

The New Times

June 2022

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



Llantilio man spotted tied to a plane but who is it?



Cricketer celebrates being 80 not out in Llanvapley but who is he?

From the Vicarage

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills” Psalm 121.

The landscape we are part of is indisputably beautiful. In this part of the world we are surrounded by mountains, fields, woods, streams and rivers, and the wonderful wildlife that it homes.

The countryside of which we are part, is precious and sacred.

Perhaps one of the reasons we value our natural surroundings, is

the fact that they appear to be permanent. No matter what else may be going on in our lives, the mountains will always be there; their presence is constant.

I'm sure I'm not alone in disliking change however it appears.

The people we love, our friends and neighbours are also part of our landscape.

In recent times we have said “Goodbye” or “Adieu” (“to God”) to a number of people who have been part of our community, part of our lives, part of us; so much so, that it feels like our very landscape is changing.

As I insist on saying, we have not “lost” those who have died, but nevertheless, our landscape has changed and we need to fix our eyes on what is permanent, keep our inner compass fixed on God.

This month sees the celebrations of the Queen's platinum jubilee. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and give thanks for the Queen's loyal and unwavering years of service to her country, in good times and in bad.

Her presence has been a part of our lives for as long as we can remember, and her life of duty and faithful service has been an example and inspiration to us all.

Yet, the Queen herself takes her example from Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve.

In the times that lie ahead, may we fix our eyes on the One who never changes, whose love is constant, and in whom we, and all those we love who have gone ahead of us, are always one.

With every blessing,

Heidi

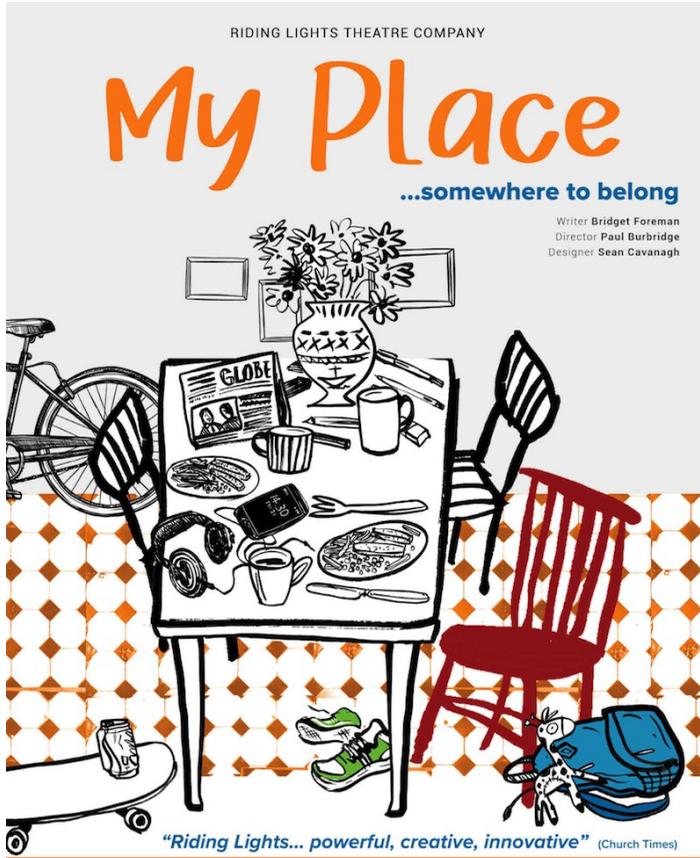


Riding Lights theatre company is performing a new play "My Place" at Holy Trinity in Abergavenny on the 23rd June at 7:30pm

Riding Lights is well known in our area having performed in Llantilio and Grosmont churches. This is what Sean Cavanagh has to say about it.

'It's a brilliant, short musical about homelessness and the need for adoption amongst young people. It's been done in collaboration with the charity Home for Good. It's ultimately an enjoyable and encouraging evening about an issue that is much closer to us to all of us than many realise - in the UK every 15 minutes there's a new child or young person needing foster care or adoption. It's a great evening's entertainment in true Riding Lights form with fantastic music by Patrick Burbridge and is suitable for anyone over 12 year's old. Probably the best show we've done for quite a few years.'

To find out more click on the poster below.



THURSDAY 23 JUNE, 7.30PM
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
ABERGAVENTNY, NP7 5BH
Book online at ridinglights.org/my-place

home
for good

RIDING
LIGHTS
THEATRE
COMPANY

Menus from the past

Eating out is one of the great pleasures of life. We are lucky to have so many great places to eat on our doorstep. The Walnut Tree has been renowned for many years and continues to attract visitors from far and near.

A reader has sent in a menu from the Walnut Tree which will remind you of what used to be expensive back in the day when Abergavenny telephone numbers were four digits.

The Walnut Tree Inn

Proprietors: FRANCO and ANN TARUSCHIO

LLANDEWI SKIRRID, NR. ABERGAVENNY, MON.

