

NEW TIMES



Spring comes late to the Great Oak of Llantilio Crossenny

Local Events, April 2006 – Index

- What's on at the pub- rugby screenings, bingo, quiz, chef coming, see pg 3
- What's on in the villages this month – see pg 2 & 3
- Cinema Screenings in Llandewi Skirrid and Skenfrith – contacts sought to keep the editors informed so your events can be advertised free here each month.
- Time to get planting your competition vegetables – see page two
- **14 May - Historic Planting Opportunity** – See page 3
- **26 May** – Four Villages' Skittles challenge
- **24 June 7pm** – Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir presents **Rossini** - Petite Messe Solennelle, in Llantilio Crossenny. See Page 3 & 4.

Forthcoming Services – All Welcome

- | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| • 7th May Easter 3 | 9.30 Llanvetherine | 11. 00 L C |
| • 14th May Easter 4 | 9.30 Penrhos | 10.30 Llanvapley |
| • 21st May Rogation Sunday | 9.30 Llanvetherine | 11.00 L C |
| • 28th May Whitsunday | 9.30 Penrhos | |

Fax 01600 780 109 or tel 01600 780 056. Cheques payable to "Llantilio Vicarage Account".

Recommended donation **50p**

Thought of the month

Let all remember to reflect from time to time about the importance of working together in a positive way, to support and help one another, never competing or criticising, but instead building on the love and sense of community of our beautiful **Four Villages**. Only by doing so can we ever fully enjoy the true and unique richness of our diverse Parish life

Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you. Because God will judge you in the same way as you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules as you apply to others.

Why then do you look at the speck in your brother's eye? How dare you say to your brother "Please, let me take that speck out of your eye" When you have a log in your own eye. You imposter! Take the log out of your own eye first, and then you will be able to see and take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Matthew 7

Llanvethrine and Penrhose News

Llanvetherine marked the start of spring with its own quirky interpretation of B&B: **Bingo and Beer!** Representatives of all four villages could be found at the Hogs Head on 7th April. Messages from the many people who attended the evening said how great it was and how busy, but also that perhaps next time the children's event could be held first, for those little ones who need their sleep. It's fantastic that the event catered for all. Well done Llanvetherine!

Skittles Challenge. Llanvetherine and Penrhose vs Llanvapley and Llantilio Crossenny skittles challenge takes place on Friday 26th May at the Hog's Head from 8pm. All welcome, the more the merrier.

Our love and best wishes go to those who have been admitted to Neville Hall in recent weeks. We wish you all the very best this springtime.

Calling all residents of Penrose and Llanvetherine! We would be so glad to hear more of your news and views to complete all future additions of the New Times. All news welcome by telephone, fax, e mail or post. We would love to hear from you and this magazine won't feel complete without you. Editor

Llanvapley news

Church Reopens. On Sunday 9th of April, Llanvapley Church held its first service for over 18 months following a period in which it was closed because of problems with the roof. In the intervening period a restoration group set to work to find the money to ensure that the

church was once again open for worship. This would not have happened without the hard work of a large number of local people and without the financial support from many families and individuals. Thanks must also go to Cadw and to Llanarth Fawr Community Council for their generous support.

The first service was held on a lovely spring morning despite the continuing cold weather. There were over 25 people present to listen to the Palm Sunday address given by the Rev. David Meredith. Many of the congregation had hoped that the first service would have been in March but that service had to be called off at short notice because of a sudden fall of snow. After the service there was coffee and biscuits which gave everyone the opportunity to catch up on what has been happening.

In a period in which many rural parishes are working hard to ensure that they prosper and flourish it is excellent to see what can be done when everyone is determined to ensure that the church will remain open for worship.

