

The New Times

June / July 2019

The Parish Magazine of Llantilio Crossenny,
Llanvetherine, Llanvapley and Penrhos



The WI ladies out in the fields



and Llantilio ladies out in the garden

From the Vicarage

Up with the Lark (or the Blackbird)

Like many of you I'm really relishing the longer days, especially the longer evenings, reaching their best at this time of year. And together with longer evenings come early sunrises – and the dawn chorus. Through necessarily open windows, the dawn chorus sometimes makes it very difficult to savour those last moments of slumber.

And so, for different reasons I recently woke up especially quickly when I heard Prayer for Today on Radio Four. The reader, an Episcopal Minister, was describing similar thoughts about the blackbird on a tree just outside his window. After one particularly loud morning and consequently grumpy day, he paid a pastoral visit to his neighbour, a recent widow trying to deal with her indescribable void and the seemingly endless nights. Things were worst just before dawn, she told him, and what gave her courage to carry on was the crumb of comfort of the sound of a blackbird outside her window telling her that the night was nearly over and a new dawn beginning.

There are several ways of looking at this story, but it has reminded me that the joys of the longer days, and even the earlier mornings – indeed all the joys in our lives – are given to us in their entirety, not just for us to pick out the best bits. We can never know when something which brings frustration to ourselves might bring comfort, benefit or enjoyment to others.

With all Blessings,

Andrew



These flower arrangements were auctioned at the Llantilio WI AGM.

Llantilio Crossenny News

On **Friday 28th June** at 7.30 pm, **Monmouth Male Voice Choir** will be singing at St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Crossenny. This is a joint fund-raising event for Llantilio and Llanvetherine Churches. Tickets are just £12.00 which includes a glass of wine and nibbles. Tickets are available from wardens or phone 01600 780225 / 01600 800987 / 01873 821497. It promises to be a most enjoyable evening so hope you are able to come along and support it.

On Sunday 28th July there will be the annual **Llantilio Crossenny village walk** followed by tea in the Church. Please meet in the Church car park at 2pm ready for a 2 hour walk. Adults £2.50, children and dogs free!

As you can see from the front cover of TNT, Revd. Heidi recently attended a garden party at **Buckingham Palace** with Val and Lauren Cooke. This is the story of the event told by Lauren.

'At the start of this year I received a letter to say I had been nominated to go to the Queen's Garden Party, due to my efforts in raising money for defibrillators in rural areas. I decided to invite my mum to come with me. Speaking with Revd. Heidi she had also been invited to go along with the High Sheriff of Gwent, Dame Claire Clancy (pictured on the right). It turned out we had both been invited to go on the same day! On Tuesday 21st May we joined up in the beautiful gardens of Buckingham Palace for smoked salmon parcels, carrot and green bean sandwiches, chocolate cake, scones and lemon tarts (to name a few!) We waited in line for royalty to arrive out of the palace, 'God Save the Queen' was played by a brass band and we were very lucky to be within a couple of feet of Her Majesty and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The sun shone brightly all day, even though there were showers in the forecast. We had the best day and enjoyed every minute and I didn't want it to end. It was an amazing opportunity and I will treasure the memories always.'



Llantilio Bellringers attended an evening practice in Skenfrith on 28th May along with ringers from Abergavenny and Llangattock Vibon Avel. The band of ringers from Llangattock are a fairly new group and they seem to be getting the hang of the ropes. Llantilio ringers will be ringing a number of times over the next couple of months. Apart from ringing before the service on the first Sunday of the month they will also be ringing for the wedding of Natalie Donovan & Robert Jones on 15th June. On Saturday 27th July, Llantilio welcomes a group of bellringers from Bristol. Llantilio bellringers will be going on tour on 10th August.

Llanvapley News

Llanvapley Walking Group had another successful Saturday walk on 18th May with about a dozen of us walking to White Castle and back to Llanvapley Church. We had a picnic stop at White Castle. The route took us through some interesting places and over the River Trothy. The views were, as usual, spectacular and the weather was good. We have proposed to Monmouthshire that this would be a great 'promoted route' – something that was mooted a few years ago as well. A 'promoted route' is one that gets regular maintenance and is publicised by the council. Let's hope Monmouthshire CC agree to this as it would help develop recreational walking in our beautiful area. Our next Saturday walk is on June 22nd – Meet at Llanvapley at 10.00. We're also planning another evening walk on Wednesday June 12th. For more information please contact me at llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com *Phil Allsopp*

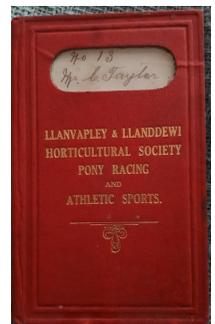


Llanvapley Church held its annual churchyard clean up on Saturday 11th May. Thank you to everyone who turned up and worked so hard at making the church and churchyard so tidy and welcoming.