Telephone ABERGAVENNY 2787

Hors d'oeuvres—

Italian antipasto	59 p
Spaghetti Bolognese	49 p
Cannelloni	63 p
Tagliatella	49 p
Lasagne	63 p
Trenette col pesto	49 p
Parma Ham and Melon	69 p
Parma Ham with pear and coriander	69 p
Melon and Port	43 p
Salade Nicolae	55 p
Salade de Tomates	23 p
Scampi Provencale	75 p
Scampi Mornay	73 p
Sole goujon	55 p
Moule mariniere (when in season)	63 p
Avacado Prawns and Mayonnaise	63 p
Avacado a la vinaigrette	39 p
Avacado Mario	63 p
Smoked Trout	49 p
Smoked Salmon	73 p
Piedmontese peppers	45 p
Pate Maison	56 p
Baked Grapefruit and port	23 p
Escargots per ¼ doz.	55 p
Fresh Prawn Cocktail, fresh mayonnaise	49 p
Soup of the day	23 p

Fish—

Trout a la Bourguignonne	59 p
Sole with marsala	£1-05
Sole meuniere	98 p
Sole bonne femme	£1-05
Scampi Provencale	£1-05
Lobster Thermidor	price according to season
Lobster Mornay	price according to season
Trout with fennel and pernod	69 p
Sole with shrimps	£1-05

Meat—

Steak Florentine	£1-20
Steak Piazzatola	98 p
Steak Diane flambe	98 p
Steak Cacciatra	£1-10
Steak Chantille	£1-05
Steak au poivre flambe	£1-10
Tournedos Rossini	£1-15
Steak Casanova	£1-15
Filet Steak garni	98 p
Entrecot steak	98 p
Osso bucco	£1-10
Escalope de veau cauchoise	£1-10
Piccata al marsala	£1-05
Saltimbocca	£1-05
Bocconcini	98 p
Veal parmigiani	98 p
Wiener schnitzel	98 p
Kidneys with truffles	£1-10
Chicken Walnut Tree	£1-05
Coq au Vin	£1-05
Poussin (baby chicken) stuffed with Rosemary and butter)	98 p
Pantouffe Perigourdine	£1-50
Supreme of Chicken Rossini	£1-05
Canard a l'orange (½ duck) 2 per., each	£1-15
Duck with cherries (½ duck) 2 per., each	£1-15
Sweet sour duck 2 persons, each	£1-15
Normandy duck 2 persons, each	£1-15
Duck en daube (½ duck) 2 per., each	£1-15
Quail stuffed with grapes	£1-20

GAME WHEN IN SEASON.

Large selection of **SWEETS** and **CHEESES** always available.

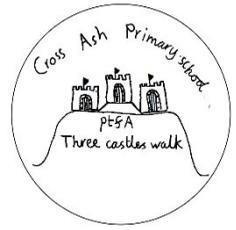
(Sweets 33p — 40p) (Cheese 45p)

COVER CHARGE — 20p

An order in advance from this menu will help us to meet your exact requirements, but we also have a "pot luck" menu which varies from day to day. A "bistro" menu is also provided in the bars.

Why not go for the Prawn cocktail at 49p? Followed by Steak Florentine at £1.20 and finish off with a pudding perhaps at 40p!

Cross Ash Primary School PTFA Three Castles Sponsored Walk



On Sunday 8th May, walkers of all ages took to the Monmouthshire countryside to raise money for much needed school playground equipment including bikes and scooters. There were a variety of routes to walk, all finishing at White Castle. There were walkers walking the full 19 mile route from Whitecastle to Grosmont to Skenfrith and then back to White Castle, starting very early in the morning!

Others walked a 7 mile route from Skenfrith or Grosmont to White Castle and there was a lovely 1.5 mile circular walk at White Castle for the younger ones – something for everyone! Some people took advantage of the geocaches hidden along the way and there was a picture treasure hunt to enjoy on the White Castle circular route. There were stories of singing, joke telling, tree climbing and enjoyment of beautiful bluebells along the way.

It was a truly fantastic day, with over 120 adults and children taking part and many tired but happy people at the end of the day. It was a wonderful occasion to be able to come together as a school community at last and a brilliant way to enjoy the great outdoors! The weather was perfect for walking with a mixture of cloud and sunshine...

and the treat at the end of the walk was an ice cream van which was like a beacon to aim for on top of the hill! We have raised over £2,500 so far. A fantastic achievement.



Huge thanks to everyone who took part and to the Hoggins family, for the use of their field and house for the day and to all the staff and parents who helped to make the day happen – true community spirit! Thank you everyone.

Cross Ash PTFA

Llantilio Crossenny News

News from St Teilo's Church

The past few weeks have been extremely busy ones for St Teilo's with three funerals, a memorial service and a plant sale. On 25th April a large gathering of family and friends came along to say "goodbye" to Rob Heath. On 30th April a large gathering came along for the funeral of Margaret Heeps and on the 10th of May the church was again full of family and friends for the funeral of Pam Richards. All three were much loved members of our community and will be much missed. On 6th May there was a memorial service for Charles Hamilton.