The Four Villages Giant Vegetable Competition takes place in early September 2006, (exact day to be confirmed when weather forecasts available), this year in the Llanvapley Summer Gardens. Age categories are 0 to 8, 9 to 14, 14 to 18 and adult. Categories include:

- **The Longest carrot**
- *The most humungous marrow*
- **The sweetest peas**
- *“Is it a bird, is it a plane, is it planet sized cabbage?”*
- **Country Garden flowers arrangements**
- *And a giant carrot sword fighting competition (for the children!)*
- **Jam, Chutney and home brew tasting**
- *The lightest sponge cake, the most scrumptious scones and the chewiest flapjack.*
- **Photography** – categories: *the Seasons of Monmouthshire, My best friend and Local scenes.*

After Jill Featherstone’s unconceivably gigantic carrots last year the organisers can not rule out random sampling of produce - for steroids (AND Waitrose labels)! So get planting folks – final date to be confirmed in July editions. Entry forms available now from the editors, each entry 30p. Only the first two hundred entries can be guaranteed display space in the pavilion, maximum of 9 entries per family. LSSA

The Llanvapley Easter Fayre took place on Easter Saturday at Saint Mabli's in the beautifully restored and cleaned church with its new Children’s corner. The local history display and stalls were charming and the event was very well attended. The sun shone and the garden areas to the rear of the church looked beautifully well tended with tables and chairs for all to enjoy the spring afternoon and the wonderful view. The tea and cakes were a real celebration of traditional home country cooking and the Easter Egg Treasure hunt proved an enormous success for young and old alike. Five year old John McCoy has overheard asking *“can we come hunting again at the church next weekend, daddy”*. Hopefully this will become a regular annual celebration of village life at St Mabli's.

Historic Planting Party – opportunity for ALL. The final touches will be made to the

planting of the Llanvapley Summer Gardens on **Sunday 14th May 2006**. Everyone is welcome to join the event and finish the gardens by adding the final magnolia trees, wisteria planting and copper beech. The gardens are for everyone in our diverse parish to enjoy, with swings, slides and climbing frames for the little ones. A shady tree seat for those slightly less bouncy amongst us. Join us and help with the final planting session from **11.30 to 1.00 pm**. Create the opportunity for you to tell your grandchildren in years to come that you were there and helped plant tiny saplings that grew into beautiful and historic trees. Join us if you can.

Llantilio Crossenny News

It is very welcome news that the historic and fine **Book of Remembrance** of Llantilio Crossenny is again back in use. If you wish to remember a loved one the book is completed in copperplate by a local apprentice who has recently offered his fine skills to the LC community. Please telephone editor Dennis Ball (see editors contact list- final page) and he will advise you on how to make the arrangements for your own personal message. Because the book is of future historic importance entries may only be made by the Copperplate Apprentice.

Palm Sunday saw the annual pilgrimage of the congregation around the village following in the footsteps of Horace, the ever amiable and handsome donkey. It was such a great sight to see so many youngsters enjoying the singing and the walk and the day was made particularly memorable by the intermittently brilliant sunshine and hail stones and the excellent hot cross buns and tea served in the vestry after the event by Mrs Ann Cobb and many other ladies from our villages. An event our children will hopefully hold in their hearts as they grow. Special thanks to Peter Cobb who conducted the excellent service for adults but who also took great care to involve the children in their understanding of the meaning of Palm Sunday, the symbolism of the palm cross and his own childhood memories of catkins on Palm Sunday. We as a community are so fortunate to have such a generous spirit in Peter to support and guide us all.

The Hog's Head continues to thrive for young and old alike you can book ahead. If you still haven't paid it a visit. The main area of the pub is an exquisite and ancient barn which has a wealth of historic features, much has been made of local ancient oaks from the farm. It's becoming increasingly commonplace to bump into friends from as far afield as Lydart, Monmouth and Bettws Newdd in the bar which is excelling in drawing the community together from miles around. Skittles, pool and table football and a giant flat screen TV for sport add to the facilities available, but none more so than the fabulous views. This month's events include

- Kitchens now open
- **Thursday** is an established "pool night" and everyone is welcome. Pool other nights too
- Traditional music session every **Monday** which welcomes musicians and singers of all abilities to join in the warm and friendly atmosphere.

The Hog's Head is an outstanding local facility. The footpaths from miles around are now very well worn. What a fabulous way to keep fit!

The Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir presents Rossini, Petite Messe Solennelle, with

the conductor Roger Langford and accompanist – Peter Lutter. Advance booking is advised for the event on Saturday 24 June 2006 at 7pm at St. Teilo's Church. Llantilio Crossenny. Tickets are !16.60, £12 and £10 (for children and seats with restricted view) available from 0208 723 6913.

