

Y Llychau

A NEWSLETTER FOR TALLEY & THE SURROUNDING AREA

www.talley.org.uk/y-llychau

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DOLAUCOTHI GOLD MINES

These Newsletters hope to provide information about the Talley and Cwmdru area and to report on recent happenings. They also aim to provide articles of general interest as well as historical items relevant to our community.

***Y Llychau* is produced on behalf of St Michael & All Angels, Talley,
for distribution locally.**

THE FRONT PAGE

In 1941 the Johnes family gave the Dolaucothi estate to the National Trust. The estate included nine tenant farms and 24 tenant cottages as well as the gold mines. The Dolaucothi gold mines are the only known Roman gold mines in the UK. The Romans diverted water from the hills above the site to wash away waste rock, leaving the heavier gold behind, which they sent to be made into coins at the Imperial Mint at Lyon.

The mines, shop and tea rooms are open daily from 11.00am until 5.00pm. Admission prices: Adult: £7.25; Child: £3.60; Family: £18.15, including a guided tour of the site.

For more information visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dolaucothi-gold-mines.

THE EDITOR WRITES

Welcome to the May edition of *Y Llychau*. I am pleased to say that some readers have responded to my pleas for articles to include, so this issue is back to our target of 40 pages. However, while I am grateful to those of you who have written something, to maintain full future issues more contributions will be needed. If you have not yet written your own masterpiece, please consider doing so during the long summer evenings to come.

There are four items in this issue that I would particularly like to draw to your attention. They are (1) the Spring Events at Dinefwr (page 36), (2) the Christian Aid Week service on 12th May (page 38), (3) the Talley Open Gardens Day on 13th June (page 28) and (4) the visit of a Musical Trio on 20th June (page 29). It would be very much appreciated if you could support as many of these events as you can with your presence.

I hope that you will find some of the other articles of interest as well.

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SNIPPETS OF LOCAL NEWS

High-speed Broadband

Superfast Cymru, a partnership between the Welsh Government and BT, is rolling-out fibre broadband throughout Wales and aims to give 96% of homes and businesses access to high-speed fibre broadband by 2016. Many towns and villages in Carmarthenshire are scheduled to get connected to high-speed broadband during 2015. In our area, Ammanford, Llandeilo, Llangadog, Llandovery and Talley are scheduled to benefit by the summer.

Hospital Helipads

Several Welsh hospitals have helipads for air ambulance services. At present only three hospitals in Wales support 24-hour helicopter landings – Ysbyty Gwynedd in Bangor, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in Rhyl and Morryston Hospital in Swansea. As part of the new ‘flying doctors’ service, plans are well advanced to have the helipads at Singleton Hospital in Swansea and Glangwilli Hospital in Carmarthen extended to 24-hour use.

Dyfed-Powys Police

Over 600 front-line Dyfed-Powys Police officers have been issued with smartphones which will allow them to carry out a range of duties from recording incidents to accessing police records and databases while on the move. It is hoped the phones will cut down on paperwork and help to keep the officers on the streets and out of police stations.

Llandeilo Market Hall

Carmarthenshire County Council has chosen a developer from Swansea to refurbish the former Provisions Market in Llandeilo and bring the historic building back into use. Detailed design and planning discussions have been held to formulate plans for the refurbishment for non-residential uses. The existing car park will remain but will be extended into land to the rear of the listed building to create a larger parking area.

CWMDU HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

As the ever frequent winds blow through the narrow street between the two hundred year old National Trust heritage terrace houses and public gardens, residents wonder with a sense of eagerness and anticipation as to what manner of things the times ahead will bring with them. Of late, the community has prospered through Cymdeithas Cwmdu with its Public House and Post Office and shop as its centre, providing a meeting place for all kinds of interests and amenities for those permanently and sporadically settled in and around Cwmdu, and from further afield.



The central hearth, settled in the same space as it has throughout the pub's history, has been steadfastly kindled during the long winter nights, providing a warm, abundantly lit restaurant space in which guests have sat cosily around enjoying such diverse menus as sumptuous Indian and Greek feasts, locally-sourced fish pie and traditional Welsh specialities, amongst a host of other equally warming and enticing dishes. The regular and steadily paced classic club and quiz evenings and diverse discussion groups allow a time for the patrons to relax and unwind between the hustle and bustle of the Christmas festivities, craft fayres, spirited folk nights and other timeless community events that only the terrace at its centre can accommodate.

