

Rhosgoch Gossip

Volume 23 Issue 2

Nov Dec 2017

£1

Macmillan Coffee Morning

It was a busy morning again this year; for the first time, we actually sold out of cakes!! (I must remember to



bake more next year!) There were the usual stalls; cake, produce, plant, Chinese auction, tombola, books & knits, with lots of tea, coffee, cakes and bacon rolls being devoured whilst visitors waited for the winners of the games, Chinese auction and raffle, to be announced!

We had

sooooo many prizes, it took quite a while to get through, but hopefully I didn't keep people waiting too long!

This year we had an extra raffle to win a beautiful Advent calendar which was very kindly donated by 'The Painscastle Half Penny Crafty Ladies'. We sold £75 worth of tickets on the morning, then on Saturday 18th November I spent the day selling tickets in the Coop in Hay where I took a further £213.50! A fab total of £288.50 raised from the calendar! WOW! Thank you so much you 'Crafty Ladies'!!

Jeremy Rose appeared in the Coop at 4pm, just in time to draw out the winning ticket, which was purchased at the coffee morning, by Mrs Anne Meres, from Clifford. I presented the advent calendar to Anne in Hay today, (Monday 20th) she was thrilled!

The Red Dragon Endurance Event coincided with the coffee morning again this year (Ha! Careful planning!) and I'm grateful to Jane & John for asking me to cater for them again. It has definitely made a difference to the amount raised since moving to the hall and having the 'Dragon' supporters around!

Thank you so much to all who supported the coffee morning again this year, with a special mention to Jones Home Hardware for sponsoring the BBQ gas, James and Meg Lloyd for allowing us to use their fab BBQ, to the Aberley family for donating the eggs and to Betty Lloyd at the golf club for creating a game and for cooking a scrumptious lunch for the helpers afterwards!

Last but not least, a massive heart-felt thank you to the wonderful group of people who give up their morning each year to help on the stalls. (Some have helped every year for the past 5 years when we have been in the hall!) I so couldn't do it without you all!

THANK YOU!! **TOTAL BANKED £1,855.70!!!!!!**



YFC
Tractor
run

35 tractors took part and total raised £691

pictures from Grace



YFC
Hedging
match
winners



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WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB

We meet between 12:30 and 1pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, usually at the Rhosgoch Golf Club. The dates of the next two meetings are :- December 13th & January 17th 2018 for further information contact Wendy King 01497-851229

FARM FOCUS

1964 Fronhowey Farm is to let...

It all started with an interview in Llandrindod Wells with the Radnor County Council Small Holdings Committee. The first thing they asked me was "What part of Radnor do you come from?" Oops! I had to reply that I didn't come from Radnor but was a Breconshire girl.

One helpful member said that he thought that it was good to mix the young people from the two counties. At that time Brecon, Radnor and Montgomery were separate counties.

At the end of the day we were successful and were the new tenants of Fronhowey. At this time the Council tenancies were for life. After getting married on 16th January 1965 we moved in.

When we arrived we wondered if we had done the right thing as the first job Ken did was to scrub inches of whitewash lime from the ceilings and brush it all out of the door. Much work was needed out on the farm, such as reseeding and fencing.

One of the most worrying times was when Ken was cultivating the steep field by the wood. I sat on a bale in the back shed, out of sight, peeping through my fingers every now and again to make sure the tractor hadn't taken off down the bank or rolled over. A number of our neighbours were concerned whether the field was worth putting Ken's life at risk and came round to tell us so.

At this time the grocery van called once a week, our total spend was five pounds at the most. Now full circle Asda, Tesco and Sainsburys deliver to the door, but it will cost a little more than five pounds.

In the next few years the three boys came along and were taken out in the pram into the field with us to whatever job we were doing. The harvest was all small bales, which had to be loaded onto the trailer and then stacked into the most awkward places mostly by hand. You didn't put much weight on at harvest time but, oh boy! The muscles!

As the years passed we made silage in the pit then later the big bales which are still very popular. In the 1970s we had to endure brucellosis in the cattle and



Ken with special dog Glen

abortion in the sheep followed recently by TB restrictions.

In the early days dealers came and animals were sold at home, then when we acquired a Land Rover and horsebox we started taking them to market.

Most farms had poultry. I was a soft touch for ducklings. These were sold on a stall by the clock on market day in Hay. The ducks didn't like Fronhowey much as it was too dry, so I tried geese and kept these for quite a few years. The only thing was it kept us so busy at Christmas time. These were sold in Hereford or Brecon market or to private butchers.

1976 brought a long hot summer which turned the ground into a desert. That meant reseeding all over again. The water ran out and we had to take the animals over to the river to drink until the council put a mains water tank in the meadow.

Quite early on the late Mr Alwyn Jones of Glangyrafon persuaded me to join Rhosgoch Young Farmers' club. This has been a lifelong love of mine.

Ken joined the Tug of War team and was always into some sport, ie darts, golf and shooting. Occasionally Elwyn [Sheen] came along as he had found a rogue fox somewhere and off they'd go.



Val looking for the greenhouse!

1982. Another son Gary arrived after ten years. This will mean more late nights, more taxi service, more teaching to drive, more bumps and more "Mum can you come and pick me up?" Thank goodness only Mac wanted to be a farmer, even though Andrew has now taken up farming after years in a garage.

When Foot and Mouth disease came to our area we lost around two hundred of our young ewes that were on rented ground down Brecon. This is something I never want to see again, having these ewes and lambs killed when they weren't even infected.

Like lots of farmers' wives at this time I got myself a job supporting people with learning disabilities, a job I really loved.

The last years we have spent time doing up our retirement home in Painscastle and now clearing out Fronhowey. We can't believe how much stuff we have accumulated in 53 years. Ken asks "Where does it all come from?" Me I expect as I'm a hoarder "It'll come for something", has been my motto.

We have had some sad times—losing our beloved Richard, but mostly the happiest days of our lives were at Fronhowey and I'm sure our car will turn in at the gate, when we forget that we don't live here any more.

We would like to wish the new tenants all the best and tell them to make the most of every minute as 50 years go by very quickly.

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YFC NEWS

October and November have again been busy months in the YFC calendar, with a number of competitions taking place as well as the Wales YFC AGM, Radnor's Mock Wedding, and the club's annual tractor run. The AGM was held (this year) in Aberystwyth with club members both enjoying the social side and participating in the meetings held.

The first competition weekend was the workshop skills followed by Field Day. Workshop skills involved members grinding, welding, ATV, and first aid. The boys did well to compete, although Ed Evans' first aid skills were not quite what the judges were looking for... On to field day and we had a number of good results with James Poulton, Josh Nicholls and Thomas Lloyd taking second place in the senior fencing, and Alisha Herdman winning first place in the poster competition. Despite a few last minute entries, unfortunately we didn't enter all the competitions and ended the day in 9th place, a great day though.

The next event for the members was to attend Radnor's Mock Wedding with county chairman, Gemma Buf-ton "marrying" Competitions Chairman, John James. Our very own James Poulton was given the best man role, and Presteigne's Owen Davies was a fantastic vicar, with a number of other county officials past and present completing the families. A great day out was had by all, with some hilarious moments that won't be forgotten in a hurry. Although it sounds like the mock wedding may have been a rehearsal if recent county rumours are to be believed...

On to the final weekend, and the Friday night saw the club enter 3 teams in the county quiz held at Penybont Village Hall. A competitive performance from the A team of Tom Protheroe, Claire Meredith, Daniel Price and myself, saw us bring home the victory, beating reigning champions Presteigne by half a point to regain the trophy.