Children's news

My favourite book is called The Scarecrow and his Servant by Philip Pullman. I like it because it has lots of adventure in it and things that make you laugh.

By Harry McCoy and 7 and $\frac{3}{4}$.

Cross Ash School Trip. Children from the top class in Cross Ash recently visited the Isle of Wight to spend 4 days at an activity centre. Here are some extracts from a diary written by one of the children,

"When we got on the ferry we all went on deck - it was really fun"

"My dormitory woke at 4.30 a.m. and started tidying the room ready for room inspection at 7.00 a.m."

"We did kayaking and we had our own little boat - it was scary."

"Tea was nice. We went to the tuck shop and I got some sweets."

"Our first activity of the day was the tunnel trail the one I had been dreading"

"We met our group leader - her name was Sarah she was really nice and she was funny".

Sounds like a good time was had by all. Many thanks to our young reporter **Miss Emily Taylor** of Llanvapley for this excellent account.

Let us have more of your stories, jokes and letters. The winner each month will be published in the New Times. A certificate will be awarded for the best story received each year on Christmas Eve. Age categories are under 10, 10 to 14 and under 16. Please include your name, address and age on the back of all competition entries.

Every month the front page of the New Times will carry a picture or photograph by a local artist. Entries are welcome from artists aged 1 to 101. A £10 prize will be awarded each Christmas eve to the most outstanding contribution received from a parish artist that has featured on the front page each year. So, please don't be shy. Paintings, photographs or drawings must be no larger than A4 size and sent by e mail, fax or post to the editors.

Your Letters & Messages

- ❖ A slightly belated but very happy seventh birthday to lovely Miss Alys Thomas of Llantilio Crossenny. As fine a painter of mermaids as this village has seen. Keep up with your beautiful art work Alys.
- ❖ Congratulations to Jack Taylor on securing his first job abroad as a companion to two younger travellers from nearby in Cwm Carvan, in southern Italy in July 2006. ***P.s If you change your mind Jack, the editors would be very happy to borrow your sun cream and fly off for you.***
- ❖ Very many happy returns to Harry McCoy on his eighth birthday on 3rd May 2006. Harry is celebrating with his friends with a Hawk display followed by and England V Wales football match in Llanvapley. We all hope you have a very special day.
- ❖ Heidi, Simon and Gwen you are always in our prayers and thoughts as you settle into your new and beautiful home complete with babbling brook, in Powys. We miss you. L.C. Village
- ❖ Thomas Baker of Coed Canol LC is also eight on 3rd May. The coolest boy in the district if our sources inform us correctly. Have a very wonderful day Thomas.
- ❖ Thanks so much to the editorial team for this fantastic community magazine. It must have taken ages to gather all the information. We have lived in Penrose for three years and have never realised that so much was happening locally. It's lovely to hear what everyone is up to. We look forward to receiving all future editions and will use the postal option to ensure we don't miss a thing! JM.
- ❖ **Q-** Have the editors of the New Times thought about a logo or a few key words that sum up what they have achieved so far and aim to do in the future? I wondered what you might think of "*Four Villages, One Community*" S.A.M.
A - We Love this – please see page 8

Personal Ads

- Reliable person sought to help with **house keeping / cleaning** in the Lanvapley and Llantilio Crossenny area. Either 3, 6 or 8 hours each week. £6ph. Tel 01600 780 108
- **Llanvapley Cricket Pavilion** is becoming an increasingly popular location for **birthday parties** and plans to buy new furniture just for this purpose very soon. If you have birthday or any other celebration coming up, you are likely to be impressed by what is available. The village hall is large and airy, newly decorated in January 2006, and immaculately clean, always, thanks to the excellent caretaker. There is a fully fitted kitchen, a newly installed disabled ramp access, fist rate conveniences, to include heating and even showers if you need them. The perfect location for a party and **available for £30** for up to four hours. Telephone Owen on 10600 780 147 if you'd like to make a booking of have a look around
- Old **grass roller** sought to buy. Tel 01600 780 056

