

Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 28 Issue 5

May / Jun 2023

£1

When this arrived by email a few weeks ago I couldn't believe it was genuine.

Maureen Lloyd

is invited to a

Local Media Champions' Reception

hosted by Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

at

10 Downing Street

on

Wednesday 19th April 2023

Please arrive for 5.00pm

Ends: 6.00pm

Why would I get an invitation to No 10 Downing Street?

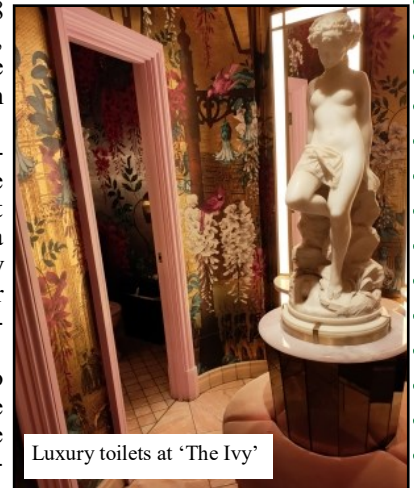
After a little investigation I discovered that local MPs recommend the attendees, and Fay Jones our local MP recommended me, on behalf of 'The Rhosgoch Gossip'. I was thrilled, although a little overwhelmed by the idea of travelling to London and visiting such a special place. Luckily I was allowed to take a 'plus one' with me, so daughter-in-law Pam came to hold my hand!

The 'Gossip', which started as a school newspaper, has been going for 28 years and I am extremely proud to be its editor. It is a real community newspaper, with so many people involved in its production and distribution, so I think it fitted the criteria for the reception perfectly. I booked the train tickets and we planned a day in the capital.

Pam and I caught the 9 o'clock train from Hereford and arrived in Paddington at lunchtime. From there we went on the underground to Victoria. There have been lots of changes since I was last in London, paying for the tube with your credit card proved much simpler than the previous often fraught experiences. At Victoria we went into Westminster Cathedral, a building I had never been inside. I do enjoy visiting some of the sights and architecture of our cities. Pam had booked lunch for us at 'The Ivy' which provided some wonderful cuisine, but also had its own architectural magnificence in the toilets.

With maps in hand, we walked to Buckingham Gate, arriving just in time to watch the changing of the guard. Work was already going on to erect stands near the Victoria Memorial ready for the Coronation. It was a lovely day and although there were plenty of people around it was not too crowded. We ambled around, down Birdcage Walk, St James's Park, through Horse Guards Parade to Whitehall - again more stands ready for the huge crowds anticipated for May 6th. In Whitehall two Guards on their horses stood quietly on duty as the crowds patted and photographed these magnificent animals. We then walked to Trafalgar Square, to see Nelson's Column, and the Mall through Admiralty Arch, before returning down Whitehall. As we had a little time to spare we walked past the Memorial to the Women of World War II and the Cenotaph and carried on to Parliament Square to see Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. I was surprised at how close together all these familiar landmarks are; walking between was enjoyable and really gave me a sense of direction and place.

Soon it was 4.45pm when we presented our invites and our ID at Downing Street gate. It was not a big reception, about 120. Sometimes they cater for twice that number. After going through security and leaving our phones in the foyer, we walked up the famous stairs with the portraits of past Prime Ministers lining the walls. Another security check made sure, who was who, and then into one of the reception rooms. Here a choice of wine, white or red, or juice, was offered it was very relaxed. Then an announcement for all the MPs to return to the House to vote on the Finance Bill. Several trooped off to do their duty while Lucy Frazer, our hostess, had been given special permission to be absent. Fay Jones, being one of the whips, was not given that privilege so she sent her neighbour's representative to 'look after us'. We looked at a couple of function rooms, where meetings are held, and where they hold press conferences. I chatted to one of the waiters who works as a footman at Buckingham Palace, and we talked to one lady who was an editor of 5 local weekly papers in Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland. Everyone has a story! Here was 'the Gossip' in No 10, Meg, our host's assistant queried the pronunciation of 'Rhosgoch' - so we did get noticed.



Luxury toilets at 'The Ivy'



Lucy Frazer welcomed us with a speech about the importance of local media and communications:-

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Lucy Frazer said: *Local journalism helps local areas stay connected, generates local pride and keeps communities engaged in local issues. Local journalists capture the heart of our communities and make sure politicians are doing their jobs better by holding them to account.*

It was wonderful to be joined by local journalists across the country in Downing Street last week - from community news sites, radio shows and free sheets - to thank them for their work to keep communities connected.



Lucy Frazer came around her guests and chatted to us. We had a photo taken, including 'the Gossip'. Fay Jones caught up with us and soon the hour was over, and we went back down the stairs and then posed for a photo in front of the most famous

front door in Britain. Fay walked with us to the tube station and then we were on our way back home to Painscastle. We had had a taste of the 'big time', canapés and wine. I was extremely privileged to represent 'the Rhosgoch Gossip' which, despite very humble beginnings, has continued to prosper through the strong community support of our local district. We had a lovely day in London, so thanks to all the 'Gossip Gang'.

Official photos: Nixon Wong

ML

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to Erwood YFC after qualifying for the NFYFC Entertainment's Final they gained third place.

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THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

Jade Redford, an ex pupil of Rhosgoch School and her mum Kate, are part of a team who are doing the Three Peaks Challenge on July 5th 2023. Jade, and her friend and future sister-in-law Sophie Strickland were in London on a night out on 10th July 2022 when Sophie was hit by a drink driver and, despite the best efforts of the ambulance service, Sophie died at the scene. She was just 31.

Sophie had raised money for a number of charities and as the first anniversary of this tragedy approaches several family members and friends aim to honour her memory by completing this challenge to raise money for three charities which were close to her heart. They are Ty Llytd Community Mental Health, Brake, and Macmillan Cancer Charity. Robert Strickland, David Strickland, Alex Strickland, Chris Wise, Chris Parry, Jade Redford, Kate Redford, Sam Fleming, Jake Thompson and Danielle Jenkinson will be completing this challenge as a team. Along with them, Edward their Family Liaison Officer, and Daniel a colleague from the Metropolitan Police will be joining them in their effort to climb Snowdon, Cader Idris and Pen-y-fan within 24 hours.

They have set up a crowdfunding page at https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jade-redford-1?utm_term=RZj9rXyXz&fbclid=IwAR0GF5Z26g03PHHLFnlmfgCIIHF5kzBR-9sjEfKw9DDftQUTxeyEiFRY8T5A

For more information or to offer encouragement email Kate kateredford.kr@gmail.com.



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70 Years Ago in Painscastle

As we approach the Coronation of King Charles 111 (although, by the time you are reading this it will have happened) I thought I would take you back 70 years to the wonderful celebrations in Painscastle. This of course was the Coronation of our late Queen Elizabeth 11, who died in 2022 having reigned for 70 years. There are still some of us who will remember that exciting day or will be reminded when they see the attached photographs.