Onto the Sunday and it was the club's annual tractor run, kindly hosted and organised by the Ritchie family. This year we had 35 tractors turn out, taking a route through Boughrood, over Gwendwr and into Erwood for lunch, then back over Llanbwchllyn in the afternoon. A great fundraiser for the club again, raising over £600, so a massive thank you to Andrew, Sally and everyone who helped us out on the day.



Into November and we had the first of two county public speaking events. This was a good weekend for the club again, with James Poulton winning senior member of the year, and then winning again the "On the news" competition, with Rebecca Lloyd and myself completing the team.

The second public speaking weekend was held on the 17th and 18th November, with Carys Bate (chair), Thomas Lloyd (proposing) and James Poulton (opposing) taking part in the senior debating. They did brilliantly and came 4th overall, with James Poulton being picked to rep-

resent Radnor as the second opposer in the next round. On the Saturday, Josh Nicholls, Josh Davies, Ed Evans and Harri Bird took part in the "Just a minute" competition, and although coming 5th out of 5 teams, the boys did well, and I'm sure they've gained valuable experience from it.

Also on the 18th, we held the annual Hedging Match, this year hosted by Richard and Celia Price at Trewylod, and organised fantastically by Afan Jones. There were teams in every class, and well done to everyone who won, and the members who took part. On the Sunday,



Josh Nicholls was part of the Radnor team who went to Bingley Hall, to compete in the stock judging at the English Winter Fair, and he was part of the team who came 3rd overall, so well

done.

This next month again sees us keeping busy, with a trip to see the panto at the Courtyard theatre, the interclub pool and darts competitions, carol singing, and pantomime practices all to fit in. We are also going to host a whist drive at the golf club on the 8th December. This is not going to be too serious as many of us have never played, so please come along and have an enjoyable night.

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PAINSCASTLE RECYCLING & RUBBISH COLLECTION

Recycling every Thursday, and the next rubbish collection dates are:
 7th December 30th December 18th January 8th February

Taken from facebook:-
 Mikey joined us on our walks today...
 he was a little bit slow...
 How rude!



MIKEY'S DIARY



Well it looks as if it is winter again. I don't mind winter as long as someone lights the fire and lets me sit in front of it. Most of the year I have my 'bed' in front of the Rayburn, but on cold winter days I like to go down the front room and sit in front of the woodburner, or what is even better is to snuggle up on Mo's lap while she is watching the telly. Unfortunately she seems to spend a lot more time upstairs on the computer so I sit on the floor and look after her. I only go outside on nice days as I can't see any point in getting very cold and wet. If Mo goes out, I go out, - after all someone has to watch out for her!

My favourite outdoor pursuit is riding on the quad. It is great fun standing on the front carrier and barking at the other dogs who have to run. Of course they are a lot younger than me, and I am special, I have got shorter legs than those sheep-dogs. Sometimes I have a ride in the old truck. This is not quite so exciting as I can't see where we are going and just have to hope Mo knows the way. We often use the truck when we go to catch the moles. I am not sure whether they have been watching Abbie playing in her sandpit, but they seem to have the same idea. Though these black furry creatures build their soil castles all over the fields. Mo tries to catch them, and she spends ages knocking their castles down. I always wonder if they get upset like Mo does when she plays sandcastles and someone knocks her castles down! However on reflection I don't think it can bother them a lot as they soon make more.

I usually go with Mo for walks, but just to be sociable one day I went with Jade, Ozzie, and Bailey. Jade took a ball and a thrower so we did have great fun. I may not be the fastest to get to the ball but sometimes by being a bit canny, I can be top dog. Ozzie and Bailey don't know it all, yet! They often run so fast they overrun the ball, so it sometimes pays to be bringing up the rear. Jade put a message on Facebook and a picture of us. I thought the message was a bit rude, I can't help being mature!

Mo and Ken went on holiday in October, Mo said she was going on the grassland trip with Rich & Ce. I thought I could have gone with them. I am surprised they didn't ask me as I thought Ce liked me. However I was left at home, perhaps to look after things. Kate was in charge of feeding me - very important and also giving me my pills. The pills do make me feel hungry, so I eat whatever I can find, and that week I found a lot! Besides the usual bits and pieces lying around, a new bag of sheepdog feed, which is kept in the old silage pit, got itself opened, so I did my best to eat the contents. Kate and her helpers are not the most observant people in the world, or at least if they did notice my tummy was getting bigger they didn't do anything about it. By the end of the week I was missing from my bed in the alley. After a general Lundy consultation, when there was some concern shown, probably mainly as Mo was due home the next day, the discussion concerned, who had seen me, when, so TD went on the search. He searched the barns and silage pit and eventually he found me. I was in the little shed between the silage pit and the house, I was just too full to go any further. It is awful when you eat too much and can't move. When Mo came home she told me off as I am supposed to eat special non-allergy food and not steal off the other dogs. I have been quite poorly since then, so I know that I should stick to the diet, but it's not easy. I am now feeling better and we are back to normality. Although sometimes I do go scouting around for some dietary delicacy, the trouble with that is, it seems to make me smelly, perhaps I shouldn't roll in it as well. When I am smelly I am not allowed in by the fire, at least not until I have had a bath so that will be next..

Mikey

Paincastle Buyers Group Annual Jaunt

Its 7.30am Saturday 30th September and Ann and I are first on Herdman's coach at Dollycanny crossroads. There are 13 hardy souls embarking here and we will be making another four stops en route to pick up the rest of our party, which will eventually be forty strong. This is the annual trip of the Paincastle Buyers Group, trips which have taken us all around the country over the years to a great variety of destinations, events, attractions of all sorts and usually include a visit to the theatre.

So for the uninitiated, who are the Paincastle Buyers Group? Well we consist of a group of forty-five farmers who meet at the Golf club every other Wednesday; we were formed twenty five years ago with the idea of pooling our "buying power" to everyone's mutual benefit. But we have become much more than that, the regular meetings allow us to share information and bounce ideas off one another, we have regular guest speakers, some of whom are trying to sell us things and some of whom are imparting sometimes useful information and with a bit of persuasion can sometimes be good enough to cough up for a free drink and a sandwich or two! We also organise several social events over the year, an annual dinner, a lambing lunch, bbq, various visits to sometimes farming-related attractions and, of course our annual trip, the subject of this report.

This year's trip was to be a short jaunt down to the Nation's capital Cardiff, for an overnight stay and a visit to the New Theatre to see Willy Russell's show Blood Brothers. But with Treena organising things we all knew the days would be full, so the first stop on the way was at the National Coal Museum at Blaenavon, otherwise known as Big Pit. If you haven't already been then it's time you went. It is a truly memorable experience, an insight into our heritage and it's on our doorstep!

The tour includes a trip down the 300ft mineshaft with an ex-miner as your guide. As you can imagine they are all very knowledgeable about the history of the mine and the life of the miners. They are all closet comedians and the banter is infectious and hilarious. It has to be said that one of our party (no names, but ask Di) had an attack of the collywobles and asked to go back up pretty smart! It was also the first time that Iris's vertically challenged condition came in handy as she wasn't constantly ducking in the restricted headroom tunnels! After the tour there was time for a brief walk round some of the other exhibits on show followed by a buffet lunch and then it was back on the coach for our next destination on the mystery tour, which turned out to be the place with all the money, The Royal Mint at Llantrisant.