The plant sale was back this year on 2nd May after a two year absence owing to the pandemic and was a resounding success, with thanks to everyone for all the contributions given and support on the day. The weather was kind and there was a steady stream of visitors to the sale which was set up in the car park. The final amount of money raised was £1,046.40 which was thought to be a record. The teas raised £90.60, the cakes £169.80, the raffle £160 and the plants £626.



On Sunday 5th June our four parishes come together at St Teilo's for a joint service to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Among the refreshments will be a glass of Prosecco and a special celebration cake.

Llantilio daredevil is flying high!

If you are wondering who the Llantilio daredevil featured on the front page is, then it was none other than Matt Tebbutt. Thanks to Lisa for the pictures and her report. *'Matt did a wing walk at Rendcomb airfield this week supporting The RAF Association - a charity that provides support for RAF veterans and their families. And yes, that is him upside down!'*





Llantilio Crossenny Area Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend



Everyone invited to all events (free of charge)

4th June - Jubilee Ramble 9.30am @ St Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny

4th June - Live Stream of Platinum Party at the Palace & Live Band @ The Hogs Head- 7pm

5th June - Jubilee Big Lunch (bring your own picnic) @ The Hogs Head- 12pm onwards

Please see our Facebook page for more details- Search- Llantilio Crossenny Jubilee Celebrations
or @LlantilioCrossennyPlatinumJubileeBash

Or Contact: Jane- 07799 774053



**Llantilio Crossenny, Llanvapley,
Llanvetherine & Penrhos Churches**



Invite you to join us for a Special Service marking the
Queens Platinum Jubilee followed by Prosecco to
celebrate in style!

@ St Teilo's, Llantilio Crossenny
SUNDAY 5TH JUNE, 11AM SERVICE

Hope to see you all there !

Llanvapley News

Spring Clean in Llanvapley

On Saturday 7th May a group of keen volunteers arrived at St Mabli's Church for the annual churchyard and church spring clean. With them they brought mops, buckets, brushes, wheelbarrows, spades, strimmers and all manner of other gardening tools. At the end of the morning the churchyard was looking spick and span and the church was as clean as a new pin. Refreshments were



served and everyone enjoyed a slice of lemon drizzle cake, a cup of coffee and a chat while they admired all their hard work. Thanks to everyone who came along to help and they will not be surprised to learn that many visitors to the church have been commenting on how lovely and well cared for the church looks.

Sunday services

On the day following the spring clean a service of Morning Prayer was held at St Mabli's. It was a beautiful May morning and it was decided to hold the service outside in the garden behind the church. Hymns were sung without accompaniment and seats were arranged in front of a table set up as an altar. The birds were singing and the sound of our singing was carried around the village to the delight of those who heard it. The weather wasn't as kind for the next service in the month when the heaters were once again back on inside the church!



Churchyard improvements

Llanvapley Church has been given permission to install lights in the churchyard. The PCC decided to try out solar lights in the hope that enough solar energy could be captured to improve safety for visitors at events which finish late in the evening. The early indications suggest the solar lights are working well and the lights are particularly bright, even in shady parts of the churchyard.





**Llanvapley celebrates the
Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen
Friday 3 June
2pm – 6pm
at the pavilion**

Lots of fun for all the family and your friends!

You are invited to bring along a picnic and something to share.

A marquee will be available to provide cover.

There will be outdoor games and an inflatable slide as well as the usual play equipment.

The Isca Morris dancers will be dancing on the field.

A cake (any kind) competition for which the Red Hart has given a special prize.

A Jubilee hat competition for which there are two prizes of £20 for the best adult bonnet and the best child's bonnet.

The highlight of the afternoon is the village photograph, planting of a tree and the singing of national anthems.

Timetable of events

2pm – 2.30	Formal opening
2.30 – 3.00	Cake competition
3.00 – 3.30	Jubilee hat competition
4.15 – 4.45	Isca Morris
5.00 onwards	National anthems / Village photograph / Tree planting



Llanvapley Sports and Social Association News

Playing Field maintenance

The village committee are delighted to announce that the green container which was sitting in the car park has finally been moved and placed next to the cricket club container on the far side of the cricket pitch. The container will be used to store mowing equipment. Thanks to Adrian Price for offering his help and for doing a quick and efficient job. Thanks also to Dai and Gary Lewis for helping to ensure the safe transfer of the container.



Afternoon Tea

The next afternoon tea is on Monday 13th June 2pm – all welcome – come along for a cuppa and a catch-up in the pavilion. This will also be an opportunity to meet our new county councillor, Alistair Neill, who is looking forward to meeting Llanvapley residents. Alistair is Scottish and he and his wife Kate have lived in the area for the last 28 years. They have three children and Kate teaches at Crickhowell High School. Alistair has lots of experience of running councils and has even worked in Downing Street! Thanks go to everyone who has contributed to the afternoon tea and who have helped to run the event. Everyone welcome so make a date in your diary.



At the last afternoon tea, the 100 Club was won by Chris Couzens from Llantilio. Chris was delighted to receive his £50 prize and declared he was going to spend it on petrol for his new car!