It was a massive occasion with people from the whole of Painscastle and adjoining districts turning out in style. Painscastle had its own Queen and attendants and families made huge efforts in dressing their children and themselves for the Carnival. And then there was the "Tea" – such a big hit with children.

Photograph: Queen was Ann(e) Hughes (Wern, Bryngwyn) with small attendant Wendy Price (Pencaenewydd) on her right. Left: at the back is Eileen Lloyd (Upper Lundy) and front Eileen Breese (Wern, Llandewi Fach). Right: at the back is Pamela Griffiths (Portway, Rhos-goch) and front Thelma Price (Llanbachowey).

I do have the photograph of us all with our mugs taken by the wall of Adullum Chapel which I think most people will have seen.

Also, there is this great photograph of the Grand Carnival where young and old took part. Who do you recognise? Are you in the photo? I know it's 70 years ago but it certainly doesn't feel that long.



If anyone would like an email copy of either photograph you are welcome to contact me - cherryw@keme.co.uk and I will endeavour to get one to you.
Cherry Williams

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Monday 11am 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 11.30am Booths Studio	Hay on Wye- GENTLE PILATES
Wednesday 6pm Clifford Community Centre	
Friday 9am Booths Studio	Hay on Wye

Online Pilates Emma continues

December Super Saturday was so much fun, so look out for future Saturday dates over the coming months.

For further details including booking

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IN YOUR GARDEN

A heady time of the year, with so much going on in the garden and countryside. Spring can often be a frustrating season, with winter, particularly this year, seemingly reluctant to let go. But (hopefully!) by now the optimism of the birds' chorus is justified. We're



lucky round here to have a good population of skylarks; it's often rare or absent now from much of lowland Britain due to modern agricultural practices. Its wonderfully complex song can give such an uplift, a spirit-raising feel to a spring day.

Many herbaceous subjects are mid to late summer flowering, and will keep us waiting. Lupins are relatively early, and will reward us with a vivid display in May and June. *Lupinus polyphyllus* is a native of North America, where they're known as blue bonnets. In the early 20th century the British horticulturist George Russell painstakingly hybridised them to give us the Russell hybrids that we grow today, with their dense flower spikes in a wide range of colours. They are easy-going, need no staking, have decorative foliage, and are attractive to bumble bees. They don't need a rich soil and, indeed, in such soils they can be short lived, so don't apply any manure or compost when you plant them. The giant lupin aphid, an introduced pest, can devour and kill a plant if left unchecked. This looks, er, like a giant aphid, so keep your eyes on the developing flower spikes and spray if necessary.

Plant out bedding when you are confident that frosts are over. Ditto with runner and French beans, sweet-courgettes, and squash. Don't go too mad with courgettes as they can be immensely productive! Plant out taters as soon as possible, and get ready to cover them if frost threatens. One of the best and tastiest earlies was a variety called Lady Christl. This seems to have been a casualty of Brexit and is no longer available. Do share if you have any particular recommendations.

Sow leeks in a seed bed, and plant out in July. If you've made an good start with early taters, leeks can be planted as a follow-on crop. Sow winter brassicas for planting out in June.

Get down close and personal with the soil (it's the getting back up again that's the difficult bit). It's an amazing substance, on which we're all totally dependant. May the skylarks be with you.

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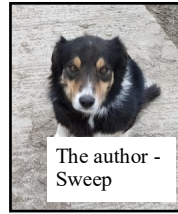
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LIFE AT LUNDY



The author - Sweep

Well we at Lundy are all fed up with lambing, it seems to have gone on for ever, so I don't think I will tell you about sheep.

I think you know that we have proper kennels or houses for us dogs to live in. They are a row of three, I live in the first - of course! Rex lives in the

middle one and Gyp lives in the third one. Until recently I was the only one with a door for my house, the other two had pallets which Mo had fixed to the front to stop them getting out. However, Matthew has been practising his carpentry skills and so we all now have doors! Mine is still the best as I have a bigger window for me to look out of to see what is going on, while the other two doors are alike, so they may get confused and go to the wrong home.

As well as giving up with lambing, we have given up on moles, Mo now is playing in the garden rather than walking around the fields with her



Dog Row, Lundy

little sticks marking where the traps are. I don't really mind as I quite like helping her in the garden, especially if it is a nice warm day and I can relax in the sunshine. She doesn't seem to have done much good with her gardening this year. She keeps burying things and she expects them to grow or so she says. So far her beans didn't come up nor did the peas, perhaps she put them in the wrong way around and so they have gone down rather than up. However, she can grow rhubarb, well I don't know that she grows it I think it just grows in spite of anything she does. It's a bit like the thistles and nettles that Ken grows in the fields, I don't think he really means them to grow, but they grow in never-the-less.

I suppose it is the time of year that everyone gets cutting. The humans are cutting the grass on their lawns to make it look tidy. Maybe that is what gave Paige her idea. Paige was born the same day as me, and lives with us at Lower Lundy, so of course we are buddies! Maybe she wants to be a hairdresser when she grows up and she was just practising. I blame Mo really as it was her scissors that Paige and Conor found, naturally they would want to see if it cuts, so what better idea than to cut some hair. Paige now has a fringe but Conor's was too short to really be re-styled! Gyp has some long straggly hair again so maybe Paige would like to practise on her, I don't think she could do a worse job than Mo did last time, and the time before she cut her ear. I make sure my coat is shiny as I don't want the same treatment.!

Sweep

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“MORE TEA, VICAR?”

As an avid reader of the ‘Gossip’ for some time, I’ve been aware that Mo has been asking for more contributions. Having recently retired as a Baptist Minister, I thought I might regale you with a few stories that have made me smile over the years. The stories come from a different part of the country, and any names have been changed to avoid embarrassment.

I had never intended to become a minister, and started my career milking cows on various farms from Ludlow to Tenby. The call to ministry came out of the blue, and was a shock to my friends as much as to me. I remember clearing tyres off a silage clamp and telling my mates that I’d handed in my notice and was going in for the ministry. They looked rather mystified at first, and then one of them shrugged his shoulders and said, “Well at least in the Ministry of Agriculture you won’t have to get up at 5 in the morning!”

I had three years in Cardiff studying for ministry, and during that time I heard all sorts of stories, including the ‘pastoral emergencies’, when someone comes knocking at the door or ringing late at night, with some dire situation where your presence is required immediately. After being in my first church for a few months, I was rather disappointed that I hadn’t had a stream of people knocking on my door or ringing in the middle of the night. And then it happened...

I was fast asleep one night when I woke feeling rather groggy, wondering what that strange noise was that I could hear in the distance. As I came to, I realised the noise was the phone ringing in the kitchen. Turning on the light I looked at my watch and saw it was 4am. Still half asleep, I thought, “Who on earth can be ringing at 4 o’clock in the morning?” And then it dawned on me... This was a pastoral emergency! My presence was needed immediately in some dire situation!

Like Superman rushing to save the world, I jumped out of bed and dashed to the kitchen, praying the phone wouldn’t stop ringing before I got there. Snatching up the phone I said, “Hello, this is Rev Ifor Williams. How can I help?” There was a slight delay, and a voice said, “Is that the Airport?”