Here we had another very informative tour and learnt of the history of The Royal Mint and got to witness coins being made for destinations all around the world. We witnessed the mountain of pallet boxes of old one pound coins which were arriving in unmarked lorries on a regular basis. There followed a discussion on the possible hijacking of one of these lorries by, for example, a group of desperate farmers! We also learned that a lot of the world's medals are minted here. We got to see what a million pounds of coins look like (you wouldn't fit them under your bed) and saw a 1960's mini covered in old pennies!

Next stop was to be the check-in at our hotel, Jury's in the centre of Cardiff, a stone's throw from the theatre. Not much time for a rest before dinner in the hotel and the short walk to see the excellent show, the tragic story of two brothers separated at birth and brought up in very different social circles and how, regardless of this, their lives intertwined, ultimately leading to tragedy, very moving, some wonderful performances and beautifully produced.

After this there was of course time for a nightcap or three in the local hostelrys before retiring for a well-earned rest then up for a hearty breakfast at 8.00pm to set us up for the next hectic day's schedule!

First order of the day was a short hop down to the bay for a tour round Y Senedd, guided by our local Assembly Member Kirsty Williams, who is no stranger to the Buyers group, having been to our meetings a few times over the years and having spoken at one of our annual dinners. She had to face some tough questions from our group of knowledgeable farmers, but of course fielded them all in true politician's style!

But before that we got to fortuitously spend some time watching the Cardiff half marathon from some excellent vantage points along the Roald Dahl Plas where we saw a good proportion of the 25,000 runners, including witnessing our local postman Tim Iverson, who was in the first twenty or so at this half-way stage. Val and Austin got to see their daughter Stacy go by and there was much cheering and encouragement to the great variety of competitors in all shapes, sizes and costumes to send them on their way.

Our next mystery venue turned out to be lunch at HMP Cardiff! The Clink Charity provides an innovative and creative approach to the rehabilitation of prisoners by giving them an opportunity to learn a trade to help their rehabilitation into society, just check out the website. So the venue is an unimposing building just outside the prison walls, but the inside belies the outside appearance, the décor is fantastic, the atmosphere created by the friendly and attentive staff is remarkable and, most importantly, the food is outstanding. Following our excellent lunch and in the course of offering our thanks to the chefs and waiters who are all inmates, we got to hear several of their stories and they were all grateful for the experience the restaurant had given them and all hopeful for their prospects for employment in the future. It's well worth a visit and heartily recommended by our entire group!

Then it was back on the coach for a careful head count (no extra passengers!) for the very quiet journey (I believe there was some sleeping going on!) to our next destination, The Penderyn Distillery, where we were treated to another informative tour and got to sample some of the merchandise, a small amount of which found its way back with us, and I feel a nightcap calling me when I finally finish this report!

So it was a weary but highly satisfied group of travellers who eventually returned home on Sunday night. Our Chairman for this year, Darren Williams, proposed a much deserved vote of thanks to our smooth and unflappable driver Gareth Pugh and his able assistant Yasmin and especially to our group Secretary and organiser of the trip, the tireless Treena Davies, ably assisted by our treasurer Sylvia Abberley. Looking forward to next year's trip already and, if you fancy joining us, contact Treena. There are often a few places going spare and a good time is guaranteed!

Cheers Everyone- Chris Dance



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WHEN I WAS A CHILD

All the dreams of childhood are hidden in my mind
Left for me to treasure in the passages of time.
The traditional Christmas stocking hanging by the tree
Full of lovely presents waiting just for me.
Delicious Christmas dinner piled high upon the plate,
Spitting old log fire burning in the grate.
Getting sledges ready as snow starts tumbling down
Filling up the roadways white carpet on the ground.

Helping Dad with lambing

While with Mum I learn to cook

Searching out the recipes from her old cookery book.
Walking to Primary school was the transport of the day
In all sorts of weather meeting friends along the way.

Hoping when we get there that the fires are burning bright
Oil lamps flickering gently the only source of light.

Teacher is there waiting as we go in through the door

Trying to educate us for our future years in store.

The fun of playing hopscotch by chalking on the floor
Hopping and kicking a stone around to get a winning score.

Remembering how Dad made us a swing up in a tree

Hours of fun we spent swinging, my brother, sister and me.

Making dens and houses of twigs, stones and mud

Stopping water coming in, in case there was a flood.

Excitement as the pleasure fairs arrived on the town street

Winning a spotty goldfish was a very special treat

Carrying it home so carefully in a plastic bag to hold

Only to find next morning the goldfish was floating cold.

My birthday was always full of fun, because my friends all
came to tea

Mum would ice a lovely cake with candles just for me.

Sunday was a religious day it was a day of rest

When all the family dressed in their Sunday best

We all went off to Chapel, Sunday School as well

Listening to the Minister with Bible stories to tell.

I know I had a childhood of love and family caring

One that my grandparents took time to help in sharing.

I feel that i was lucky to grow up in the past

Because today's technology is moving very fast.

Now that I am older, I can sit back and relax

And tell my children what life was like living in the past.

Edwina Griffiths

The winning poem at the Autumn Competitions

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CULINARY COLUMN

The Bush Inn, Hereford

In the farming year, November is as quiet as it gets. I might even dare to say that there is a slightly relaxed feeling on the farm as autumn swirls the leaves off the trees but winter has yet to bite. In the summer my Gentleman Friend managed two jaunts 'going off' as a family, and both involved agriculture. One was to go and collect a pony, and the other was to go to the Royal Welsh Show. So taking advantage of this autumn holiday feeling, I booked tickets for Paddington 2 and tea at the Bush Inn afterwards. There is a waiting list for weekend teas at this pub, so you are definitely advised to book early.

The food is served on miniature wooden picnic tables, with the savoury course on the lower seats and the puddings crammed onto the top of the table. Browsing the internet reveals a lot of photos of the extremely well-presented benches, and so expectations were set high. The amazing display did not disappoint! The children arrived popcorn rationed from the cinema but were surprisingly happy to tuck into the savoury level of the meal, before touching anything off the very tempting top level. Perhaps this was not that much of a shock as the savouries were hot dogs, mini steak pies, stuffed potato skins and crispy delicious wedges! The pies were rich and not at all dry as gimmicky mini foods can sometimes be, and the filled potato skins were crispy with bacon and barbeque sauce. The hot dogs were usual bonfire night fare and perfectly tasty.

We ordered three picnic benches between two adults and three children, which was plenty. A top tip with the puddings would be to first eat the ones that you can't transport home, as the friendly waitresses are happy to give you paper bags for the left-overs and the portions are very generous. You can view the bench as a challenge to be mastered, or extend the fun the next day at coffee time with your taken-away mini chocolate Victoria sponges and toffee apple cake. The berry cheesecake and banoffee pie were served in shot glasses and were sweet and simple but beautifully presented. There was a lovely fresh apple crumble in a glass and, another nod to traditional British desserts, with scones, cream and jam. The children loved the candied apples on sticks and the apple juice in tiny glass bottles with paper straws.

The atmosphere in The Bush Inn is very friendly and every table seemed to be having a lot of fun with their food. The picnic benches change seasonally, and there is a special Christmas themed picnic starting on the 21st November. This is a great place for a treat and, as every teatime feels like a party, it is a perfect place to come to have a fun meal out. Food **** Service ***** Value ***** Atmosphere *****

The Bush Inn, Bush Bank, Hereford HR4 8EH, Telephone number: 01432 830206

Mini strawberry cheesecakes

These will be lovely for a party, and you could make them as small or as large as you want. You can experiment a bit with the flavour combinations; try gingernut biscuits in the base

and some Christmas pudding mixed into the cream cheese filling for a festive twist.