BTW If you can't make afternoon tea why not pop over to Llanddewi for their coffee morning at the village hall on Wednesday 15th at 10.30am.

Llanvapley Walking Group

Another lovely four-mile walk across the fields to Coed Morgan took place on Saturday 14th May with nine of us taking in the beautiful views while enjoying the spring sunshine and the interesting conversations. Thanks to those who came along. We are walking again on Saturday 11th June, 10.30 from Llanvapley Pavilion (car parking available) and you will be made most welcome, of course. Let me know if you want to join our mailing list at llanvapleywalkinggroup@gmail.com *Phil Allsopp*



Village v Llanvapley Cricket Club Match

As a curtain raiser to the 2022 season, Llanvapley cricket club challenged Llanvapley village to a fun match on Saturday 28th May. The day arrived and both teams fielded strong sides and the weather was perfect for cricket. The village side was captained by Rhys Davies. Rhys had spent several weeks unearthing local talent and putting on practice sessions to ensure the team were ready for the match. This was the first occasion the new artificial strip had been used for a match and also the first time the new boundary rope had been used. The cricket club opened the batting but quickly realised it wasn't going to be a push over when Jack Andrews took a wicket with his third ball in the first over of the match. Wickets started to tumble when a certain 69 year old took the new ball and skittled out one of the top batsman. Rhys, Christian, Jonny, Dave, Joe and Graham also caused problems for the cricket club but unfortunately there were a number of loose deliveries which enabled the cricket club to reach a total of 138 for 9 after 20 overs. The standard of fielding was high and Jim Brook set a good example by hurtling himself around the field every time the ball came in his direction. Teas were served in the pavilion and the LSSA laid on a nice spread for the cricket club. Thanks go to Lynda Caster for providing the teas.

Following tea, the village opening batsmen, Jonny and Christian (pictured) made a good start but the runs were coming slowly and the chase for 138 was proving to be difficult. There were several good performances but a mention has to be given to the team captain, Rhys, who hit a couple of fours as part of a useful innings. The village was delighted to have Rodney Powell (pictured on the front cover) batting lower down the order. He had already been busy in the field and had dislocated a finger – not a problem apparently!



Rodney will be celebrating his 81st birthday in June but in the match he was celebrating hitting runs for the village side. Unfortunately, the other batsman forgot that Rodney isn't as fast as he used to be and expected him to run 22 yards at a speed of a 16 year old which led to a run out. Rodney was given a hero's reception as he returned to the pavilion. Talking of 16 year olds, Tom Yeomans was not only a fantastic wicket keeper but also played his part with the bat. The village team were never going to reach 138 but were pleased to get more than 100.

The match was watched by an enthusiastic crowd who enjoyed the game, the atmosphere and the lovely weather. There is talk of having another match at the end of the season which will be a chance to do it all over again!



Internet Access now available in Llanvapley pavilion

The LSSA is delighted to announce that the pavilion now has internet access. Internet access is through a radio receiver high above the roof of the pavilion. This dish is able to communicate with a mast on the Skirrid which is just visible between two houses in St Mabley's Close. The system was installed by Broadway who are well known for providing internet services in the area. The project was funded by a Welsh Government grant of £800. The LSSA committee would like to thank Broadway for providing internet access to our village hall / pavilion free of monthly charges as part of their commitment to improve internet access in rural areas. Broadway will soon be offering fibre to the cabinet internet access to Llanvapley village and has already installed a cabinet adjacent to the Openreach one which is opposite the church. Internet access will be a big boost for users of the pavilion, such as the person presenting the talk below which is taking place later in June.



Rewilding Talk- 20th June- 7pm

Rewilding is a bit of a buzz word these days, but what does it mean? Is it even relevant to the average gardener & landowner? Could you rewild your own patch? Cherry has been exploring these issues with Gwent Wildlife Trust & has recently returned from the 3,500 acre Knepp Estate – the rewilding mecca in the UK – full of inspiration, ideas and images. But most importantly, she will be able to relay the advice from the Knepp ecologists on how to apply these principles to a smaller amount of land, or garden.

To book, contact: lucindajames@monmouthshire.gov.uk or 01633644779

The old Village Hall

Residents of Llanvapley are very familiar with the present village hall / sports pavilion but how many can remember the old village hall which was pulled down many years ago? This photograph was sent in by Ann Jones who would love to know what the sign says. Anyone remember?

The hall was used by the Usk Museum of Rural Life for some years but it doesn't seem to say that. The site was recently sold and the bus shelter blocked up.



Folk Music Workshop

Llanvapley pavilion recently welcomed a group of musicians. A series of workshops had been organised by an organisation called Clera which supports the playing of Welsh folk music. The name Clera is a Welsh word meaning 'to wander around playing music!' The workshops have been well attended and the groups have enjoyed the playing both inside and outside the pavilion. Amongst the tunes which were played were familiar ones like Ty a Gardd and PISO ar y Gwair. The group was delighted to be introduced to the Ukrainian National anthem which turns out to be a very interesting tune. The next workshop is on 25th June and local musicians are most welcome.