The **LSSA Coffee Morning** was held on 8th May. The draw for the 100 Club was held and the winner of the £50 first prize was Viv Morgan. Viv was delighted to receive her cheque and revealed she was going to spend the money on an MP3 player. Viv is very interested in dancing and she intends to use her MP3 player while practising her ballroom dancing. The next two coffee mornings are on 12th June and 10th July. Why not make a date in your diary and come along? The LSSA committee met on 18th May. The annual summer BBQ date was set for 30th August 2019 starting at 7.00 pm. Price £8. Bring your own drinks.

Recently a small book has come to light which is dated 1925. The book is like a notebook but there are no notes inside it. The only thing we know is the name of the person who owned it and the rather interesting title on it's front cover, '**Llanvapley and Llanddewi Horticultural Society, Pony Racing and Athletic Sports**'. Does anyone know anything about this club or know anyone who was a member? Do you have a copy belonging to one of your relations? Please let TNT know if you do. Thank you to Verity Vater of Llanddewi for sending the picture.



The summer has arrived and Llanvapley residents will soon once again hear the sound of leather against willow as the new cricket season begins. **Llanvapley Cricket Club** are playing a number of games over the summer and everyone is welcome to go down to the playing field and watch a few overs in this picturesque setting in the centre of the village (weather permitting!). Anyone interested in playing is advised to go along and have a word with the cricket captain, Richard Harbottle.

2nd June - Ponthir at home

9th June - Cardiff Casuals at home

16th June - Penydaren at home

23rd June - Clytha away (at Llanarth) Time to be confirmed

7th July – Llanfrynach at home

21st July – Lisvane at home

28th July – Llanfrynach away

All matches are on Sunday and start at 2.30



Llanarth Fawr Community Council met in May and Llanvapley's local community councillor, Pat Bolwell, has sent in this report. 'It was the AGM but no members of the public appeared. Brian Spencer was re-elected Chairman with Chris Lewis Vice Chairman. Brian Spencer wanted to clarify that he wishes to stand down next year. There are still vacancies for councillors in Llanarth and Bryngwyn wards. Pat Bolwell was elected to the Green Energy Advisory Group grants committee. The AGM of this group is on 29th July in Llanvetherine. The new grant applications open on 1st June until 14th July and there is £70,000 available this year. Applications must be in writing and include audited accounts. The proposed boundary changes for the councils are now with the Welsh Assembly. Speed signs were discussed again and a list of suggested places will be sent in. Also the possibility of placing defibrillators in various locations. MCC are looking at other ways to deal with dog waste collection which could save the councils some money; ongoing.'



Some people think Royal Ascot is the highlight of the summer social calendar, other people say Wimbledon or Henley Royal Regatta. In these parts we all know that **Llanvapley Church Strawberry Tea** beats them all! This year it is on Sunday 7th July from 3pm – 5pm. Not to be missed.

Llanvetherine News

On Saturday 11th May, Robb and Nicola Merchant of White Castle Vineyard raised a toast to celebrate the 10th Anniversary since planting their first 4,000 vines in Llanvetherine in 2009. They were joined by family, friends and returning visitors to share their success and hear the story of how a dream became a reality for the them. To mark this milestone they have planted a further 1,000 Pinot Noir and 1,000 first time Cabernet Franc on ground that for years Robb had told Nicola would not be suitable for vines as it was not south facing! (work in progress pictured on the right) 'So let's watch this space!' says Nicola. The pair have enjoyed their journey so far and feel that they have created a family business. Their journey has taken them to Westminster, Clarence House and their wines were requested in France where they now can be found at the Cite du Vin, wine museum in Bordeaux. They also pride themselves on attaining protected food names for each of their wines as provenance is paramount. Welsh Wine Week is from May 26th - 2nd June and as part of their celebrations they are offering free vineyard tours every day at 3pm so this is an opportunity not to be missed if you haven't already set foot in a Welsh vineyard. More information is available on their website, www.whitecastlevineyard.com



On Saturday 25th May the funeral of **Jack Martin** was held at St James' Church. The church was packed with family and friends. Jack and his wife, Margaret were married in the church and have lived in the area all their lives.