Base

- 85g digestive biscuits
- 25g butter

Filling

- 225g cream cheese
- 100g sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1-2 teaspoons lemon zest
- 240ml double cream
- Diced strawberries
- Strawberry syrup

Method

Crumble the digestive biscuits and mix in the melted butter until all the crumbs are moistened.

Divide the crumbs evenly between 6 individual glasses.

Combine the cream cheese and the sugar, whisking well until the mixture is completely smooth.

Add the vanilla and lemon zest. Leave the mixture to stand for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, whisk the cream until it is in soft peaks.

Whisk half of the cream into the cream cheese mixture, then mix the remaining half in too.



One of the miniature picnic tables loaded with food

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat Dec 2nd Christmas Bazaar Erwood Market Hall
 Sat Dec 2nd Radnor YFC darts & pool Rhosgoch Golf Club
 Sat Dec 2nd Christmas with the Village Quire All Saints' Church, Cwmbach, Glasbury 7.30pm
www.villagequire.org.uk
 Sun Dec 3rd Christmas Fayre Painscastle Hall 3pm
 Thr Dec 7th Gardening Club AGM RGC 7.30pm
 Fri Dec 8th Whist Drive Rhosgoch Golf Club (YFC) 7.30
 Wed Dec 13th Wednesday Lunch Club RGC
 Wed Dec 13th Christmas Carol Service St Mary's Church Hay 3pm (Hay Dial-a-Ride)
 Sun Dec 17th Carol Service Maesyronen Chapel 3pm (Urdd)
 Thr Jan 11th Gardening Club Dinner RGC
 Wed Jan 17th Wednesday Lunch Club RGC

ADULLAM BAPTIST CHAPEL, PAINSCASTLE

Thurs Dec 21st Carol service at 6.30pm

HERMON CHAPEL RHOSGOCH

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 Sunday School every Sunday morning 10 – 11 am
 Sun Dec 17th Carol Service 2.30pm
 No service on Sunday Dec 24th
 Christmas Day service 10am

MORIAH BAPTIST CHAPEL, LLANDEILO GRABAN

Services Sundays at 2.30pm
 Nov 26th Communion Rev B Reardon
 Dec 10th Carol Service LG Church
 Dec 31st Penny Robinson
 Jan 14th Rev Ivor Williams (communion)
 Feb 18th Rev Brian Reardon (communion)

ERWOOD & PAINSCASTLE CHURCHES

Sun 3rd Dec Advent Sunday

9.30am Llanbadarn Eucharist
 11.00am Gwenddwr Eucharist
 11.00am Llandeilo Graban Morning Prayer
 3.00pm Llanddeiw Fach Eucharist

Sun 10th Dec Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am Crickadarn Eucharist
 9.30am Aberedw Eucharist
 2.30pm Llandeilo Graban Carol Service (with Moriah Chapel)
 6.00pm Bryngwyn Christingle (followed by mulled wine & mince pies children especially welcome)

Sun 17th Dec Third Sunday of advent

9.30am Llandeilo Graban Eucharist
 11.00am Newchurch Eucharist
 6.00pm Llanbedr Carol Service (followed by mulled wine & mince pies children especially welcome)

Thurs 21st Dec

6.00pm Llanbadarn Carol Service

Sun 24th Dec Christmas Eve

9.30am Gwenddwr Eucharist
 6.00pm Aberedw Crib/Christingle/Eucharist
 11.30pm Bryngwyn Midnight Mass

25th Dec Christmas Day

9.30am Newchurch Eucharist
 11.00am Llandeilo Graban Eucharist

Sun 31st Dec First Sunday after Christmas

9.30am Crickadarn Eucharist
 11.00am Llanbedr Eucharist

Sun 7th Jan The Epiphany of our Lord

9.30am Llanbadarn Eucharist
 11.00am Gwenddwr Eucharist
 3.00pm Llanddewi Fach Eucharist

Sun 14th Jan Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Crickadarn Eucharist
 9.30am Aberedw Eucharist
 11.00am Llanbedr Eucharist

Sun 21st Jan Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Llandeilo Graban Eucharist
 11.00am Gwenddwr Eucharist
 11.00am Newchurch Eucharist

Sun 28th Jan Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Bryngwyn Eucharist
 9.30am Crickadarn Eucharist
 11.00am Aberedw Eucharist

Sun 4th Feb Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am Llanbadarn Eucharist
 11.00am Gwenddwr Eucharist
 11.00am Llandeilo Graban Morning Prayer
 3.00pm Llanddewi Fach Eucharist

Sun 11th Feb Sunday before Lent

9.30am Crickadarn Eucharist
 9.30am Aberedw Eucharist
 11.00am Llanbedr Eucharist

Evening Prayer in St Cewydd, Aberedw at 6.00pm - Tuesday to Friday, excepting Wednesday, when there is mid-week Eucharist at 6.30pm.

The Christmas Story is our own story.

Advent and the Christmas Season are here. How wonderful! We have waited all year to immerse ourselves in the story of how the world is offered the encounter God through the coming of Jesus into the world and history was changed

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Bryngwyn WI Programme

Dec 5th Di, Sue G and Wendy – Let it Snow!
 Jan 15th Open meeting Hay Castle 7.30pm
 Meetings are held in Painscastle Village Hall, at 7.00pm, unless otherwise stated. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please contact Mollie Moore (851296) or Edwina Griffiths (8512824) for more details.

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Enjoy the story as you enjoy the season with family, friends and community. Early in my ministry a cynical priest said to me, "You'll not make any Christians at Christmas!" Apart from the strange notion of 'making' Christians, the negativity of the comment saddened me. Of course, Christmas is not an escape away from worldly troubles and into a fantasy fairytale but it is the first step into the adventurous world of heaven's mystery that offers permanent and everlasting joys!

At this special time of the year, we celebrate with the angels that God and heaven overflowed with love and showered the earth with signs and wonders in preparation for the great climax of the birth of the Holy Child in Bethlehem. Allow the story to fill your hearts. Revel in the images of the Angels appearing to the Shepherds and the Magi being led by the star for many months through the heat, cold and dust to pay homage to the physical radiance of God present in the babe who will change the world. Think of Mary's wonderful and gracious acquiescence to God's will as the Angel told her that she was his chosen one. See Mary rushing in excitement to Elizabeth where John the Baptist responded by leaping with joy within his mother's womb. Remember Joseph's loyalty and the visitation of angels in his dreams to tell him how to ensure the safety of the baby Jesus. The very spirit of the world was responding to heaven's call by lifting people's hearts in preparation for the birth of our Lord.

This is the story of God and, as such, is not only fact but is an epic of great mythical truth. Christmas is the beginning of the beautiful truth that is the myth of Emmanuel - God with us. The real essence and beauty of the Incarnation of Our Lord is that it is our story; a complete gift to us. Through the incarnation we become the body of Christ. The Divine Babe is born to die, to know human suffering and after his Ascension he sends us God's Holy Spirit so he may live within us. Because of this, as we embark on our life with Christ, we, like Jesus, also may hear the Father's voice saying to us, "You are my beloved child, with you I am well pleased." Heaven and earth are now inseparable and we stand at the point where they meet, carrying our humanity through this veil of tears. We are the Babe in the manger; always being born anew, often helpless but always divine.