Picture Postcard Conversations Exhibition

Thanks to everyone who came to the Picture Postcard Conversations Exhibition in Llanvapley pavilion on 7th and 8th June and made it such a lovely community event. We were delighted that three Migrants Organise members who participated in the project, which was based around their memories of staying in Llanvapley, were able to return to the village for the event. People showed a lot of interest in the postcards and many people made their own cards which were added to the display. There were two very



enjoyable dance sessions which brought everyone together. There was of course tea and cake and chat! And the weather was perfect. The exhibition was recently on display at a conference in Swansea where it was also well received. It's nice to live in a welcoming village. *Sarah Foster*

Orchard Acre Update

The growth of plants and the changes in the garden are rapid and beautiful in this month, an explosion of life and colours, with the bees finding an abundance of flowers. After a dry April, we've hoped for rain, with some arriving but still it feels drier than we'd expect. Some crops, especially roots, which really need the water to swell are a little later than we had hoped, but with no late frosts other crops are ahead of time. Our gamble to get some of the tomatoes in early has paid off, and we expect to be harvesting our peas from next week and the broad beans shortly after that. Other crops for our first few boxes include our salad mix (of course!) chard, onions, green garlic, summer sprouting broccoli, new potatoes, radish, herbs and kale.



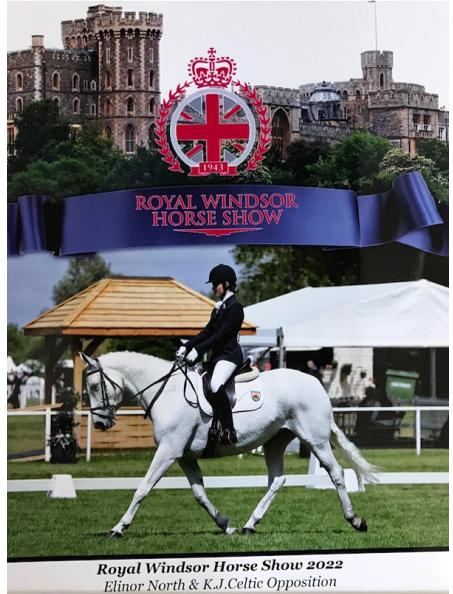
We welcomed over 50 visitors, ranging from 7 months to over 70, to the garden for our Spring Open Day. The weather was kind to us and it was a lovely afternoon, we loved sharing more about the project with our CSA members and other locals who joined us and the children had space to run free together. We plan another open day on the theme of 'apples', which will be open to the public in the early autumn. With boxes starting this week we're busy and so grateful to be spending time working out on the land in the village, about to start supplying over 30 households with their veg for the next 6 months!



Llanvetherine News

Alert! Proud grandparents. Alert!

The announcement was made, “and now entering the ring, representing Wales, we have Elinor North riding K.J. Celtic Opposition.” This was at the Royal Windsor Horse Show at the Home Nations Pony Club Dressage Competition. The commentator explained that all the competitors from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales had qualified to represent their respective nations in qualifiers that had been held previously and the day's competition was the culmination of a very busy but rewarding series of competitions for every competitor. There was a novice, two intermediate and two open members in each team and Elinor, being fourteen years old had qualified as a novice. She finished second in her competition and the team finished third.



It was quite an amazing day taking proud family moments to new levels. After all it is not every day that you attend an event in the grounds of Windsor Castle and where the Queen was in attendance. *David Hughes Jones*

Thanks to Andrew Dawson for sending in this photograph of **Llanvetherine Church** which he took recently. There is something about a hot balloon passing overhead which is different from other more common distractions. No one runs out to see a tractor going past or gets the binoculars out to view a passenger jet on the way to Miami but whenever a hot air balloon is spotted, people have been known to jump up and down and to start waving at the happy people above. Andrew has been in a hot air balloon and fully understands people's reactions!



White Castle Vineyard

White Castle Vineyard received two Silver awards at this year's International Wine Challenge, one for its Sparkling white wine vintage 2018 and one for vintage 2019 Pinot Noir précoce reserve. Robb and Nicola are delighted with these results and are the only Welsh vineyard to have been awarded medals. A true consistency for their production of Pinot Noir précoce as



IWC 2021 saw them not only scoop a Silver award for the said vintage 2018 red wine but they also won a Gold at Decanter world wine awards, a first for Wales and a red wine at that, World Class Welsh wines standing tall a triumph for Wales. In its 38th year, the International Wine Challenge (IWC) is accepted as the world's most rigorous, impartial and influential annual wine competition. There is one annual tasting for the International Wine Challenge (IWC). This takes place in April every year in London.

Robb and Nicola have expanded yet again, with a further planting of Pinot Noir précoce along with the Phoenix grape variety, this the essence of their renowned Gwin Gwyn, as the demand for these wines outweighs their ability to supply at present. The fruits of their labour will not be seen for at least three years as the process of grape growing from planting is a long process to your first harvest.

