership has become a community hub with two services plus Sunday School every Sunday and regular weekly meetings, including youth groups, Tea and Chat, prayer and bible study with a Hay warm welcome every Thursday when free meals and food parcels are offered to anyone in need of them. There is also a week long Bible club for children during the school Easter Holiday held at the church and children connected with the church are given the opportunity to attend Summer Christian camps in other places.



As well as his work at Bethesda Church, Gordon also takes regular afternoon services at our local chapels including those in Rhosgoch, Newchurch and Llandeilo Graban.

He is seen here at a service at Hermon Chapel Rhosgoch where safeguarding was introduced. This is being supported and encouraged by the Church's affiliated body, the Congregational Federation (CF). Chapels and churches, like other places of worship, are expected to be covered by the relevant safety regulations that keep us safe from fire and structural damage. With the support and prayerful encouragement of Revd Sara Iles, who is our delegated safeguarding checker for the CF in Wales, it is planned that each chapel will work towards appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure best practice is initiated and maintained for the wellbeing and safeguarding of all members, church adherents and groups from the wider community

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Hay & District Dial-a-Ride

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Looking for a New Year's Resolution this January? Why not choose to give some of your time to helping your local community by volunteering? We are in need of new community car drivers and passenger assistants to join our team. These roles are highly flexible and if driving we reimburse all mileage at a rate of £0.45 per mile. Journeys would primarily include taking members to hospital and medical appointments. Passenger assistants are needed on our vehicles to help with social trips and wheelchair clients and all training will be given. If you are interested in either role pop into our office for a chat or download the relevant application form from our website. All appointments are subject to enhanced DBS clearance, references and other checks.

LUNCH CLUB INFORMATION

Since last year, thanks to funding from the Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust, we have been able to offer free transport to both Hay and Talgarth Lunch Clubs. As of 1st April 2024, however, this funding will be coming to an end. We will still be putting on transport to these clubs but members will now need to pay a standard return fare.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We'd like to wish all our members, volunteers, trustees and staff a Happy New Year 2024.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY TRIPS

Friday 5th January- Brecon Bank Bus
Wednesday 10th January- Old Railway Line Garden Centre, Three Cocks
Wednesday 24th January- Lunch at The Hub, Peterchurch
Friday 2nd February- Brecon Bank Bus
Wednesday 14th February- Old Railway Line Garden Centre, Three Cocks
Friday 23rd February- Lunch at the New Strand, Eardisley
All our trip fares are free of charge thanks to funding from the Lindenleaf Trust.

Hay Dial-a-Ride:

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PAINCASTLE AND RHOSGOCH TODDLER GROUP

Happy New Year to all! Before a wonderful Christmas break we all had lots of fun crafting and playing. The hall was beautifully decorated and felt very festive full of excited children. We are all now looking forward to lots more fun Tuesday mornings in 2024.

Please check our Facebook page

Sophia 07772285594



PANTOMIME REVIEW: Dick Whittington at The Courtyard, Hereford

by Abbie (9) Paige (5), and Conor (3)

Did you like the pantomime? Yes

What characters did you like? We liked Dick and Tiddles the cat, and Penny (the dame). She threw sweets into the audience, but we didn't get any because we were sitting on the balcony and she couldn't throw that far. We loved the ghost and the sheep, but we didn't like King Rat, he was scary and he squirted water into the audience, we were glad we were on the balcony then. Abbie said "I particularly liked Alice because of the way she talked, and Penny was very funny. Maisie the robot was very good, King Rat was good but I wasn't scared!"