A few minutes later a very deflated and disappointed young minister was getting back into bed. By then of course Penny was wide awake. “What’s happened?” she said, “Do you need to go out?”

“No,” I said, “Go to sleep. It was a wrong number.”

Of course, there was the time when the police rang in the middle of the night, asking if I could come and talk to a young man who was standing on the parapet of a high bridge, and threatening to jump off, but that one wasn’t so funny.

“More tea, Vicar?”

Rev Ifor Williams

U3A Hay

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 normally £5 for members and £7 for visitors, with some free meetings during the year. New members are always welcome and it’s a great way to make friendships, learn and have fun.

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

At the u3a Hay meeting on 16th May we welcome Lily Dyu, Author and Adventurer. Researching true stories across the world to inspire her readers.

Lily Dyu is a freelance writer, author and adventurer based in Llowes. Nature is a central theme in all her work and she’s passionate about ensuring that *all* children see themselves reflected in the stories they read, and making publishing open for everyone. She has written four children’s books: *Earth Heroes* (shortlisted for the 2020 ALCS Educational Writers Award), *Fantastic Female Adventurers* (shortlisted for the 2020 Rubery Award), *The World’s Wildest Places*, and *The Amazing Power of Activism*. She believes that reading transforms us, writing drives social change and doing both benefits the world. Her fascinating illustrated talk will take us into her world of adventure and research across the world, learning how she inspires her young readers.

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



U3A HAY



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PROGRAMME:

People of Wales during a period of great national change.

16th May Lily Dyu, Author and Adventurer. Researching true stories about people from all over the world to inspire her readers.

20th June Jasper Fforde ‘The filming of On the Black Mountains’. Memories and photographs taken during the filming of this classic local book

18th July Garden Party

12-2.30 Join us for a bring and share lunch in Brook Street Community Garden, Hay.

PAINSCASTLE

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

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

May 9th May 23rd June 6th June 20th July 4th



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COFFEE BREAK TIME KINGTON SCRIBBLERS

OUR DAD

By Lorna Hart

At last, it was the end of World War Two and VE Day on 8th May 1945 had been a day of celebrations all over the country. Now I excitedly believed that our Dad would soon be coming home. I imagined him jumping off the train in his khaki uniform and striding down the station platform to greet us, a big grin of pleasure on his face. But the weeks passed by and still he did not return. I asked my mother often why he didn't come. Each time she lowered her head in a sad, defeated way and said that our dad was in hospital and that he would come home when he was better.

"Was he wounded?" I asked her.

"No, not badly wounded but..." and her voice faltered for a moment, then she smiled at me. "Your father was in a camp, a prison camp, for three years and he did not get much to eat. When you do not have enough to eat for a long time you will become ill, and so he is in hospital getting well enough to come home."

"So, he has not lost an arm or a leg?" I persisted in my gory, little boy way.

My mother ruffled my hair affectionately. "No, he has not lost any limbs, but he has had a very bad time. Several of his best friends were killed, which broke his heart too. So, when he does come home, he will need us all to be very kind and patient."

This puzzled me deeply. In those dreadful days of war, all kids thought of the men away fighting for us as heroes. We visualised them as big, strong men bravely fighting for their country and their families. To find out that my father had been in a prison camp for years and not fighting came as a shock. No one had told me that before. My father had not come home on leave for a long, long time but I had thought that he was just too far away to come home. I had imagined him in the desert riding a camel or driving a tank, or throwing grenades at the Germans, as I had seen in films in the cinema.

I remembered my father but, as I suddenly realised, only rather vaguely. I could hardly remember his face at all if it were not for all the photos around the house of him on his wedding day, with his arm proudly round my mother's waist. There were several others, with me as a toddler and my little sister as a baby in his arms. Julia, my little sister, had no memory of our father, except for those photos. She often sat and gazed at these pictures, and I knew she was longing for our Dad to come home and cuddle her as he had done in those photos.

My mother often talked about my Dad and told us how they had met, and all the things they had done together. Dad's brother Jim had a farm not too far from us and Mum had explained that Uncle Jim had not had to go and fight because of the need to grow food for us all. During the war we sometimes went by bus to visit our uncle and auntie on the farm and would come home with vegetables, eggs and butter which we sorely needed in those trying times of food rationing. Uncle Jim had come to our house and built a chicken coop on the side of Dad's big shed. He also gave us three chickens, which my Mum christened Hilda, Matilda and Aggie. The hens gave us eggs nearly every day and Mum would share them with the neighbours when she could spare them.

The weeks went by and still my Dad did not come home. Then at last the letter came telling my mother which train he would be arriving on. We dressed in our Sunday best and got the bus to the railway station. My mother looked nervous and distracted but Julia was dancing with joy. At last, her daddy was coming home. I picked up on my mother's nervousness and became a little anxious myself.

We stood on the platform, gazing down the track, waiting for the train, and eventually it appeared in the distance, puffing down the tracks towards us. The train stopped, the doors banged open, and lots of people got off the train. My

mother spotted my father and ran to him, flinging her arms around him. I was shocked. Was this extremely gaunt, awkward-looking man my father? He was wearing a shabby, shapeless suit and holding his kit bag tightly in his hand. He was not smiling. He put his arm gently round my mother and kissed her softly on the cheek. His eyes passed over me and Julia, and then he gazed off into the distance.

My mother was busy asking him questions, to which he just nodded, and Julia fastened herself around his leg. He gently disentangled her so he could move. We all walked out of the station into the sunshine and stood in line for the bus home. My mother tucked her arm into her husband's and took Julia by the hand. I just hung back, bewildered and more than a little hurt as our father had showed no interest at all in us, his children.

We reached home and Mum busied herself with making a meal. Our father went upstairs with his bag and did not come down again until Mum called him for dinner. As we ate, my sister and I glanced at our father from time to time. Julia had finally accepted that he was not going to respond to us as we had both been expecting and so she sat and ate quietly, not looking up from her plate.

After dinner we all listened to the radio for a while until it was time for bed. "Kiss your father goodnight", said Mum and we dutifully kissed the thin unresponsive cheek. Our Father patted Julia on the head and touched me on the arm. He looked close to exhaustion and suddenly I felt deep pity for this broken man.

During the days that followed, our father more or less ignored us. He could not seem to stand the noise of our normal play and chatter, and he would go out into the garden and hide in the shed. The shed had been his pride and joy before the war, and his tools were still arranged carefully on the wall but were now covered in dust and cobwebs. He made no attempt to do anything, but just sat in the creaky old garden chair with his head down and his hands dangling between his knees, lost in his thoughts.

The weeks went by without much change. Our mother went to work as usual, and we went to school. Uncle Jim and Aunt Ros visited but Dad did not respond much to them either except to say that he was okay when they asked how he was. "He just needs time to adjust", I heard my mother whisper to Uncle Jim, and he snorted in reply. He tried to joke with his brother, but Dad just got quietly up and went off into the shed and closed the door.