Welsh Wine Week 2022 is from 4th - 11th June. This week is a platform for Welsh vineyards to introduce themselves to a

Welsh Wine Week
Wythnos Gwin Cymru
4-12 June 2022 4-12 Mehefin 2022



themselves to a wider audience and to celebrate. It wouldn't be a celebration without the new release of White Castle Vineyard Cuvee "Phoebe". Phoebe is the elder sibling of Esmae and Harry our grandchildren. This one off wine was created following the difficult vintage of 2020 (a frost on May 12th 2020). Good wine, real people with great stories. A limited release red wine reflecting a difficult year. Which will be released on Saturday 11th June at the Cellar Door of White Castle Vineyard.

Who knows one day Esmae, Harry and Phoebe may possibly be the future generation of White Castle Vineyard and what better than to have a vintage wine named after them.

Penrhos News

My fundraising by Albie Howe - Update on my Journey to the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea.

Bucket Collection in Morrisons in Abergavenny.

On Saturday 14th May myself and other Scouts and Explorers from my World Scout Jamboree Unit did a bucket collection in Morrisons in Abergavenny. We stood in front of the tills and doors with buckets and a card reader to accept cash and card donations. We also had some posters explaining what we were doing. I went with my brother, Iggy, and the other people from Unit 10 who live in South Wales. They are Harry, Liz, Helen, Eryn and Chloe. We raised just over £500 which will be split evenly between us. Thank you to all who gave a donation or came to talk to us about what we are doing.

Climbing Mount Denali in Alaska, USA.

This month my dad, Julian (pictured on the right at the back), is climbing Mount Denali. Before he flew to Alaska on Wednesday 4th May, I asked him some questions about his trip.



What are you doing?

I am traveling to Alaska to climb the highest mountain in North America, called Denali from the native Koyukon Athabaskan name “Deenaalee”. It is usually translated as “The Great One”

Why did you want to climb it?

On a trip to climb Mont Blanc in 2000, the team had a discussion about other mountains we would like to climb. For me, Denali was at the top of the list due to the challenge and because you climb without Sherpas or oxygen. Why now? Because I am not getting any younger!

Tell me about Denali?

Denali is 20,310 foot high (6190m) but due to being much closer to the North Pole the atmosphere is thinner and the equivalent height on Mt Everest would be 6900m. The weather is always changing on the mountain and temperature has been known to drop to -80 degrees C but in May we would only expect - 30 degrees C with a further wind chill of up to -30 degrees.

Tell me about your climb?

The start of the climb is pretty exciting as to reach the glacier where the climb starts, we fly in a ski-plane and land on the glacier itself. The climb can be completed in 15 days in perfect conditions but due to the extreme and unsettled weather, this expedition has allowed for 21 days - some of this could be just waiting it out in a tent. There are 10 of us in our team, 4 guides and 6 other climbers. As we do not use Sherpas we have to carry all our climbing gear, food, fuel, tents etc ourselves. This involves very large heavy packs as well as pulling heavy sledges. Only about 40% of climbers manage to reach the summit but regardless, it's going to be a very tough but absolutely epic experience!

You can follow his trip by visiting the Mountain Trip website and clicking on the May 8th Team, Denali trip reports. <https://mountaintrip.com/mountain-trip-reports/> As of the 21st May he is heading up the "Headway" which is a really steep slope with fixed lines and blue ice. This means he is using crampons and ice axes. He then camps at High Camp which is at 17,000 feet (5181 metres). After a rest day, if there is good weather he will head for the summit. He has also taken a satellite tracker so we can follow his daily climbs in real time. He can also send us short text messages using the tracker. Due to the time difference (they are 9 hours behind) we get these messages in the middle of the night! We can't wait to see the pics and hear he has made it to the summit!



The Garden in June

I cannot believe that it is nearly June! At this time of year the garden explodes and everything grows so fast you can almost see it happening before your eyes. If you do not have any colour in your garden now you really have no excuse. The dandelions have been especially prolific this year as have the daisies and buttercups! I have tried to restrict the dandelions in the orchard by picking the yellow heads before they go to seed. Later in the year I will try to dig a few of them out altogether. That annoying large hogweed or cow parsnip seems to have seeded itself all over the place. It has a long tap root and apparently the young shoots are rather like asparagus! WARNING This is not to be confused with Giant Hogweed which is very toxic and on no account should one try to eat it!



Nettles and goosegrass or cleavers are also rampant now and need to be kept in check. But as I write and look out of the window, I can see aquilegias, alliums, the last of the forget me nots, welsh poppies, lovely clumps of golden marjoram, peonies about to burst, foxgloves and clematis integrifolia and galega to name a few. Iris sibirica silver edge is nearly out, a lovely rich blue viola called 'Inverurie Beauty' but was known as Uncle Bobbie's viola!, fluffy heads of *Thalictrum aquilegifolium* and *T. flavum* - mauve and yellow respectively are at the back of the border. Dotted around are my favourite white scented stock, *Hesperis matronalis* var. *albifolia*, which I try to keep going by sowing seed every year. The foliage is grey and can get ungainly but the flowers are heavily scented.



