

Notes from Local Interest Group Meeting 30th September 2021

Present in Hall: Maureen Lloyd, Wendy Ozols, John Price, Jenny Francis, Cherry Williams, David Price, Iris Lloyd, Richard Thomas, Margaret & Viv Lloyd

Present on Zoom: Dainis Ozols, Roy & Avryl Lloyd, Margaret Price, Bronwen Jenkins, Ann & Howard Dean, Elsa Harflett, Sylvia Illingsworth, Grace Davies

Apologies: James & Jenny Martin, Joan Lloyd, Tim Francis, Allison Joyce

ML welcomed everyone to the first “in person” meeting of LIG since February 2020 – 19 months in all. She said that it was also good to see a fair number joining us on Zoom and thanked John Price for his extremely hard work in enabling us to have a “hybrid” meeting. This has been made possible since the refurbishment of the village hall, together with the installation of an internet link.

The Gossip AGM

ML started the AGM by thanking her many helpers, particularly those who have taken on the job of delivering the publication, using a system which has been developed and refined since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Her “helpers” are: Erika Cunningham, Lucy Trench, Pat Harley, the Davies family at The Lane, Heather Pink, Grace Davies, Ann Dean, John Price and Rhosgoch Golf Club. The Gossip is also available from Clyro Garage and Boughrood Shop.

She went on to ask for comments about and/or suggestions relating to the publication as it is currently. Iris Lloyd said that she thought that ML does a wonderful job and that the Gossip is always extremely interesting and informative. WO thought that it had been a real achievement to keep it going throughout lockdown, especially since it must have been more difficult for contributors to find things to write about given all of the restrictions placed on daily life. ML replied that she really enjoys doing the Gossip and is willing to keep going as long as she is able and as long as people want to buy it.

ML then showed us the Gossip Accounts for the year, explaining that we had made a small loss, although there was still a healthy balance. The Gossip account has paid for a Zoom subscription for the coming year and it has also paid for hosting the Community’s website for 2 years. Some subscriptions do come in late, with people paying for two years at a time, and so some of the “loss” might be recouped this year. ML sees The Gossip as a community resource and therefore any profit can be used to underwrite some small projects, such as the recent refurbishment of the bus shelter.

Rhosgoch Gossip 1/9/2020 to 31/8/2021			
Opening Balance 1/9/2020	£ 2,813.55		
Printing Costs	£ 972.00	Sales & advertising	£ 1,163.00
Cas help	£ 324.00	Contribution from U3A	£ 25.00
Postage	£ 59.83		
Envelopes	£ 12.47		
Zoom	£ 143.88		
Website costs to be refunded	£ 140.38		
Total expenses	£ 1,652.56	Total receipts	£ 1,188.00
Profit/Loss	-£ 464.56		
		Closing Bank Balance	£ 2,348.99

ML thanked Dainis Ozols (DO) for all of his hard work on the Community Website. He checks it regularly, uploads the LIG notes and copies of The Gossip and deals with enquiries, either by answering them himself or by passing them on to her. Like all websites, it does need occasional renewal to show that it is still “alive”. At this point DO interjected saying that he could always do with more contributions from the community to enhance its content.

Roy Lloyd suggested that a nice idea for features in the Gossip might be “A Letter from Abroad”, with former locals who have moved away from the area being encouraged to write a short article talking about their life before and after. This was agreed to be a really nice idea.

ML concluded this part of the meeting by making a few announcements.

- There might be some maintenance work starting on the Well Garden in the coming months and volunteers would be most welcome.
- WI are having a meeting on Monday 4th October at 7pm in the Village Hall. Bronwen Jenkins will be talking about her unusual embroideries.
- Gardening Club is resuming meetings after a long break. The next meeting will be on Thursday 14th October at 7.30 pm at the Golf Club. The speaker will be Sarah Runciman – “My Life with Birds”. Sarah is a very accomplished photographer and spends hours on Llanbedr hill looking for wildlife to photograph. Please let Allison Joyce know if you intend to attend.

The Bachawy from Source to the Wye

The next item was introduced by John Price. He showed us excerpts from two films by Mark Jickells, made in March 2019. These covered a walk that Mark did following the Bachawy from its source on Llanbedr Hill down to its confluence with the Wye. Mark’s blog can be found at the following link and his two You Tube films on the two below that.