Carry the image of the new-born baby, radiant with light as he throws his golden beams into the stable, a divine light that reflects on his parents, the shepherds, the wise men and shines beyond into the world. The birth is the light! It is our light - feel it shine on you, feel how you may carry the light into the world. In this light, all our earthly troubles may then be seen as the shadow of a restless world that is searching for a new life of increased love, unity and fellowship. Embrace the new birth and all the fear and danger will be balanced by an increased peace and goodwill to all people. Think on this and you will always be carrying a prayer for those you love and those for whom Christmas may be one of pain and sorrow. This Christmas, there will be many children of God born to homeless families in stables, caves, hovels and makeshift shelters; through them the Christ-child is born again to redeem the suffering of his created world until we share his burden, realise our own divinity and turn our world to paradise once more.

The Blessings of the Christ child be with you and those you love this Christmas and always. Father Paul.



Bilingual

Carol Ser-

vice: Back by popular demand!

Everyone will be warmly welcomed to a Carol Service at Maesyronnen Chapel, Glasbury-on-Wye on **17th December at 3.00pm**. After all the singing, there will be mulled wine and mince pies and lots of chatting. You do not need to speak Welsh to enjoy it, and it will be suitable for learners. *Croeso cynnes i bawb!*

Donations from the service will go towards Glasbury, Clyro and Painscastle's contribution towards the 2018 Urdd Eisteddfod - only 6 months to go! The local committee is very pleased to have more than achieved its target of £2,000 (and this will be our final formal event), but Brecon and Radnorshire as a whole still has a lot of fundraising to do, so it would be wonderful to see as many people as possible from Clyro, Painscastle, Rhosgoch and the surrounding area supporting our efforts to provide great opportunities for our children and young people.

The Urdd offers a wide variety of activities through the medium of Welsh, and the Eisteddfod includes a much broader range of competitions than you may imagine - from cooking and hairdressing to IT, as well as the more traditional singing, dancing, instrumental and writing contests, many of which are aimed at Welsh learners. Please encourage the young people you know to join the Urdd and compete in local eisteddfodau. Their school will have details, or you can find out more on <http://www.urdd.cymru/en/>. Let's show the rest of Wales what talented youngsters we have in Brecon and Radnorshire!



RACE NIGHT OCTOBER 2017

I will freely admit that what I know about horse racing could probably be written on the back of a postage stamp, so what possessed me to suggest a Race Night to boost Llanbedr Church's funds I do not know. However, other members of the congregation did know how to do it - for which many thanks, you know who you are.

This could just turn into a litany of thanks to our Sponsors, donors of prizes, buyers of horses etc. but I think it's fair to say that the folk who turned out to take part - and the people who organised it - all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We especially appreciated Beau's commentary and auctioneering prowess and Geraint's expertise with the set-up.

We raised a goodly sum for the funds and it only remains for me to thank - yet again - everyone who helped to make it such a success. Signed - Happy Treasurer

EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you enjoy this edition of the 'Gossip'. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue, please continue to send articles, news and events. [m.loyd1@btconnect.com or 01497-851609]. ML (Editor).

The Rhosgoch Gossip is available at Clyro Filling Station & Painscastle Farmers Buying Group. It is available by annual subscription (due in September), £6 for delivery in Rhosgoch and Painscastle and adjoining areas, £12 posted. E&OE.

POWYS PRATTLES

by COUNTY COUNCILLOR JAMES GIBSON-WATT

I do try to make my column in the RG as light and cheerful as possible, really I do. However, there are times when it is hard to be light-hearted and in Powys County Council those times are becoming ever-rarer.

To be frank, most people don't realise just how many essential services are (supposed to be) provided by their local authority. Why should they, especially as the actual delivery of many of them are delivered on the council's behalf by private businesses, not council staff, and others are largely delivered confidentially and 'out of sight'?

Children's Services in crisis of leadership

So, a lot of people, including councillors (who should have known better), were taken aback at the recent news that Powys County Council's Children's Services has been judged by inspectors to be so lacking in political and management leadership that vulnerable children and young people in the county have been put at serious risk of harm. Children's Services provide support to all children and young people judged to be vulnerable, at risk of harm (physical, mental and/or sexual), the disabled and especially those requiring placement in care because their circumstances are so difficult that they need to be placed with foster parents away from their families. The local authority and its elected members, plus other public agencies like the Local Health Board, are supposed to act (in loco parentis) for these Looked After Children, or LAC. In Powys there are about 200 LAC at the moment and for too many of them the local authority has been failing in that role in recent times.

I cannot stress enough that social workers and other front-line staff were judged to be working very well and with great professionalism in very difficult circumstances. The flaws lie at managerial and senior leadership ('corporate', to use the awful jargon) level. To make matters worse, the service is facing a serious over-spend, following a big increase in LAC numbers and a near-20% cut to its budget imposed by the council's ruling Cabinet this year, acting on advice from so-called expert consultants, who are obviously not as expert as they think..

My job as Leader of the Welsh Lib Dems, the council's largest opposition group, is to ensure the Cabinet, and the newly-appointed Director of Social Services and Head of Children's Services, implement the recovery plan produced in the wake of the inspection, to restore what is the council's most sensitive and, in many ways, most important service to safe operation. All this against a backdrop of another year of overspending in adult social care and many of our schools, plus the need for the council to prepare a budget for next year while fixing the many things that have gone wrong in this one; and the inspectors will be back to examine the council's Adult Social Care service shortly..... Like I said – tough to be cheerful just now.

But hey, the Festive Season is coming and I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year – Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! James

Please contact me at any time about any issue.
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cllrjgw@powys.gov.uk

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ASSEMBLY NEWS

The National Assembly was rocked in November with the news of the tragic death of Carl Sargeant. Not only was Carl a dedicated local Assembly Member, but he was an effective government minister who had a significant impact across political life at a national and community level.

Carl was a good friend of mine for many years and he will be sorely missed. My thoughts and sympathies are with his family at this incredibly difficult time. Suicide is a topic, as a society, we talk about far too infrequently. It is the single biggest killer of men aged under 45 in the UK. The Samaritans are a fantastic organisation with dedicated and well trained volunteers who are there to help people at a time of crisis.

If you - or someone you know - needs help, don't hesitate to call them for free on 116 123.

I fully recognise the importance of tourism to Brecon and Radnorshire and to Wales as a whole and I am always looking for opportunities to support the industry. I continue to lobby the UK government to reduce VAT for tourism businesses and have written to the Chancellor, Phillip Hammond, to ask him to introduce this in his upcoming budget.

Research has shown that a reduction of VAT for tourism to 5% would contribute an extra £4.6 billion to the treasury over ten years and create 121,000 extra jobs across the UK.

The UK is currently one of only 4 EU countries which does not take advantage of variable VAT rates for tourism. This needs to change.

If you would like to discuss these or any other issues with me, please email me at Kirsty.Williams@assembly.wales or call my office on 01874 625 739.

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NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

The latest employment figures are great news for the people of Wales. Wales has seen the biggest increase in workforce jobs in the UK. Figures from the Office of National Statistics showed that 44,000 more Welsh jobs were created between March and June 2017.

It really is great news to see our economy continuing to improve and progress. The UK is attracting record investment and jobs are continuing to be created in a variety of sectors.

However, there is much more to be done. Currently the vast majority of jobs are being created in the South East of England and in London. The Welsh Government must work closely with local authorities and the UK Government to ensure that investment is directed to not only metropolitan cities, but to smaller, rural areas such as Brecon and Radnorshire. Our communities have much to offer potential investors, we have vast amounts of cheap land in comparison with England, which is ripe for building first class facilities. Our constituency offers a diverse, hardworking and reliable workforce that would thrive if given long term, sustainable and well paid jobs.