Roses are emerging as the camellias fade. We cut back *Rosa Wickwar* early on this year as well as a honeysuckle – *Lonicera periclymenum* 'Belgica' which was growing through it. Both were cut right back and now the new growth is strong and vigorous. The honeysuckle particularly appreciated the prune. There is a *Lonicera tragophylla* which has golden yellow flowers growing up a damson tree and I think I should give that a hack back too. We had to cut back an enormous branch of our wisteria last week – luckily the flowers were almost over, as it had fallen off the wall and was in danger of breaking. Keeping the long tendrils under control is a year round job. I sometimes wish I could get it all to pause a while. Meanwhile the grass and the weeds grow and keeping it all under some sort of control keeps one busy.

In the Spotlight

In this month's edition the spotlight has fallen on the new County Councillor for Llantilio Crossenny. He was elected on May 5th but how well do we know **Ian Chandler**? The New Times tried to find out more by putting him 'In the Spotlight'.



How long have you been a member of the Green Party?

Eight years. I joined because I was worried for the future of my children and felt that other political parties didn't give protecting our climate and environment the priority and urgency that it needs.

How familiar are you with the Llantilio Crossenny County Council area?

Parts of the ward I am very familiar with. I enjoy walking and when I first moved to the area I set myself a goal of walking all the footpaths within a few miles of my house. There were more than I realised so that ambition has not yet been fulfilled! The aspect of the election that I most enjoyed was going around the ward to talk to residents. This enabled me to visit areas that I'd not been to before, as well as reminding me what a stunningly beautiful part of the world we live in.



You are the only representative of the Green Party on the council. Was it a surprise when you were elected and how did you manage to change the area from blue to green?

I was thrilled to be elected, knowing that voters had put their trust in me. The feedback I'd received on the doorstep had been very encouraging so that by the time of the count I was quite hopeful but still very nervous. Some residents supported me because they felt a Green Party councillor would be better to address concerns about the environment and climate change, while others voted for me as they saw that I worked hard for our community.

Where were you born and brought up?

I was born on a council estate in Essex, but from the age of five we lived in Biggin Hill, a village on the Kent/London border mostly famous as a RAF airfield during the blitz.

What is your earliest memory?

Having my tonsils removed in the hospital where my mother was a nurse. I was about 4 and I remember being brought ice-cream to my hospital bed.

What was your first job and can you remember how much you were paid?

I had a Saturday job stacking shelves at the local corner shop and was paid 50p a day.

Describe the view from your office at home.

There are roses growing outside my office window and right now they are a beautiful array of white, red and pink blooms.

Are you going away on holiday this year?

We normally holiday in Pembrokeshire each summer but this year we are meeting up with our extended family in Devon.

Do you have a favourite sport?

I've always liked football and was a qualified youth coach, but an ankle injury means that I don't play anymore.

**How do you keep fit?**

Most mornings before I start work I either go for a walk or to the gym in Monmouth Leisure Centre.

Have you ever met anyone famous?

I was living and working in Jordan when Queen Elizabeth made a state visit. I was invited to meet her at a garden party in the Ambassador's residence.

What sort of music do you enjoy?

I love listening and dancing to music and have very eclectic tastes. I'm a big fan of jazz (from Miles Davis to the new British jazz scene) and electronic dance music (I recently saw Roni Size and will be going to a couple of music festivals over the summer).

Do you have any pets?

One cat and three hens.

If you could invite three famous people to a meal at your house who would they be?

Hilary Mantel - author

Marcus Rashford – footballer and food poverty campaigner

Mary Anne Hobbs – Radio 6 presenter

Do you have a favourite drink?

Strong black coffee. My recycling box suggests I like wine as well!

What have the first few weeks of being a councillor been like?

With more than half of councillors being newly elected, there have been lots of training sessions on our legal obligations and how the council works. It's a steep learning curve. I've also had a lot of emails from residents relating to local issues that they want action taken on – responding to these is taking most of my time.

If you had only one choice would it be solar panels or wind turbines?

I wouldn't want to choose one – if we are to have a stable and resilient energy system we need a diverse mix of renewable energy generation systems. This has to include both wind and solar energy as well as tidal.

What are you going to do to make Monmouthshire even more green?

I would like us to have more and better public transport, including in rural areas, and more support to insulate our homes to reduce our energy costs. I also want to push for a comprehensive and joined-up approach to flood prevention and reducing river pollution.

Thank you!



Calon Llanarth

Calon Llanarth Project prize draw winners!

The Village Alive Trust, which is researching how to save the closed Grade 2* listed St Teilo's Church at Llanarth for community use, would like to thank helpers and everyone who donated prizes, or purchased draw tickets for the recent Grand Draw which raised over £2,500 towards ongoing costs.

The draw was held on Saturday, May 7th, at Llanarth Village Hall when a number of supporters enjoyed freshly baked Welshcakes and coffee and gave donations. The church was open for viewing for an hour before the event enabling some visitors to see inside the building for the first time. The church was closed in 2013 and put up for sale in 2019.