T. D. LLOYD

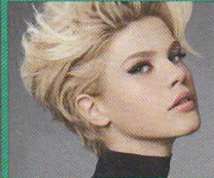
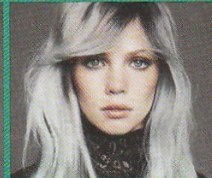
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COFFEE BREAK TIME KINGTON Continued

Julia and I were puzzled by this strange behaviour of our dad. Why was he not glad to be home? Julia even asked our mother if her daddy loved us all or not. Tears filled our poor mother's eyes. "Of course, he loves you. Your daddy has been through some horrible times, and he just needs us to be very patient and love him until he feels better".

The grass grew long and neglected in the garden. Eventually Uncle Jim came over and cut it, huffing impatiently at the closed shed door. Still our father hid in the shed most of the day and did nothing. Then one Saturday Julia was playing with her favourite doll when its arm fell off, then the other arm fell off and Julia burst into noisy tears. Our mother was at the shops and eventually, as the noisy tears did not stop, our Dad came out of the shed and asked me what the matter was. I told Dad about the broken doll, and he came into the living room where Julia lay on the floor sobbing inconsolably.

"If you will try to stop crying," said Dad quietly, "I will try to mend the doll". Julia sat up, quiet now, sniffing and rubbing the tears from her eyes. "Can you fix her, Daddy?" she said. "I am not sure," Dad replied, "but I will try".

We all trooped out to the shed and Dad cleared the dust off his workbench with an old rag and laid out a clean sheet of newspaper. He examined the doll carefully. "Look here, she is held together with elastic, and this has got stretchy with age". Our father showed us how the doll's limbs and head were held together with loops of elastic.

Dad turned to me. "Can you nip and find some elastic like this from your mother's sewing box?". I nodded and ran into the house. I found some similar elastic and ran back to the shed. Julia stood close to our father's knee as he explained how he had to take the doll apart to fix her.

Soon the doll lay dismembered on the workbench and Julia fidgeted with anxiety as we watched our father attach the new elastic and after a couple of adjustments, the doll was soon back in one piece again.

Julia was ecstatic and, flinging her arms round his neck, she enthusiastically showered Dad's face with kisses. "Oh, thank you, thank you!" she cried, and she laid her head on his chest. Slowly his hands moved around her, and he cuddled Julia tight. Julia snuggled in close. "My Daddy, my daddy", she murmured, and I saw our father's eyes fill with tears. He held out his arm to me and I joined in the hug, tears filling my eyes too.

That day was a catalyst for my father's recovery. It was not an instant recovery of course but, gradually, day by day, he got better. First, he cleaned out the shed and soon his tools were all clean and oiled, ready for use. Then he dug over a corner of the garden to grow some vegetables and he built the hens a bigger run. He smiled more and he and my mother were more openly affectionate to each other and soon he was equally loving to Julia and me.

In a few months he fully regained his strength and went to work for his brother Jim on the farm. He gradually became the man he had been in the photos in our living room, and he smiled and laughed again. He never, ever spoke of the things he had experienced in the war. We didn't care, we were just kids. We were just so happy that we had our daddy back again.

Lorna Hart



Hay & District Dial-a-Ride

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

Here at Hay Dial-a-Ride, we're aware just how difficult things still are amidst the cost of living crisis. That's why we have a number of different services and support in place to help those of our members who may need it. We are now running a free shopping trip to Hay on Tuesdays until the end of the year. As well as this, all our monthly trip fares are now free of charge until the end of March 2024. These include our monthly Bank Bus to Brecon and Old Railway Line Garden Centre trips. Alongside this we offer financial support from our Hardship Policy to cover membership fees and fares for members who need it on a temporary basis. We also offer free membership and transport for refugees living within our catchment area (9 miles of Hay) and free transport for carers.

MINIBUS DRIVERS NEEDED

We are still looking for new volunteer drivers for our minibus. We are currently most in need of a driver who would be available on alternate Tuesday mornings for our Hay shopping service. No experience is needed and all training is provided. Give Lesley a ring in the office to find out more. All applications are subject to references and DBS checks.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Here are our trips for June:

Friday 2nd June- Brecon Bank Bus

Wednesday 14th June- Old Railway Line Garden Centre, Three Cocks, Glasbury

Tuesday 20th June- Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Centre. Free of charge

Give Lou a ring in reception if you would like to book a place on any of the above.

Hay Dial-a-Ride:

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SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri May 5th	Right Royal Knees-up Erwood Market Hall 7pm til late Tickets £10
Sun May 7th	Volunteering Day at Erwood 10.00am
Sun May 7th	Paincastle Coronation Celebration 2pm
Mon May 8th	Erwood Coronation Tea Party 3pm
Sat Jul 29th	Gwenddwr Show
Sat Sept 16th	Murder Mystery Evening Erwood Market Hall

HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH

SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30pm
Sunday 7th May at 11am
An 'All Age' service for the whole community, to celebrate the coronation of King Charles. All are welcome.
Led by Rev. Janet Russell

PAINCASTLE BAPTIST CHAPEL

Sun Jul 30th	United Service with Rhosgoch & Moriah 2.30pm
Sun Aug 13th	ANNIVERSARY 6.30pm

MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL,

Sun May 14th	Special Service Rev Rob Jones
Sun May 28th	Penny Robinson
Sun Jun 26th	Rev Gordon Bingham
Services at 2.30pm	
Sun Jul 9th	ANNIVERSARY 6.00PM

EBENEZER CHAPEL, NEWCHURCH

A warm welcome extended to all, at any of these services.

Sun May 14th	3pm Rev Janet Russell
Sun Jun 11th	3pm United Service with Rhosgoch Rev Gordon Bingham
Sun Jul 2nd	6.30pm ANNIVERSARY

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AUDREY MARY BOWYER

We are sad to announce the passing of Audrey Mary Bowyer, who lived for many years at Folly Cottage (The Shop), Rhosgoch. She died peacefully after a short illness in Cornwall, her home for the last 11 years, at the age of 95. The Bowyer family came to Rhosgoch in 1971 after several holidays at Mrs Jones' Caravan Park in the village. Initially coming for holidays, Jack and Audrey finally retired to the village in the 1980s. The family wish to thank all who knew her for the kind welcome and friendship they gave us all over the years.
Christine Adams

ERWOOD & PAINCASTLE CHURCH SERVICES

Sun May 7th Easter 5	10.30am	Aberedw	Eucharist for the Sovereign
Sun May 14th Easter 6	10.30am	Llandeilo Graban	Morning Prayer
Sun May 21st Easter 7	10.30am	Bryngwyn	Eucharist
	10.30am	Crickadarn	Morning Prayer
Sun May 28th Pentecost	10.30am	Llanbedr	Morning Prayer
Sun Jun 4th Most Holy Trinity	10.30am	Aberedw	Eucharist
	2.30pm	Llandewi Fach	Eucharist
Thurs Jun 8th Corpus Christi	7.00pm	St Mary, Builth	MA Launch
Sun Jun 11th First after Trinity	9.30am	Llanbadarn	Eucharist
	11.00am	Llandeilo Graban	Eucharist
Sun Jun 18th Second after Trinity	9.30am	Bryngwyn	Eucharist
	11.00am	Gwenddwr	Eucharist
Sun Jun 25th Third after Trinity	9.30am	Crickadarn	Eucharist
	11.00am	Llanbedr	Eucharist
Sun Jul 2nd Fourth after Trinity	10.30am	Aberedw	Eucharist
	2.30pm	Llandewi Fach	Eucharist
Sun Jul 9th Fifth after Trinity	9.30am	Llanbadarn	Eucharist
	11.00am	Llandeilo Graban	Eucharist

Have a wonderful summer

God bless you and those you love.