I have and will continue to work to bring investment in. Over the summer the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government and I met with leading figures at Powys County Council and discussed ways in which investment can be attracted to Powys to push forward their industrial strategy. I will now be looking to arrange further meetings with colleagues from constituencies across the border in Herefordshire and Shropshire to work closely on how we can work together to improve cross border trade and cooperation.

In addition, I have been meeting with small and medium sized businesses operating in Brecon and Radnorshire. Over the next month I have two meetings scheduled with two leading businesses in Breconshire. They both run operations across the UK and Europe and I will be discussing what, moving forward, the Government can do to ensure their businesses can continue to grow and employ local people.

The Government must work to continue to create a credible vision of sustainable prosperity. We must empower workers across the workforce in order to achieve the country we all wish to live in.

If you would like to discuss a local issue or campaign, please contact my office at: Office Number: 01982 559 180 Website: <https://www.chrisdavies.org.uk>

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman, Deri Jones, Portway
Vice-chairman, Jenny Smith, Penrhiw
David Nicholls, Castlefield Close
Becky Miles, The Cwm
Iris Lloyd, Caemawr
Sian Powell, Lletycoed
Andrew Ritchie, Castle Brook
Bruce Evans, Lwr Pentre

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month.
Agendas and minutes for meetings are posted on the notice boards in Painscastle, Rhosgoch and Llandeilo Graban.
Clerk: Marion Hughes, Waun y Pentre 01497 851628
Agendas and approved minutes are also on the Painscastle-Rhosgoch website: www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk

WINTER SCHEDULE FOR AUTUMN COMPETITIONS ON SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2018

Competition Theme is **HOME FRONT c1918**

Section 1 Open

- A Jar Chutney.
- A pair of Knitted Mittens.
- A Floral Exhibit depicting World War 1. max width 18 inches, max depth 18 inches. Height No limit.
- A Handmade Card "Lest we Forget" Any medium.
- A hand written letter to the Front.
- An old Family Photograph in Black and White OR Sepia.
- An Old Seaside Postcard.
- A Painting suitable to be hung. Any Medium. Maximum size 18 inches width x 18 inches height.

Grand Parents Section

- Jar of Jam.
- My Favourite Cup and Saucer, with a description as to why it is your favourite.
- A Floral arrangement including a Candlestick . Width 18 inches. Depth 18 inches. Height No limit.
- A Rag Mat. Max size Length 30 inches, Width 24 inches.
- Matching Knitted Hat and Scarf/Neck Warmer suitable for an Adult.

Men Only Section

- Farming Photograph from Days Gone By with a Caption.
- Craft Any Medium
- A small old item from the Tool Shed. With a description of what it is and who did it belong to, all those years ago.

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- Monday 12 noon - Booth's Bookshop Studio, Hay
- Monday 2.00pm - St Peter's Centre, Peterchurch
- Tuesday 9.30am - Eardisley Village Hall
- Tuesday 6.15pm - Booth's Bookshop Studio, Hay
- Wednesday 9.30am - Painscastle Village Hall
- Wednesday 6.15pm - Clifford Community Centre
- Friday 9.15am - Booth's Bookshop Studio, Hay

My classes last for one hour, are suitable for all ages and fitness levels and are charged on a pay as you go basis. Classes will remain at £6 and £4 for a second class within the same week. If you are interested in any of the above classes please call me on 07702 241725 or emma@pilatesemma.co.uk www.pilatesemma.co.uk

Wishing all my lovely Pilates gang a very Happy Christmas & fun filled New Year

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MERVYN JAMES (1934 - 2017) REMEMBERED.

When we bought Lower Pengarth Farm in 1992, we did not know how lucky we were to move to a valley with such kind, helpful, welcoming neighbours, who quickly became our friends! One was Mr Milwyn Harley, from whom we had bought the farm, and most of his machinery, the other was Mervyn James, of the Ferm. From the very first, Mervyn offered us the use of his David Brown tractor, as we had not yet bought our Zetor.

Our experience of farming was of a smallholding, down in the lush Severn Vale, (only 30ft above sea level) so different from upland farming. Mervyn helped us select the right breeds of sheep for our flock, advised on which ram to buy, Milwyn advised on day to day field management, and on the maintenance of his old machinery.

In the busiest times of the year, lambing, shearing and hay making, both were there. At shearing, there was no question of contractors, both men rolled up their sleeves, and sheared our flock, while Roger manhandled the sheep, and marked them, Viv and the women folk wound the fleeces, and made a good lunch! We were unable to reciprocate as we were unable to shear!

At hay making, we were joined by Aylmer Alexander. We were making small bales, and despite being retired, Milwyn worked all day, but Oh! the relief, when, beaming with his usual good cheer, after a full days work on his own farm, arrived Mervyn on his quad bike to put in several more evening hours of hot sweaty work, to help get those bales into the barn. He it was who showed us how to stack them so that they would not fall off on the bumpy route back to the farm!

We knew nobody when we came here, so how lovely it was in the evening, to see Mervyn, often accompanied by Carl and Anna, arrive for a chat, and many yarns about life around here in the old days! Stories about "the hiring fairs" in the now, Hay on Wye car park, where the 14yr old children would be picked by farmers wanting young hands to help with the work. the girls to become maids to the farmers' wives. Life was hard. Often sleeping in a loft above the animals, toiling from the early hours till late at night, called "boy!", shouted at, and given no wages until the very end of the year, in case they scarpereed! So many stories that delighted, informed, and entertained us. "You should write a book" we'd say, but Mervyn, who was SO generous with his time, his great strength, his kindness, was also modest, so did not write that book, although he kept a daily diary.

Mervyn, was very special. We loved and admired him, and we will miss him, as will so many others.

Roger and Viv Luxton

Rhosgoch and Painscastle Autumn Competitions

were held in Painscastle Village Hall on 21st October 2017. The weather was against us, but this did not put people off entering, as we had a record-breaking 330 entries. Congratulations to all who entered. Thank you to Mrs Phyllis Jones from Brilley who judged the handicraft, and said it was a very high standard of work. Also thank you to Mrs Margaret Evans who judged the children's section, poems and photos. Our third judge was Mrs Gail Morris who judged the cookery. She said she has never seen so many Butterfly cakes.

Thank you to Daniel, David Price and Robert Gore for helping craft club members set the hall up, and to Eric and Vanessa Gore for helping clear the hall. A big thank you to Evelyn Bally and Grace Davies for supplying a delicious lunch for our judges and helpers.

Thanks to all who donated draw prizes and all Rhosgoch and Painscastle Craft club members for running the competitions.

Results as follows.

Section 1- Open- Ruby Bagley Cup

Class 1- 5 Butterfly Cakes

- 1st Eric Gore
- 2nd Gwyneth Gore
- 3rd Gaynor Price

Class 2- 5 Cheese Straws

- 1st Judith Hurn
- 2nd Gwyneth Gore
- 3rd Gaynor Price

Class 3- A Jar of Chutney

- 1st Sally Davies
- 2nd Evelyn Bally
- 3rd Gaynor Price

Class 4- 3 Hen Eggs

- 1st June Price
- 2nd Gemma Edwards
- 3rd Caroline Phillips

Class 5- Homemade Toy

- 1st Diane Balm
- 2nd Jacquie Mills
- 3rd Sylvia Bigglestone

Class 6- Hand held fresh floral item suitable for a child to carry at a wedding

- 1st Val Price
- 2nd Pat Horne
- 3rd Judith Hurn

Class 7- Floral Exhibit depicting a Nursery Rhyme

- 1st Judith Hurn
- 2nd Pat Horne
- 3rd Bethany Price

Class 8- Homemade Child's Birthday Card

- 1st Gwyneth Gore
- 2nd Gaynor Price
- 3rd Pat Horne

Class 9- Any Craft not otherwise specified

- 1st Mary Coates
- 2nd Val Price
- 3rd Joan Hughes

Class 10- Limerick "When Larry went down to the fair"