On Friday 5th July there will be a **Jazz Night** at Llanvetherine Court featuring the Nauhda Quartet. The group are based locally and were put together in 2016 by Colin Tully, composer of theme music for cult classic film, Gregory's Girl and ex-John Martyn sideman. Colin plays the Fender Rhodes electric piano with Chris Egan on tenor and soprano sax, Carles Riba on electric bass and Pedro Brown on drums and percussion. Brazilian rhythms, a shamelessly melodic approach with a dash of Celtic seasoning are blended to create an appetising jazz stew. There will be a cash only bar.

£5 for tickets – contact info@threepools.co.uk
Tickets will be limited.



Three Pools - Permaculture Project It's coming up to two years that we've been here at Llanvetherine Court. We've fixed up the house and welcomed baby Skye into the world. Now we can turn our attention towards the farming. We're looking to redesign the farm system, using permaculture design thinking, to maximise environmental benefits whilst maintaining high quality food production. In order to convert the farming system we first need to get a strong understanding of what we're working with. As a data recording process, the focus has been on biodiversity and soils. The Monmouthshire Meadows group came to survey our grassland for wildflowers and fungi. SEWBReC ran a biodiversity blitz day and ecologists have been to carry out bat and owl surveys. Biodiversity is important to record as it is something that theoretically a permaculture designed system would enhance well beyond what conventional farming could achieve.



High biodiversity has health benefits for plants and livestock on the farm. We have also become part of the GROW Observatory citizen science project. This is a Europe wide project collecting data on soils, in part to calibrate satellite data. Specifically the project is collecting data on soil moisture. In a redesigned system the soil should hold more water for longer, giving it resilience against a changing climate and drought while reducing flood risk downstream. The research is done alongside the events we run. We learned a lot from the events last summer and things are shaping up well this year. Yoga and wellness retreats, foodie events, music events, weddings and more. Sign up to our mailing list at www.threepools.co.uk to get information on what's going on. *Huw Evans*

On Sunday 5th May Llanvetherine Church was delighted to welcome Chris, Jemma and family for the baptism of **Dylan**. The family very much enjoyed the day and appreciated Revd. Heidi's welcome and how she made everyone feel so relaxed.

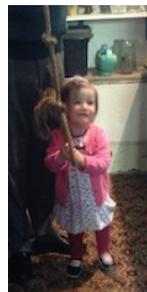


On Saturday 11th May, Jim and Kate Beavan from Great Tre-rhew Farm, Llanvetherine hosted a **mental health first aid course**. As a result of the day there are now ten additional mental health first aiders in the area. They are hoping to set up a rural support group for Monmouthshire. The inspirational Emma, founder of the Daniel Picton-Jones Foundation, delivered the training.

Jim and Kate will also be holding an '**Open Farm Sunday**' on Sunday 9th June from 1pm to 4pm. It is free! Great Tre-rhew Farm is a traditional, 300 acre mixed family farm with sheep, cattle and arable enterprises including cider making. There will be a shearing demonstration, outdoor classroom activities for kids, spinning and weaving, river dipping (bring your wellies), wildlife walks and meet the animals.

You are welcome to bring a picnic to eat in our orchards. Traditional cider and perry available (part of your 5 a day!). Refreshments stall (tea, coffee, squash & cakes) - all proceeds to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI).

Llanvetherine Church has been trying to recruit someone to ring the bell before the morning service. So far they have managed to find two enthusiastic recruits in Megan and Lloyd Hughes-Jones. Progress has been slow but they are both showing real promise and would like to join the Llantilio Bellringers when they are older!



Penrhos News

Longhouse Farm, Penrhos, NP15 2DE will be open on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June as part of the National Garden Scheme. This scheme aims to support a number of nursing and health charities. Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors a record annual donation of £3.1 million was made by the national scheme in 2018. Longhouse Farm has a hidden two acre garden with a south facing terrace, a collection of pelargoniums, a millrace wall, pond and spacious lawns with extensive views. There are colourful and unusual plants in the borders, a malus avenue and a recently revamped productive vegetable garden. A woodland walk is being created with a stream, hidden ponds and massed bluebells in spring. Home made teas on both days. Admission is £5 for adults, children free.