Paul and Carolyn XX

Father Paul Keown. 01982 560823 frpaulkeown@mac.com

KILVERT WALK 30 JULY 2023

- The 25th Annual Pilgrimage will be on 30th July this year. Assemble at Newchurch 10am (leaving for Bryngwyn 10.45), or join at Bryngwyn 12 - 1pm (Recital/BYO lunch), at Ireland 3 - 3.15, at Llanbedr 4 - 5pm or at Llandewi Fach for closing Evensong at 6pm.
- The main feature will be the Harp Recital at Bryngwyn by renowned Welsh Harpist Eleri Darkin.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. Thanks to the many people who have sent contributions in. As you will see the 'Gossip' has had some official recognition lately, which is all due to local community support, so thank you once again for all your efforts.

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 [July/Aug 2023] is 30th June 2023. [mlloydldundy@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, 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 mlloydldundy@outlook.com.

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

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 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

GLADESTRY NEWS

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Clyro Village Hall

HayDay Creative Café at Clyro Village Hall

On Wednesday May 31st we will be enjoying more creative fun activities, all good for our brains. 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 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

Wednesday 10th May 2pm-4pm in Clyro Village Hall.
Growing up in Clyro: old photos and a bit of history by Brian Morgan.

By popular request we are repeating our FREE event in case you missed the excellent illustrated talk held in March. The Café will be open from 11am as usual, the show starts at 2pm and tea and homemade cake will be available to purchase during the interval.

Friday June 16th The Sprit of Clyro presents 'Into the Breach' at Clyro Village Hall at 7pm. We welcome Mark Carey's heart-warming one man show 'Into The Breach', a winning combination of a WWII setting for Shakespeare's Henry V. George Crocker is keen to liven up his dull life so he decides to join the Village Drama Club. What happens then turns his world upside down.

Set during the Second World War, this nostalgic, funny and moving story will appeal to all, from ten years and up. It is a vivid portrait of village life with all seventeen colourful characters played by one man. Bar opens at 6.30pm and there will be an interval.

Tickets £8 (u-16s £6) in advance from Sue 07812 559337 or clyrohallcommittee@gmail.com

BRYNGWYN AND DISTRICT WI

We continue to meet on the first Monday of the month in the Painscastle District Hall.

The March meeting was our Annual General Meeting. We then had an excellent, interesting and humorous talk by Mr Andy Holman. He told us about the pipeline taking water from the Elan Valley to Birmingham. The water runs under gravity and takes three days. The pipeline runs under Mr Holman's farm, but due to the steep and unstable ground around the farm a new detour length of pipeline, several miles long, was constructed fairly recently. Mr Holman showed us many pictures, from the original construction of the dam, the construction of the detour and then his canoe trip down the length of the old pipe, now bypassed.

At April's meeting WI member Mollie Moore showed us the many ways in which strips of material or rags may be made into rag rugs, table mats etc. Mollie brought many samples with her so that we could try some methods and admire the results of others.

Anyone interested in joining this WI is welcome to contact Helen on 01982 560492.

PENTRE CHAPEL, NEWBRIDGE

When I visited Newbridge Chapel to see the wonderful display called Bible Yarns I really was impressed. The display was wonderful and something not to be missed. The biblical figures, mostly knitted, told the bible stories in such a colourful way. The chapel itself is beautiful, I feel it is so sad that although our churches are open, most of our chapels remain locked. This is probably because of the history of non-conformity, but it does mean that there are many chapels I, for one, have never been inside. It is a very welcoming place and these are the plans for the coming months. So please feel free to visit as I know you will have a warm welcome.

ML

- Coffee morning at Pentre chapel, Newbridge-on-Wye on the first Wednesday of every month, 10.30-12noon. Everybody is welcome. Donations in aid of local charities,
- The Leprosy Mission. Trevor Grant will tell us about the work of TLM in Nepal which he has recently been visiting. Tuesday 30th May at 10.30 am, Pentre Chapel, Newbridge-on-Wye. The meeting will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch. Everybody is welcome.
- Pentre Chapel, Newbridge-on-Wye. We have re-started our Sunday evening services at 6.30 pm every Sunday. All are welcome.
 - 1st Sunday: A quieter prayer time with readings, a little music and some silence.
 - 2nd Sunday: A Taizé inspired service with choruses, a reading and a short reflection.
 - 3rd Sunday: A bring and share format - suggest a hymn, bring a poem, pray together.
 - 4th Sunday: A more traditional service with communion.
 - 5th Sunday: (4 in a year) A one-off event, maybe with live-lie music or something which might help us engage with kids or the community.

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NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

It was lovely to see the Editor of the Gossip, Maureen Lloyd, and her daughter-in-law Pam from Painscastle at Downing Street last week. As the editor of the Gossip, Maureen came to a reception celebrating local media organisations hosted by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Knowing how many people read The Gossip and how well-loved it is, it was great to invite them to come along and talk about the importance of communities in areas like Brecon and Radnorshire.

With the coronation of His Majesty King Charles just over a week away, I am thrilled to be attending the event itself. It is an enormous honour to be representing Brecon and Radnorshire on such a historic day for our country.

By a strange quirk of fate, my first job, just after leaving university, was as a researcher to The Prince of Wales in Clarence House. I was responsible for supporting HRH's work on the natural environment and environmental sustainability. Even in 2009, he did not get the credit he so richly deserves for everything he has done to raise our awareness of climate change and biodiversity decline. Throughout his time as Prince of Wales, he was prepared to say the uncomfortable things which society needed to hear. He prompted global business leaders to act, encouraging companies to embed sustainability in their business models. HRH showed the way with his organic farm in Gloucestershire and championed hundreds of traditional causes which needed a voice – such as the Red Squirrel Survival Trust or the British Horse Loggers. It was an amazing four years working for him and I am so delighted to see the wonderful start he has made to his reign.

After the success of last year's Platinum Jubilee, it's fantastic to see another huge programme of local events marking the coronation. Earlier this year, I wrote to schools and community groups to highlight the scrapbook of coronation souvenirs which I'm collecting from Brecon and Radnorshire and taking to Buckingham Palace later this year. Since then, my office has been inundated with pictures and poems celebrating the event. There's still time to include your tribute in the book. Please send anything you would like to include in the book to either my office in Llandrindod Wells or to the Conservative Association office in Lion Yard, Brecon.