The Church in Wales is allowing The Village Alive Trust time to build a project which could see the building in community hands on a long peppercorn lease. Covid has delayed progress, and put up repair costs and support is needed. Anyone who can help in any way is urged to contact the Trust by emailing village.alive@btinternet.com or by contacting Chairman Pat Griffiths on 01873 821418.

The draw prize winners were Julie Lunt (glamping break); Angela Kenvyn (£100); Catherine Smith (holiday voucher); Ann Mathias (voucher); Sue Raynor (voucher); Trevor Morgan (garden tickets); Margery Evans (chocolates); Liz Davies (kettle); Anthony Wills (gift box); Les Taylor (cool-bag) and Andrew Tranter (soft toy).

Further details including previous projects managed by The Village Alive Trust can be found at www.villagealivetrust.org.uk

Volunteering

As we all know, all our churches, village halls, community councils, the WI, sports clubs, gardening clubs, charities etc. are all run by volunteers. Even magistrates are volunteers. Without people giving their time to help the community there wouldn't be a community. Many organisations are finding getting people to volunteer post Covid is proving difficult. If you are able to volunteer, now is a good time. You will always be made welcome and you will almost certainly enjoy it. Volunteering isn't just for certain parts of the community, young people may find it is a great way to enhance their CVs. TNT has been contacted by one of its readers who would like to advertise the following opportunity. Can anyone help?

An opportunity to volunteer at Abergavenny Community Centre

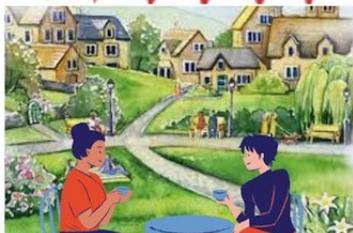
We are looking for an experienced person to act as Secretary to the Board of Trustees of the Community Centre.

The role involves supporting Board members in ensuring that the Trust acts effectively and in accordance with its charitable objectives.

This role has been carried out for the past 4 years by Jeremy Gass, who now wishes to focus on other things in his life. Jeremy will be happy to talk to anyone who would like to know more about what the role entails.

Please contact me initially by email: Caroline Lewis (Joint Chair of the Trust) caroline.e.lewis@talk21.com

LLANDDEWI RHYDDERCH QUEEN'S JUBILEE STREET PARTY



Thursday 2nd June 2022

2pm Dog Show

with games on the green and children's activities.



3pm Afternoon Tea on the Crescent

bring a plate to share and your own cutlery.



7pm BBQ at the Village Hall

£5 a ticket -please contact Steph Clark
07976124879, Nick Judd 07836599775 Danny
Tod 07706794077.



9:15pm Lighting of the Beacon

Llanddewi Rhydderch Choir singing the
Queens Song.



DOG SHOW



Bar open all day!



Church Services in June

5th June Pentecost/Whitsunday

11am Llantilio Crossenny
A joint jubilee service followed by cake and bubbles!

12th June Trinity Sunday

9.30am Penrhos
11am Llanvapley

Saturday 18th June

Wedding Llantilio Crossenny

19th June Trinity 1

9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny

Saturday 25th

1pm Memorial Service for Fred Hansel in Llanvapley

Sunday 26th Trinity 2

9.30am Penrhos.
11am Llanvapley

Sunday 3rd July

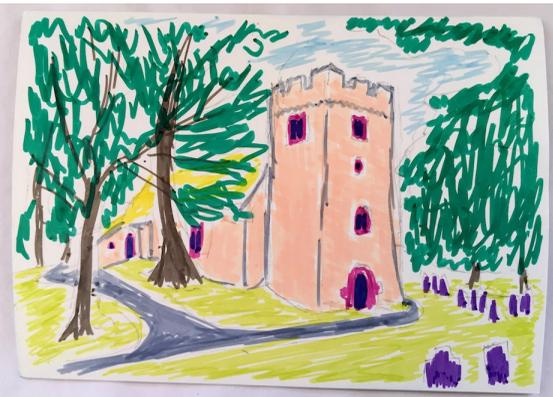
9.30am Llanvetherine
11am Llantilio Crossenny.
3pm Llanvapley Strawberry Tea

Overheard at The Hogs Head

What's up? You look a bit fed up.

It's all these prices going up. Diesel, fertiliser, seed, feed, spraying – it's terrible.

I know, I took my car to the garage to pump up my tyres. It used to be 20p then it went up to 50p and now it is a quid! I went to the bloke in the shop and asked him why it has gone up so much and he said 'Sorry mate it's inflation!'



This is a postcard of Llanvapley Church. The drawing is by Graham Green who attended the postcard exhibition in the pavilion. The postcard shows a view of the church from the new bench on the north west side of the churchyard.

You can keep in touch with what is happening in our church communities via our website www.llantiliogroup.info Our website has the latest news as well as information about all our churches. We are also on Twitter @LlantilioG

*Contributions for the July issue of The New Times by 20th June 2022
Please send your emails to tnparishmag@gmail.com or lestaylor.taylor@gmail.com*