Penrhos had a very successful **Open Gardens Afternoon** at High House and the Old Vicarage. There were over 300 visitors which also meant a huge amount of tea and cakes were consumed. Luckily Ann and Margaret had been very busy baking so we didn't run out of delicious cakes.

Sunday 23rd June - **Penrhos Hog Roast**. Carving at 1pm at Dairy Farm, Penrhos. Tickets are £12.50 per adult, 10 - 16 year olds £5 and under 10 free.

The Garden in June

Have you got a patch of poor soil in a sunny position? One plant that would be really happy in dry conditions with a bit of old mortar is Dianthus, flower of the Gods, 'Dios' being divine and 'Anthos' meaning flower. Dianthus or pinks grow in abundance on poor rocky soil high up in the hills of the Mediterranean, but we do have a couple of native ones here - the Cheddar Pink is one. They are very rewarding plants and easy to propagate. (just take a heel and pop it in a pot with a bit of rooting powder) If they are happy with you, you will get weeks of dainty flowers, some of which are highly scented, and they don't really need a lot of care. It is just sensible to take cuttings particularly of the older pinks as they may well flower themselves to death!



Carnations and Sweet Williams also come under the genus but the former need a little more cossetting.

Dianthus, P inks, Sops in Wine, Gillyflowers and carnations have been around for centuries. Apparently the first known representation of a small single pink is in an Italian Herbal dated 1414. There are numerous other illustrations. The goddess Flora in Botticelli's 'Primavera' dated 1478, wears a robe decorated with pinks and cornflowers and other wild flowers. The fringed petals lend themselves to decorative designs and are found in embroideries and tapestries throughout the centuries. When the 'Florists', enthusiasts for cultivations of tulips, dianthus and other flowers got going the choice of carnations and pinks exploded. Some of them survive to this day. My mother loved 'Doris' a modern border pink that is well behaved. There is now Doris Elite, Majestic and Supreme presumably improvements on the original 1960's plant. I find the colour difficult, as it is a peachy coloured pink and prefer other varieties like 'Gran's Favourite' (a 1960's modern pink scented with raspberry on white laced double flowers), 'Old Velvet' (a beautiful dark rich maroon colour), 'Pheasant's Eye', (white with a deep purple eye), 'Costa Budde' (a single flower with dark pink petals flecked with white), 'Mrs Sinkins' (a Victorian white variety), 'Fair Folly' (a gorgeous raspberry coloured with white marks on a single flower) and 'Waithman's Beauty' also called 'sops in Wine', (a single dark pink flower with lighter pink markings). There are loads of others, it is worth seeking them out – Happy hunting!

Grosmont And District Gardening Club

Summer Plant Sale On Saturday 22nd June 10am To 12 Noon

As a slight change to previous years, we are holding our Summer Plant Sale on Saturday 22nd June 10am to 12 noon at Grosmont Town Hall. As well as various plants, we shall be selling home-made cakes, refreshments and raffle tickets. There will also be a children's craft table to keep the little ones amused. All welcome!

WI News

The Llantilio Crossenny WI AGM was held on the 8th May. The current committee were prepared to stand again, apart from Marion Ashton. She was thanked for all her help in organising outings, making wonderful cakes and for being a very supportive committee member over the last five years. Jane Barnard was voted onto the committee along with Lynda Caster. Lynda is a new member and



was delighted to join onto the committee. The financial statement by Jan Currie showed a healthy balance, aided by grants. This will ensure enough money for the Centenary Garden Party, which is a free event, on Saturday 15th June. After the meeting there was an auction of beautiful flower arrangements, plants and a silent auction for Julia's lovely picture which is shown above. Arrangements were made for the garden party, which will be open to other WI members, friends, family and local people. Lin announced that Lynne Stubbings, the NFWI chair, and Mary Clarke NFWI have promised to attend. Volunteers offered to organise food, games, displays, circle dancing, Tai Chi, folk musicians and a ceilidh. Something for everyone! Members heard good reports after the exhibition, held in April. So much so that some of archives will also be shown on the day of the garden party. Those members who had gone on the trip to see Calendar Girls had a great time, although no one seemed keen to go with Lin's idea for an updated version for L.C WI! A hike from St Telio's Church, Llantilio Crossenny took place on 18th May, followed by teas (pictured on the front cover). The weather was kind and the teas were much appreciated! There will be no normal meeting in June as this is replaced by the Centenary Garden Party at Llanvapley Cricket Pavilion on 15th June from 4pm onwards. We are hoping for more good weather but there will be a marquee just in case! Plans were also made for two outings, the first to Tyntesfield National Trust House on 10th July and the second a Brecon Canal trip on 2nd August.