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

NEWS FROM WELSH ASSEMBLY

As I sit to write this, I feel that our beloved home is under attack. Our way of life is being threatened from a variety of sources – corporate interests, political interests, environmental interests. At the heart of our community are its people and our way of life which is so important to me.

My inbox has been inundated with mail about the proposed Wind Farm developments across our communities and the 60 mile stretch of pylons proposed to export the power out. These proposals are causing considerable upset and anger in communities and I am pleased that so many residents are making their voices known to Bute Energy and Green GEN Cymru through in-person consultation meetings and through the online process.

This proposal and the others that are in the pipeline to follow are on such a large industrial scale that I believe it threatens our area, our livelihoods and our way of life. However, I realise that there will be alternative views on these proposals and it's important that all voices and opinions are heard. It will be Welsh Government and PEDW having the final say on this. I urge you all to look at these plans and make your views known to Bute Energy, Green GEN Cymru and the Welsh Government.

I have recently attended consultation meetings by Air Ambulance who are once again looking at the future of the Welshpool Base. A brief victory was won a few months ago in stopping this, but only until 2026. They are now looking at a variety of options. We all know how important the Air Ambulance is for our community and the people in our area who it has saved. So I urge everyone to make sure you have your say in keeping our Air Ambulance in Welshpool.

On a lighter note, the King's Coronation is coming around very quickly. It doesn't seem that long that we were all together in Painscastle celebrating her late Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend last Summer. Well done to Painscastle & District Village Hall on their successful Lottery application for funding for a Coronation Party. I am sure it will be a great party as always and I am looking forward to it! The bank holiday on Monday 8th May is a national day of volunteering, "The Big Help Out", and I would encourage everyone to give some time, your skills or just lend a helping hand for a worthy cause.

As always, my major focus is on the people in our area – you are my priority. So, if you have any issues or problems, then be sure to drop me an email at james.evans@senedd.wales

James Evans MS

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Sian Davies, Lletycoed: 07747 402200
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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 POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

Following the approval of the 2023-24 Budget it has been quite a quiet couple of months in respect to formal meetings, but I have continued to attend the Planning Committee and the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee and as vice chair of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee I have been appointed to sit as a member of the Public Services Board (PSB) Scrutiny Committee and attended my first meeting of this reformed committee in the last week of April.

The PSB is comprised of members from across the Public Sector and the Third Sector and has the aim to ensure that the bodies are working with a common aim to improve the Health and Wellbeing of the people of Powys.

I have also put myself forward to be one of the two members from the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee to sit on the sub-committee established to review the Leisure Services delivered in and by the County Council.

I continue to sit on the group developing and reviewing the Local Development Plan, with the initial public consultation on the revised plans being delayed until early in 2024.

Ward Work

I have continued to provide help and support to the residents of the 4 Community Councils that I represent, either through direct communications with individual members of the communities or through my attendance at each of the four Community Councils, each of which meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

Much of my time in the ward over the last two months has been focussed on the proposals from BUTE energy and other Energy Companies to construct a minimum of 4 Wind Farms in the immediate area of Hundered House, Aberedw and Llanelwedd and the proposed construction of a 60 mile pylon line running from Radnor Forest to just south east of Carmarthen.

The latest pre-statutory consultation closed on Friday 28th April, but it is expected that further consultation will be undertaken by BUTE and the other companies later in the year and in the following 3 years.

I have attended, with other Councillors, both meetings directly with the developers and also public meetings arranged in the area and will continue to do so, especially once the exact plans are known.

Consultations

A number of consultations are currently being undertaken by the Council and other Public and third sector bodies. The details of these consultations can be found at:

<https://www.haveyoursaypowys.wales>

The main current consultations are :-

Community Spaces – The use of Community and Village Halls -

Powys Roads Winter Service Review – Consultation on what are the Priority Routes – Closing Date 14th May 2023

Strategic Review if NHS Emergency Medical Retrieval & Transfer Service – Air Ambulance

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 Teddyllyanfelin@me.com and Cllr.Gareth.Jones1@powys.gov.uk

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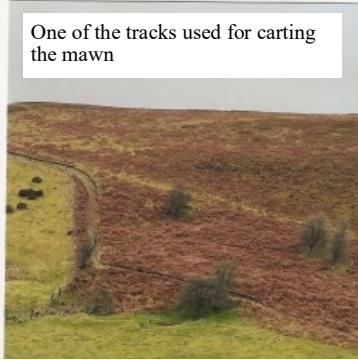
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Excerpts from a talk given by Ann Dean - based on the following article - The Tramps' Chaplain - The Simple Annals of a Welsh Hermit by the Reverend David Edmond-Owen

Wednesday 3 July 1872. Tom Williams of Llowes and I had long been talking of going up to Llanbedr Hill to pay a visit to the eccentric solitary, the vicar, and we arranged to go this morning.....Tom Williams was on horseback, I on foot.' When the pair meet Rev John Price, the Solitary, Kilvert describes him as being, 'below middle height, about 60 years of age, luxuriant brown or chestnut hair...mild and thoughtful blue eyes and red moustache and white beard.' Kilvert goes on to describe his untidy and shabby attire but says, 'The Solitary came forward and greeted us with the most perfect courtesy and the natural simplicity



One of the tracks used for carting the mawn

ty of the highest breeding.' The Solitary is expecting his landlord, Mr James, to come with a load of mawn (peat for the fire) and seeing his uncertainty as to what to do, Kilvert generously offers for himself and Tom Williams to accompany him and help him load the mawn onto the gambo which was a

type of cart pulled by a horse. Kilvert notes that, 'I helped the hermit in loading his mawn while Tom Williams looked on with a benevolent smile.' Kilvert is sitting waiting in the hut of John Price whilst John took Tom Williams to stable his horse at Pencommon. He writes, 'The hut named, Cwm Ceilo, was a sight when once seen, never to be forgotten... inside there was a wild confusion of litter and rubbish almost choking and filling up all available space.....A four-legged dressing table littered with broken bread and meat, crumbs, dirty knives and forks, glasses, plates, cups and saucers in squalid hugger-mugger confusion...All the articles of food were hung up on pot hooks some from the ceiling, some in the chimney out of the way of the rats.... The squalor, the dirt, the dust, the foulness and wretchedness of the place were indescribable, almost inconceivable. And in this cabin thus lives the Solitary of Llanbedr, the Rev John Price, Master of Arts of Cambridge University and vicar of Llanbedr Painscastle.'