<http://www.wyeexplorer.co.uk/river-bachawey-diary/4594584691>

Video: Spring Fresh Hike P1 - River Bachawy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzbcCTU9uUM>

Video: Spring Fresh Hike P2 - River Bachawy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7epoa-pANJA>

Local Interest Group AGM

The next item on the agenda was the LIG AGM for the year 2020/21. Firstly, ML reviewed the year and said how successful she thought it had been, with Zoom meetings happening every month during the colder months and outdoor visits starting up again (Covid restrictions permitting) from May 2021. We had talks from Philip Hume (twice), Cherry Williams, Maureen Lloyd and Wendy Ozols, as well as films shown by John Price. Outdoor visits included Gladestry (led by Ann Dean), Huntington School and Chapel (organised by Joan Morgan), the Geology of the Begwns (led by Alan Bowring) and Great House Farm in Llandeilo Graban (by kind permission of the Jones family). In addition, there had been a number of walks organised, many in collaboration with the Radnorshire

Society, and ML thanked Elsa Harflett for her hard work in bringing these to fruition, and to Bronwen Jenkins for educating us all about the flora seen on these walks.

The accounts show that we do have some money “in the bank” which is used to pay for speakers and small tokens of thanks to those who host us without charging anything. Income comes from donations generously made at meetings by attendees. We obviously “earned” nothing last year as all meetings were on Zoom or outings, although we did have some costs. Previously, when we have used the Adullam Hall, we have made a contribution towards lighting and heating costs. If we continue to use the Village Hall (as we will as long as we have hybrid meetings), then we will need to pay a hire charge, currently £10, plus any heating costs once the weather gets colder.

LIG Accounts	
Balance at 1 st September 2020	£249.41
2020/2021 No income	
Spent on visits £69	
Balance at 31 st August 2021	£180.41

ML asked for suggestions/volunteers for the coming year. She also asked whether we wanted to continue with hybrid meetings for the time being, and this was generally agreed to be a good thing. She said that she already has provisional plans for three visits for next year – Newchurch village, Lower Pengarth and Huntington Castle and village.

- Roy Lloyd suggested that it might be nice to visit Llanbedr Church to survey the gravestones there and to hear more about the families represented.
- David Price asked whether a visit to Painscastle Castle had been done before. ML replied that it had, but that there was new information coming in all of the time and so this is something we could revisit in the future.
- Richard Thomas did try to contact Moccas Estate last year with no success, but he will have another try to see whether he can organise a walk in the park there.
- Richard Thomas also has another idea involving an archaeologist talking about some artefacts found by a local farmer and he is investigating this possibility for a talk.
- ML said that she had a list of films that John Price and Dainis Ozols have which could be shown to “fill up” evenings if anyone would like to present something short, rather than filling an entire session.
- Cherry Williams offered to give a talk about the Tuck family at The Castle – possibly in February.
- ML said that she could do a talk on Two Hundred Years of Farming History – this is something that she is preparing for another forum.
- Cherry Williams suggested that it would be nice to hear from people who have moved into the area about their childhoods and lives before they came here. ML agreed to follow this

up by inviting volunteers to contribute to this – again these could be short sessions as part of an evening that might include the showing of one of the afore-mentioned films.

- Jenny Francis agreed to talk to Eleanor Watkins to see whether she would agree to come to talk about her book which chronicles her life growing up on a farm on the Begwns. (JF has already done this and Eleanor has agreed to come to talk to us in the new year.)
- ML said that she would still like to say something about the Garth Charity, but that this will involve quite a bit of research.
- ML asked whether we would like another New Year Zoom get-together like we had last year, this time possibly on 30th December, which would be a LIG night except that we do not usually have a meeting in December. She would like feedback about this please.
- Further ideas that have been put forward, and which need more work/information are: a visit to the Sydney Nolan Trust at The Rodd near Presteigne; a visit to Monaughty House; farm talks/walks aimed at non-farming folk; walks to identify local veteran and ancient trees; walks based on the Perambulation of the Manor of Elfael in 1853.

ML would like anyone who has ideas for future meetings, visits or walks to get in touch with her, please. All suggestions will be most gratefully received.

Gladestry, Newchurch and Local People

The evening ended with an edited showing of a film by Harvey Jones of local people and events, dating from 1969 to the 1980s. Many in the audience could recognise some of the characters and could certainly remember the sorts of occasions and aspects of country life which were portrayed. The full length film in the link below includes three weddings.

Gladestry 1969 and more - Harvey Jones Films

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNey20_KgU4

In the Hall, those present were served refreshments during the film, including some delicious Welsh cakes made by ML. The Zoom audience must have been very envious!

At the end of the evening, ML thanked John Price for his time and hard work in making the evening possible. We certainly could not have conducted this hybrid meeting without him and his considerable technical skills. This was echoed by all in the audience.

Thanks were also given to ML for all of her hard work in setting up and maintaining the Local Interest Group, even through the last most difficult and trying year. Her efforts are much appreciated by us all – it certainly would not happen without her drive and enthusiasm.