Tip of the month

Tea bags, what do you do with them? Bin? Food Waste? Compost? If you compost your tea bags then take care to rip open the bag, empty out the tea leaves and discard the bag. Why? Tea bags have a significant amount of plastic in them which not many people realise. Save the planet!

Do you have a useful tip? A recommendation? Why not share it. Send your contribution to TNT.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

1915 FOR 100 YEARS 2015

*Llantilio Crossenny WI
Centenary Garden Party*

*Food, Games, Demos, Exhibition, Folk Music &
Ceildh*



Saturday 15th June 4pm until late.
Llanvapley Cricket Pavilion, NP7 8SH
Free and everyone is welcome!

In last month's TNT we featured a poem submitted by a reader. This month a **meditation** has been sent in. Hope you enjoy it.

Go peaceful
in gentleness
through the violence of these days.

Give freely.
Show tenderness
in all your ways.

Through darkness,
in troubled times
let holiness be your aim.

Seek wisdom.
Let faithfulness
burn like a flame.

God speed you!
God lead you,

and keep you wrapped around His
heart!

May you be known by love.

Be righteous.
Speak truthfully
in a world of greed and lies.

Show kindness.
See everyone
through heaven's eyes.

God hold you,
enfold you,
and keep you wrapped around His
heart.

May you be known by love.

Services in June / July 2019

Sunday 2nd June *Easter 7*

Llanvetherine 9.30am

Llantilio Crossenny 11.00am

Sunday 9th June *Pentecost*

Penrhos 9.30am

Llanvapley 11.00am

Saturday 15th June

Llantilio 12.30pm

Wedding of Robert Jones & Natalie
Donovan

Sunday 16th June *Easter 7*

Llanvetherine 9.30am

Llantilio Crossenny 11.00am

Saturday 22nd June

Llanvetherine 2pm

Wedding of Gordon Copley & Jane
Phillips

Sunday 23rd June *Trinity 1*

Penrhos 9.30am

Saturday 28th June

Llanvetherine 11.30am

Wedding of Richard Sharpe & Amy
Downard

Sunday 30th June *Trinity 2*

Llanvapley 9.30am

Joint 5th Sunday using Book of
Common Prayer

Sunday 7th July *Trinity 3*

Llanvetherine 9.30am

Llantilio Crossenny 11.00am

Sunday 14th July *Trinity 4*

Penrhos 9.30am

Llanvapley 11.00am

Sunday 21st July *Trinity 5*

Llanvetherine 9.30am

Llantilio Crossenny 11.00am

Sunday 28th July *Trinity 6*

Penrhos 9.30am

Llanvapley 11.00am

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 4th June Llanddewi coffee morning (also Wednesday 3rd July)

Saturday 8th June YFC Rally will be held at the Skirrid Farm

Sunday 9th June Open Farm Sunday Great Tre-rhew, Llanvetherine 1pm - 4pm

Saturday/ Sunday 8th / 9th June Garden Party for the Campaign for the
Protection of Rural Wales Trostrey Lodge, Bettws Newydd 2pm

Wednesday June 10th LSSA coffee morning (also Wednesday 12th July)

Saturday 15th June WI Garden Party 4pm Llanvapley Pavilion

Saturday 22nd June Plant Sale Grosmont 10am

Sunday 23rd June Hog Roast Penrhos 1pm

Friday June 28th Monmouth Male Voice Choir 7.30pm at Llantilio Church

Sunday 7th July Llanvapley Strawberry Tea 3pm

Friday 30th August LSSA End of Summer BBQ

Contributions for the August issue of TNT by 20th July 2019

Please send your emails to lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com

Don't forget our website llantiliogroup.info for the latest information
as well as information about all our churches. We are also on Twitter @LlantilioG