In July 1907 'The Treasury,' a monthly magazine with strong Church associations (now, sadly defunct), published a very interesting article about Rev John Price MA, vicar of this parish. A copy of the publication was given by the author to Mr Williams who farmed the Vron Ddu or Frondu which might be the Welsh version but is known as Vrondee. It's in the parish of Llandewi-fach. Interestingly, the Williams family still farms Vrondee. Rev Edmond-Owen was for many years vicar of Llanellwedd, near Builth. He was a scholarly man who wrote for many antiquarian and historical societies and wrote this article only 12 years after the death of Rev John Price. Rev John Price came to St Peter's, Llanbedr-Painscastle, from Gorton in Lancashire to begin his service as Vicar here from 1859 until his death 20 March 1895 aged 86. St Peter's was without a vicar for 7 years when John's cousin - himself a Breconshire vicar - told him about it. Rev John Price offered his services and was readily accepted. John was the son of a Yeoman farmer living near Llandeilo in Carmarthenshire and Educated at Queen's College, Cambridge. Following graduation, he held several important curacies in different parts of England. He

had a little private means, his parents, though not as rich as gentry, were comfortably off and John was a very unworldly man and a very generous one. At the time of his arrival in



Mr James his landlord's house

Llanbedr— Painscastle, things were spiritually very bleak. 'Indifference like a chilly fog, had settled over the whole district.' There was no accommodation provided for him and for some time he lodged in a tiny cottage in the village, then he lived in the dwelling house of a bytack Croft, a small farm held with a larger one by the same tenant. Unfortunately, when a permanent tenant for house and land was found, John

had to leave. John, a resourceful fellow, purchased three large seaside bathing machines and had them placed in the corner of an open common about a mile from the church. This was his new vicarage. One unit was the kitchen, one the study and the third a bedroom and here he lived happily for many years. Services were held regularly though not well attended but John was not at all discouraged. Although at first the locals were cold toward him, when they saw his simple life, guileless character and loving nature, they began to respect him. He persuaded his parishioners to let him share their meals whenever he called, paying one shilling and sixpence for the fare, however simple, and for his tea he paid sixpence. Interestingly, John Price although determined to spread the gospel with his local congregation, actually gained another, very different congregation with whom he shared the love of God in practical as well as spiritual ways. Tramps. John faithfully prayed for and tended to the spiritual needs of the gentle folk of the road but he was also very generous to them in other ways. He would listen to their troubles. He decided to hold services for them. Calling together three or four vagrants, John invited them to their own special service at 10.30am on a Sunday and he would pay them sixpence to attend and a neighbouring farmer allowed them to stay in his barn over the weekend should they need to. The first tramp service took place in summer and, even when winter came, attendance did not drop off. The church was falling to bits and was cold, damp and draughty and even though John was himself inadequately dressed for inclement weather, he worried about his congregation of vagrants feeling the cold. Generous and resourceful as ever, he bought small portable oil stoves for each pew, preparing them himself before the service. But if the vicar was resourceful, so were his vagrant congregation. They begged bacon, potatoes and eggs from the local farms and cottages and, during the sermon, cooked a hearty breakfast...on the stoves! After the service they took their breakfast and ate it in the barn and John often joined them. As the vicar's private income decreased, he was forced to tell the tramps that he would have to cut the attendance allowance from sixpence to four pence. The tramps held a meeting in the churchyard and agreed to this. However, a year later John found he needed to reduce payment even further to three



All that is left at Cwm Cello

pence, the tramps held another meeting, put it to the vote and voted against it so poor John bore the cost in order to keep the service going and, of course, he would have gone without himself in order to do this. The article continues... 'One thing distressed the saintly vicar greatly, so many tramps ignored the form of marriage merely to save the fees.' One Sunday John preached about this and announced that he would in future marry the tramps for nothing and would also give the newlyweds five shillings to help them start their married life. Of course, the wily tramps took advantage of the situation and as the good vicar's eyesight was now failing, some of them married the same person more than once and it is on record that he married one couple five times. Having graduated in Classics, John's favourite study was the Greek New Testament which he read regularly. He also invented two systems of shorthand in his spare time (whenever that was) and these were published in Manchester and London at his own cost. St Peter's Church was restored in Rev Price's time and at the re-opening service he announced, with tears in his eyes, the magnificent sum of £1.18.6 and a halfpenny. John walked 12 miles to place into the hands of the church's main benefactor a little Tudor chalice and paten (a plate used for Holy Communion) that had been in use at the church but now replaced by the generous gift of a clergyman's widow, who had taken an interest in St Peter's restoration. In actual fact, having walked the 12 miles, he passed the chalice and paten to the butler of the house with a note, then walked 12 miles back again. In spite of John's eccentricities, he was highly respected amongst his fellow clergy, many of whom said, 'if poor Price had lived a few centuries back he would most certainly have been canonised.' When he was a young man, John had a love affair. Sadly, the lady was won by another suitor. To quote from the article, 'Perhaps we ought to have said that in his early life Mr Price had been crossed in love. There is ample proof, however, that his simple and aesthetic tenderness were the cause rather than the result of that regrettable incident. The object of his affections was a young lady of position, beauty and talents but a more ascetic suitor than he pressed his claim, and was finally accepted, to the discomfiture of our hero.' John had a bundle of love letters from this young lady which he often read. You can imagine him in his little bathing huts on a winter's evening, reading and re-reading his memories in those letters and thinking, wistfully, of what might have been... Sadly, one day a tramp broke in whilst John was out and finding nothing of monetary use, stole a parcel of letters which he must have thought was something of value. On opening the parcel and finding letters, (which he probably couldn't read anyway), in anger he tore them up, scattering them to the winds. John, having been told about the scraps of paper seen fluttering around the hill, went out diligently in all weathers for two weeks, seeking all the bits of the letters, painstakingly sticking them together again. At last, his little bundle was, once more, complete...BUT... on returning from his pastoral visits one day, he discovered

that his beloved Huts had burnt to the ground. John didn't have much in the Huts that he valued, apart from the letters, now even they as well as his home had gone forever. John's next and last home was a lonely hovel which for years had been used as a hen house and it was here he lived until a few days before his death. Occasionally, he would visit Rev A Hackman, vicar of Llyswen, who was always very kind to him and a good friend. On one visit, Mr Hackman gave John an old chair that had taken his fancy. Rising at 4am John silently left the house and the dear old man carried the chair, on his head, the six miles home. Rev Hackman visited John in the little whitewashed hovel one day to find him looking thin, pale and ill. Having tried, without success, to persuade him to have a rest (probably to go home with him so he could keep an eye on him), he determined to do something to help the old man who was obviously fading away. Next day Rev Hackman called again, this time with a doctor who compelled John to go with him to Talgarth. Lodgings were found for John in an exceptionally clean and comfortable cottage. The doctor ordered him a hot bath before bed. The solitary's clothing had not been changed for years and his undergarments had to be 'severed from his skin.' At last he was placed in a clean bed, quite exhausted but so very grateful for the help he had received from everyone involved. He slept that night in peacehe never awoke. It was fitting that Rev A Hackman, good and faithful friend to John Price, officiated at his funeral, along with Rev Thomas Williams of Llowes who'd visited John with Francis Kilvert twenty three years earlier. The article continues, 'John had been faithful with his few things and now had been called to be lord over many. We have recorded a few of the main facts of his life while he is yet well remembered and before legend has had time to tamper with the truth. Some, after reading this little sketch, may come to the conclusion that he was not a strong character. If so, the writer has failed in his purpose. If to live the simplest of lives in an age of luxury; if to give one's all to the poor in an age of scramble for wealth; if at the call of duty to live in a hut on a barren hillside when even farm labourers found country lives too dull and were pouring into the towns in search of pleasure; if to see nothing but to be filled with the charity that thinks no evil in an age of religious strife and bitterness - if all these, we say, spell weakness, then he was indeed weak. But if they are to be ranked as Christian virtues, John Price of Llanbedr-Paincastle will long be remembered as a great spiritual hero.' Rev John Price is buried at St Peter's Llanbedr.