- **Cross Ash Under Fives** is a great and inexpensive way for little ones to get to know their fellow tiny neighbour better, to play and learn in the safe and beautiful group room with trained teaching staff. For further information please contact Sarah on 01600 780 516.
- **Tennis.** We don't currently have public tennis courts anywhere in our four villages' community. The LSSA have been doing what they can to address that but is £11,000 short of what is needed – donations are always welcome! Don't forget if you are able to contribute, if you confirm with you letter your name and address then the LSSA as a registered charity has the chance of claiming tax back on your contributions. In the meantime, excellent tennis coaching courses for adult and children are run not so far away, 9 miles or so, in Penalt. For children's coaching tel Alana on 01600 860 568. For adults 01989 770 242. The cost is £20 for 6 lessons.
- **Cricket.** Children's cricket coaching started again on the Llanarth ground on Friday 21 April and will continue on every Friday through the summer from 5pm to 6.15 pm. Each session costs only £2.00 and there can be few more beautiful grounds on which to enjoy watching the children play. For more information contact Len Wilcox on 01873 830 172.
- **Cricket team.** Llanvapley cricket team are seeking new members. You do not have to be very good or experienced to join; the team loves a challenge. The Llanvapley ground is exquisitely maintained with outstanding views of the Skirrid and has a children's play ground for those wanting to bring the family along. The ground is also only two miles from the new pub, the Hogs Head. Telephone Owen Marsh for more information – 01600 780 147.

Waiter There's a fly in my Soup – Local emergency Services

- Plumbers
- Electricians
- Builders
- Upholsterers
- Yoga instructors
- etc

Advertise here free each month if you have two local referees who are willing to have their telephone numbers published and will recommend your work to the New Times readers.

A Note from you editor

This is the second edition of the New Times. We have been overwhelmed by your telephone calls, notes and personal messages about the first edition. Thanks you all so much for taking the time to tell us that you liked it. Its hard to believe but we 250 copies were taken up by you last month (we ran out!), each copy constructed by hand by one woman, the wonderful and generous Mrs Margaret Parry. The generosity and warmth of your very many messages about our first edition has been really unexpected. Many thank to all our readers.

Thanks also for all your suggestions and ideas. You will see the size and style of the type face of this edition has changed, thanks to your feedback. Thanks also for the very many bundles of stamped, self addressed envelopes that have already been safely received. We are a close and exceptionally beautiful community. But our homes are sometimes disparate. It is hard to ensure we reach everyone on foot so the willingness of many to adopt the postal delivery option is really welcome. It will help us guarantee we get our magazine to those who want it quickly, and ensure you have a chance to put your own ideas and details of events forward.

Postmen sought. If you would be willing to accept responsibility for hand delivering magazines in a defined area near you for 12 months we would be so glad to hear from you, even if its just five or six houses. Please telephone 01600 780 056.

Mind The Gap

This is only the second edition of the New Times. There is so much happening in our different parishes and villages and it's sometimes hard to keep abreast of what's on. **The New Times** will bring local information together to "mind the gap", to let you know what's on and when. **To succeed we need to hear from you.** We'd like to hear from you.. It's also a way for you to tell us how we can help you. So please don't be shy. Drop us a line or article you would like published by post, e mail or telephone. We can't publish every letter but will publish a minimum of two letters each month. We look forward to hearing from you.

Because we are a large editorial team the **submission deadline** for article and adverts is the **third Sunday of the month**. So if you have contacted us with ideas or articles, don't be disappointed if you aren't included in this edition. We'll pick up on where we left off next time and include you then!

This is monthly magazine gives news of what's happening in your community, both within the Church in Wales and in our area generally. Please let everyone know that you don't have to be a member of the church to subscribe. The magazine cost 50p to produce and your donations are welcome.

Who's Who? – Wardens

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Llanvapley	Les Taylor	01600 780 376
Llantilio Crossenny	Dennis Ball	01873 821 236
	Richard Barnfield	01600 780 365

If you would like to subscribe to this magazine by post for 12 months please send 12 Stamped, self-addressed envelopes to Little Ton, Llanvapley, Monmouthshire, NP& 8SN. Please allow 7 days for delivery.

If you need to receive your future editions of The New Times in large print please telephone Sarah on 01600 780 056. This message is size 18. Please tell us if you require more.

E MAIL articles/ enquiries to llan.news@yahoo.co.uk or fax 01600 780 109

Four Villages, One Community