- 1st Ruby Bagley
- 2nd Edwina Griffiths
- 3rd Jane Nicholls

Class 11- Poem- When I was a Child

- 1st Edwina Griffiths
- 2nd Val Price
- 3rd Grace Davies

Class 12- Photograph- Childhood fun with a caption

- 1st Wendy Ozols
- 2nd Pauline Spode
- 3rd Gaynor Price

Class 13- My Favourite Tin

catherine hughes

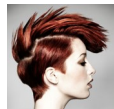
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- 1st Grace Davies
- 2nd Margaret

James

- 3rd Ruth Davies
- Class 14- Homemade Item suitable to be hung in a child's bedroom
- 1st Diane Balm
- 2nd Jenny Keale
- 3rd Val Price

Winner of Ruby Bagley Cup- Val Price

Section 2- Grandparents- Clyro Court Perpetual Cup

- Class 1- 5 Butterfly Cakes

- 1st Grace Davies
- 2nd Charmayne Pugh
- 3rd Jill Coulson

- Class 2- Jar of Jelly

- 1st Margaret East
- 2nd Joan Hughes
- 3rd Sue Farmer

- Class 3- My favourite childhood item with a description as to why it is your favourite item

- 1st Edwina Griffiths
- 2nd Joan Hughes
- 3rd Pat Horne

- Class 4- Item of knitted clothing for a baby

- 1st Margaret East
- 2nd Cherry Williams
- 3rd Jacquie Mills

Winner of the Clyro Court Perpetual Cup- Margaret East

Section 3- Pre School Children- Mrs G Jones Cup

- Class 1- Picture of Baa Baa Black Sheep

- 1 Abbie Lloyd
- 2nd Corben Davies
- 3rd William Davies

- Class 2- 3D model of 3 men in a tub

- 1st Lila Francis
- 2nd Annie Lewis
- 3rd William Hodge

- Class 3- Wee Willie Winkie Lantern

- 1st Lila Francis
- 2nd Caeleb Clarke
- 3rd Benjamin

Kerner

Winner of the Mrs G Jones Cup- Lila Francis

Section 4- Primary School- Mrs T Herdman Memorial Cup

- Class 1- 3 Decorated Rice Krispie Cakes

- 1st Ellis Davies
- 2nd Ellie Pugh
- 3rd Griff Lloyd

- Class 2- Homemade Invitation to my Party

- 1st Griff Lloyd
- 2nd Charlotte Lewis
- 3rd Martha Tilly Pearce

- Class 3- Homemade Birthday Card

- 1st Ellie Pugh
- 2nd Tabby Fford
- 3rd Griff Lloyd

- Class 4- Edible Necklace

- 1st Charlotte Lewis
- 2nd Ellis Davies
- 3rd Ellie Pugh

Winner of the Mrs T Herdman Memorial Cup- Ellie Pugh

Section 5- Craft Members Only- Mrs Val Price Cup

- Class 1- 5 Butterfly Cakes

- 1st Gwyneth Gore
- 2nd Gaynor Price
- 3rd Bethany Price



- Class 2- Cushion

- 1st Christine Rose
- 2nd Sue Farmer
- 3rd Evelyn Bally

- Class 3- Item made out of felt

- 1st Gwyneth Gore
- 2nd Joan Hughes
- 3rd Vicky Gore

Winner of Mrs Val Price Cup- Gwyneth Gore

Section 6- Men Only- Grace Davies Cup

- Class 1- 5 Butterfly Cakes

- 1st Eric Gore
- 2nd William Lloyd
- 3rd Owain Hughes

- Class 2- Craft

- 1st Eric Gore
- 2nd Mike Morris
- 3rd Robert Gore

- Class 3- Photograph- Animal/ Animals with a caption

- 1st Owain Hughes
- 2nd Peter Spode
- 3rd Robert Gore

- Class 4- 5 Rock Cakes

- 1st Eric Gore
- 2nd Owain Hughes
- 3rd Robert Gore

Winner of Grace Davies Cup- Eric Gore

Winner of Estyn Meredith Cup for Best Butterfly Cakes- Eric Gore

Winner of Sheila Meredith Rose Bowl for Best Floral Exhibit- Judith Hurn

Winner of Craft Club Cup for Best Craft Exhibit- Margaret East.

FOR 2018 SCHEDULE SEE PAGE 11



Edwina Griffiths with her prize winning my favourite childhood



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RITCHIE DAKIN LLANDEILO GRABAN

Within just a few days of the publication of the May/June edition of Gossip I was very kindly telephoned by local resident Milwyn Harley. I was subsequently able to make a visit to Paincastle and meet Milwyn who told me that he attended Llandelio Graban School in the period from 1934 to 1939, before he moved on to a senior school in Llandrindod Wells. He remembered many things about his time at the school, where he was initially taught by an assistant female teacher called Doris Hughes, then later taught by my great uncle Richie Dakin, who was of course the Headmaster.

Milwyn was also able to tell me that Richie was an intelligent man, who had a particular interest in the building of 'wireless sets', and he sold these throughout the Llandelio Graban area. Indeed, on one occasion, Richie once visited the Harley family farm when Milwyn was just a child in order to repair the family's wireless set. I asked Milwyn how Richie got from his home at Llandelio Graban School. The reply was he walked the over 5-mile round trip, as this was before Richie bought the car referred to in my last piece for the Gossip.

Milwyn has a good memory, and I have set out below some of the de-

Milwyn Harley outside Lower Pengarth Farm, which was for many generations owned by the Harley family)



tails that he could recall about his life and times at the school:

Richie was apparently particularly keen on vegetable growing and he ran annual contests for pupils, where they were given individual vegetable plots in the garden behind the school building. Richie didn't judge the results himself, but he brought in an external adjudicator....and sweets were the prizes.

Cricket matches in the school playground were played together by both the boys and the girls.

Pupils had to take their own lunches to the school.

The school hours were 9am-3.45pm.

There was a stove in the school room to provide heating.

The children walked to the school and in all weathers (no school run back in the 1930's!). For Milwyn this was quite a trek from his family's farm, so it can't have been an easy journey to school, particularly during the winter.

Although Llandelio Graban was a church school, Milwyn could not remember ever having attended a service in the church whilst he was at the school. So maybe the footpath connecting the two became disused before the 1930s?

I was keen to ask about the school bell, given my photograph of it in my last 'piece' for Gossip. Here, Milwyn was able to confirm that he never heard it being rung, rather a hand-held bell was used.

The school accommodated about 30 pupils.

And what else about Richie himself?.....were the rumours correct that he was a heavy drinker and smoker, and that was what ultimately killed him?

Milwyn was able to confirm that Richie was indeed a regular drinker, but not at the Boat Inn. Rather he was a 'pint of your Best landlord' at the Wheelwright Arms in Erwood. In fact, on one occasion, Milwyn and his father got a lift back from the pub and up Sunny Bank in Richie's car. As for the cigarettes, I was amazed to hear that Richie used to ask Milwyn to go out from the school at lunchtime and buy 'Players untipped' cigarettes for him from a shop that at one

time operated at Pen Bryn Coch on the Paincastle Road (see photo of the building which still exists today and the building next door, which was a smithy. NB, apparently the porch on what was the shop didn't exist in the 1930s, and the entrance was where the window is to the left of



the new porch). This shop was over a mile from the school... so the biblical and charitable direction of 'go the extra mile' must have loomed large for Milwyn?...well it was a church school!