Pencwm as it is today - John Price's last home



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GARDENING CLUB NEWS

We had to cancel our March meeting due to the awful weather but we hope to rebook the speaker to come along another time. Our Easter Bingo took place in much better weather, and we had a hugely successful evening and an amazing turnout. Our thanks go to everyone who helped to organise the event, everyone who donated Bingo and raffle prizes, and all the behind-the-scenes folks who make sure these things go smoothly. Special thanks go to Gaynor and David, Sheila, and Tim and Trish. Thanks too to Grace for her photos, some of which are below.



Diary Dates

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 11 May at Rhosgoch Golf Club, when our speaker will be Queen Bee, and the Room Competition is "Something Made Using Honey or Beeswax". Doors open 7pm for a 7:30pm start.

The following month our 8 June meeting will welcome renowned speaker Bob Burson, who will be telling us about his travels, "Down the Colorado Without a Wheelchair". The Room Competition is "Five important items in a rucksack".

We are always keen to welcome new members; for more information please contact Edwina (Chair), 01497-851284, Pat (Treasurer) 01497-851632, or Allison (Secretary) 01497-851294.



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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 and 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

RADNOR VALLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Radnor Valley Football Club, otherwise known as The Goats, was formed in 1921 and is still going 102 years later! The team currently plays at Tier 4 in the Central Wales League South. On Monday 8th May at home to Tregaron Turfs FC they have an opportunity to seal the 22/23 league title with victory. They have several members from the now disbanded Rhosgoch Rangers team.

They are crowdfunding because they need to improve their off field facilities in order to gain promotion into Tier 3. Three years ago we were asked to vacate our old ground due to our old landlord not wanting us to improve and extend the facilities to gain this promotion. We were kindly offered our existing ground by the Phillips family and are now allowed to progress and do the changes that are needed. We are Crowdfunding to install the first 50 seater stand which is required by the FAW. This will also massively benefit our more senior supporters as it will give them more comfort, being able to sit down to watch a game!

They have 4 weeks to raise essential funds to improve the facilities at Radnor Valley FC! As they have been unsuccessful at gaining grant money they are having to do it alone!

Crowdfunding site: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/improving-the-facilities-at-the-bypass?fbclid=IwAR1rSaJdh1zBZnjihTrfBmFba7H3F8tptHTcOaEVcz7jNUdlJamGGy00TY>

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HERMON CHAPEL, RHOSGOCH

The Hermon Chapel in Rhosgoch is built on a former cock-fighting site, part of Great House Farm. The stable attached to the chapel is probably where the current kitchen is now; the mounting block is still in situ.

On the 3rd of August 1849, the newly built Hermon Independent Chapel in Rhosgoch, was opened. The Chapel had cost £88.7s.4d to build and included a stable sufficient for six horses. Three services were held on the opening day at 10:30 am, 2:30 pm. and 6:00 pm., each with a pair of different preachers. A further service connected with the opening was held on the following Sunday.

History courtesy of John Price, Hay on Wye.

A diary entry from: **Kilvert's Diary Page 68 of Vol. 1 Saturday 26th March 1870:**

"Near the Mill I came across the Rhosgoch Chapel which I have often heard of too, the place where Griffiths of Portway preaches. I was leaning over the wall reading the epitaphs of the tombstones in the Chapel yard when a woman who was sweeping out the Chapel appeared at the door and asked me if I would like to come in as the gate was open. So I went into the building, which was very ugly, high and boxy looking and of course whitewashed, the usual conventicle. Inside there were a number of dark coloured long wooden seats armed and moveable, benches with backs and arms in short, a fixed bench running all around the room against the wall, a pulpit between the windows, a plain high box of dark wood with two brass sconces and a plain naked wooden table standing in front of the benches and beside the pulpit. I asked the woman who said her name was Sheen if she were a communicant. On Sunday evenings she said, the Chapel is crowded often and sometimes 200 people are present. I could hardly have believed the room would hold so many. Probably it will not."

The strength of the Chapel was in its Membership as most communicants opted to become full members of the Chapel so as to play a greater part in worship and running of the many activities.

Membership continues to be the strength of the Congregational Chapel to this day, even though there are fewer members. They play a full part in the running of the Chapel and its services. Becoming a Member is not a step taken lightly. A Member is someone who has become a follower of Jesus Christ, and commits themselves not only to following Him in their life, but also within the context of the local church. It doesn't mean that they are better than anyone else. On the contrary it involves a recognition that we can't live the Christian life on our own, and that we need God's help and the encouragement and support of one another in the local church.

Our latest member has an interesting history. He is Gary

Cable, the youngest son of the Rev Geoff Cable, who was our full time minister for many years leading up to his passing last December. Geoff is sorely missed so it was with pleasure that we welcomed



Gary at a recent Sunday service. Our picture shows his induction by the Rev Ifor Williams, Superintendent Minister of the Breconshire Baptist Association, assisted by Carol Sheen, Secretary of Hermon Chapel.

Mike Head, Deacon, Rhosgoch Chapel

PAINSCASTLE AND RHOSGOCH TODDLER GROUP

What a busy Spring time we have had at toddler group. We continued celebrating patron saints after St David's Day by remembering St Patrick and made beautiful green shamrocks with tissue paper, stickers and green glitter. Since then, we have practised threading with pipe cleaners and cheerios, decorated Easter eggs, planted broad beans, printed very hungry caterpillars and made crowns for King Charles' Coronation celebration.

We have begun to play outside as the weather has improved and are pleased to say that we have purchased a Vango Air-hub gazebo to pump up quickly and provide shade for our little ones to play under on sunny days. Outside play includes sand and water trays, ride-on toys and chalks.

Pam and I will be ending our 'Tots' journey at the end of the Summer Term as Conor, Gruff and Non begin their Pre-School year and our work commitments increase. We are announcing this now in plenty of time in the hope of people coming forward to volunteer to help run toddler group so that this wonderful community group continues for years to come. Painscastle and Rhosgoch Toddler Group was started approximately 45 years ago by Iris Lloyd, Vicky Gore and the late Brenda Jones in Rhosgoch Primary School and moved to Painscastle Hall when the school closed in 2013. Many fabulous people have been involved over the years and both mums, dads, grandparents and of course of the children, have benefitted hugely from the chance to regularly meet, chat and play and we must keep the group running! We must! Please get in touch with Pam or me if you feel you could lead or be involved with the next chapter.

Toddler group runs in term time on Tuesdays from 9.30 - 11.30 in Painscastle Village Hall for **Pre - School** children. It is £1 per child and teas and coffees are included in that price for the adults. Please bring a healthy snack for your child. We look forward to seeing you all in the Summer term.
Caz Phillips



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