And what about Richie's wife Fanny Dakin? In this regard, Milwyn was able to put me in touch with his cousin Margaret Evans of

Erwood, who attended the school in the 1940s. She remembered Richie as being very much 'the' Headmaster, but with Fanny being the 'livelier' of the two of them, albeit without her having any teaching duties in the school. What was particularly helpful from my perspective, was that Margaret was also able to confirm rumours that Richie and Fanny had split up later on in life, and well after they had left Llandelio Graban and returned to Llanidloes, which was the home of the large Dakin family, a number of whom, like Richie, were teachers, but with many more having been engaged in the mid-Wales wool trade.

I still have the missing years of Fanny Dakin's life story to fill-in. She seems to disappear 'off the planet' from 1966 (after Richie's death) until 1977, when she surfaces in Llandrindod Wells. The executors of her Will who I mentioned in my last 'piece', ie Tom and Menna Lloyd of Dolfor, Newtown are both dead. But If I could locate their children, I'm sure they could assist me with my enquiries re Fanny. I now believe that Tom Lloyd was a pharmacist, and their children and their wives are Gareth and Pat, and John and Llinos Lloyd, but I have no idea about where they might live, although Newtown and Aberystwyth are possibilities. Can Gossip readers help me here with any leads?

ANDREW DAKIN

Golden Gifts For All Candlelit Christmas Concert

The festive season draweth nigh and **The Village Quire** bring a casket of mellifluous mid-winter goodies for the delight and delectation of all this Yuletide. Our Christmas box is full to the brim with songs and stories of mumming and wassailing, folklore and frolics, misrule and mirth with rousing West Gallery anthems and delicate harmonies to melt your heart. Together we will open the casket and, by the glimmering light of candle flames, there will be

GOLDEN GIFTS FOR ALL.

Saturday 2nd December, 7.30 pm, in All Saints' Church, Cwmbach, Glasbury HR3 5LR. Tickets £7.50 (18 and under £5) to include mulled wine and mince pies, from 01497 847676. www.villagequire.org.uk

RHOSGOCH CHAPEL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who supported us at the Macmillan coffee morning, to all those who brought cakes, produce and other items. It's encouraging to know you can be relied on for Macmillan each year which results in giving much needed money to this important charity. Thank you all again for your help and support - it is much appreciated. This year we raised £374.90.

Carol Sheen, Secretary

MERCY SHIPS



David Baines (pictured here with Geoff, Carol and Nia), was a long serving teacher at Harrow School and joined Mercy Ships on retirement to become the Director of the Ship's Academy, providing education to the volunteer crew's

children. His talk, shared with the mums and children of the Sunday School, gave us a keen insight into the work of this Christian organisation.

One of the charities supported by the Chapel, Mercy Ships, which began in 1978, is an international, faith-based organisation with a mission to increase access to health care throughout the world, serving the poor regardless of race, gender or religion. The first Mercy Ship was a retired ocean liner called Victoria which was transformed into a hospital ship with three operating theatres and a 40-bed ward. And in 1982 the vessel sailed as the newly christened Anastasis carrying a volunteer crew of 350 from all over the world.

Since then, ships of the Mercy Ships fleet have visited more than 451 ports in developing nations around the world, bringing lasting change to millions of lives.

ERWOOD MARKET HALL

Tuesday Pilates group. Matwork, gentle toning and stretching, all abilities. Phone Wynona for details: 01874 711499

Tuesday (fortnightly) 2.15-4.00 Erwood Community Chorus. Singing for fun, no experience necessary. Phone Sarah for details: 01874 713184

Friday, 10.00-11.00 FitSteps. 'Strictly' fun - with fitness! (no partner needed). Just turn up, or phone Carolyn for details: 01982 560653

Various days: Erwood Players: For anyone interested in comedy and drama - performers and non-performers warmly welcomed. Phone Frank for details: 01982 560675

Erwood Christmas Bazaar is on **Saturday 2 December.**

There is also an

Adult Beginners' Tap Dancing Class in Aberedw Church Hall at 7.30 on Wednesday evenings - just turn up, or phone Carolyn for details: 01982 560653

HERMON CHAPEL HARVEST SERVICE



Harvest is the time for celebration at the Chapel. This year we were blessed to welcome Chris Gillham as our guest preacher. Chris is the Secretary of the Congregational Federation of Wales and a noted speaker. He is pictured in front of the stunning display of harvest produce, part of the Harvest displays created by the ladies of the Chapel.

Start your Christmas with the Rhosgoch Chapel carol service!
Your favourite carols plus entertainment from the Sunday School.
17th December at 2.30 pm

PAINSCASTLE CHRISTMAS FAIR

- Come and join us for some Christmas family fun...
- Father Christmas & his Elves
 - Mulled wine & mince pies
 - Teas & coffee
 - Childrens Lucky Dip
 - Local craft & Christmas produce stalls

Something for everyone
SUN 3RD DECEMBER
3PM PAINSCASTLE VILLAGE HALL

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Library bus comes on the third Tuesday of the month.

Join us for Tea & Mince Pies
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER
3pm at St Mary's Church, Hay
THE MONDAY CHOIR | RAFFLE
PROCEEDS IN AID OF HAY DIAL-A-RIDE | TRANSPORT AVAILABLE
TEL: 01497 821616
£3.50 entry

WI Open Meeting



Hay Castle: its history, links with Painscastle and plans for the future

An illustrated talk by Mari Fforde of the Hay Castle Trust

Monday 15th January 2018,
7.30pm

Painscastle Village Hall

Entry £2 to include refreshments
Everyone welcome

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to Graeme & Joanne Keeble on the birth of a little boy Arthur John Bruce on 3rd November 2017 a baby brother for Edith Rose (3).

RHOSGOCH AND PAINSCASTLE TOTS GROUP

The year is flying by and it's hard to believe we're planning for the Christmas Fair and Tots Christmas Party already! This autumn we've had a whirlwind of wonderful craft activities including making traditional clothes peg people out of scraps of fabric and wool, and some beautiful leaf lanterns.

Well done to Lila Francis, who won the Tots Trophy for her Autumn Competition entries.

Our now annual Halloween Party went down a treat (no tricks!). Thank you so much to everyone who helped on the day. It was wonderful to see so many happy and excited faces! The pooping chicken is, as always (and probably will be forever) a storming success. The piñata worked its magic and for all of 15 minutes at the end of the evening Painscastle village became a frenzy of small trick-or-treaters, except without any tricks they could really be just 'treaters'.

Our Mums' Christmas Night Out will be on Saturday 16th December at the Baskerville Arms Pub, Clyro. All welcome, if you'd like to book a place please contact Kathryn on 01497 851665.



TOTS CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!

Tuesday 12th December at 10.00am at Rhosgoch Golf Club

SOFT PLAY, CHRISTMAS SING SONG, GAMES and a visit from FATHER CHRISTMAS!

Parents please could you bring a wrapped, labelled gift for your child worth £5 maximum for Father Christmas' sack.

Lunch will be provided free for the children, and parents can purchase their lunch on the day.

Craft Activities:
 28th November – Paper plate Christmas Trees
 5th December – Tissue Paper Baubles
 12th December – Christmas Party at Rhosgoch Golf Club
 See you again January 9th 2018

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BRACKEN TRUST

Bracken Trust is a Cancer Care unit which is self funding. They are collecting old stamps and bras to raise money. If you have any to donate, please put them in the box at Painscastle Bus Shelter.



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