A moment of reflection arises in the times in between; as I'm sure it always does in many of rural communities across Wales. But what about the future? It's been a valiant effort of accomplishment for local residents to save the centre from

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closure in the past, especially against the backdrop of so many local post offices being decommissioned, the rewards of which are ever appreciated by anyone with even the most fleeting of experiences with the village. How will the widespread evolution of modern farming after centuries of a slower pace of life affect the milieu of the village? What position does Cwmdru take on the tourism map of Wales and will the well provisioned shop, holiday cottages and public footpaths that criss-cross through the village's heart and up and over its nearby hills see enough warmly welcomed visitors and explorers in the times ahead? And what really are the aspirations and ideas of a modern Britain to come and will the traditional ways of life be embraced and upheld or simply lost and washed away into the depths of memory and time?

I bet that you would get a different response if you asked each of the locals, even though they are united in their conviction of the community being an accommodating, embracing and true custodian of the traditions of a golden age of rural life. The tenacity of the community in their adapting to new changes may surprise you, the stories told amongst the comings and goings may inspire you and you may just be delighted how the scenery surrounding and holding this small gem has kept its natural charm. It may just be that the places like Cwmdru will be ideal spots for the intrepid and more appreciative visitor seeking a slightly more subtle sort of retreat.



It's quite remarkable and a cause for celebration – the community running of the

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Cwmdu Inn, shop and Post Office is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Cymdeithas Cwmdu and Tafarn Cwmdu Ltd were started in March and May 2000, respectively. There is a close connection between the two groups; not only are the same people involved (more or less!) but both need each other to survive – the social activities and events organised and coordinated by Cymdeithas Cwmdu help to provide the customers needed by Tafarn Cwmdu Ltd – the business side of things.

If you haven't yet had the pleasure of checking out the facilities and services on offer, then now's a good opportunity. We're delighted to say that in addition to the usual opening hours, the pub is now open from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm on weekdays Tuesday to Friday – offering the usual range of pub drinks, but also light refreshments – scotch eggs, pies, etc. This has been made possible through the goodwill and support of shop volunteers and Irene. It's experimental at the moment, but it is hoped that this will continue and develop in time. This coincides with the National Trust including the Cwmdu terrace in its Members handbook for the first time in 2015 – I wonder how Cwmdu will cope with all 4 million members – an exciting prospect!

So many communities have lost vital services and facilities and with them their 'beating heart'. The shop, post office and pub in Cwmdu provide this as best it can and we'd like to acknowledge and thank everyone – staff, customers and everyone who gives their time freely and unstintingly to help sustain Cwmdu for everyone to enjoy – you are the lifeblood of Cwmdu!

Of course, we can't take anything for granted, if services are not what we all want or need, then the business will fail and the heart will stop beating! We are always open to new ideas, suggestions and comments on how to provide what we all want in the future – please call in or give us a ring and let us know what you would like to see – in the shop or in the pub.

Please support these vital community services:-

- Shop locally if you can – Open Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 1.30 pm and Saturday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm (Also try us for essentials during pub opening hours).
- Use the local post office – same opening hours as the shop - we seldom have any queues and you can park right outside if needed!
- The Cwmdu Inn is open four evenings a week, Wednesday to Saturday 7pm to 11pm and now Tuesday to Fridays 11.30 am to 1.30 pm as well. Serving local real ales and light snacks and don't forget the 'famous' steak pies, also made locally.

- Regular meals most Saturdays – check out the web site for details – www.cwmdu.com – or go on our mailing list – contact cwmduinnevents@yahoo.co.uk, or give us a call 01558 685088
- Join in with the events and activities – see the notice board for details, check out the web site or visit us on Facebook – Cwmdu Inn.
- Volunteer – we’re always in need of extra pairs of hands – can you spare a couple of hours a week to help out in the shop / pub? No experience necessary – full training given. It’s great fun and a good way to meet lots of lovely local people.

Philip James

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

When the Americans first started sending astronauts into space they quickly discovered that ball-point pens would not work in zero gravity. To solve this problem, scientists spent a decade and millions of dollars to develop a pen that would write in zero gravity, upside down, under water, on almost any surface including glass and in temperatures ranging from below freezing to 300 degrees Celsius.

The Russians used a pencil.

o O o

An Englishman, a Welshman and a Scot were good friends with a billionaire, who had an incurable disease and was expected to die fairly soon. The billionaire told his friends that he loved money so much he wanted to be buried with some of it. He gave £10,000 to each of his friends and told them to put it in his coffin when the time came.

After the billionaire’s funeral, the Englishman admitted that he had only put half of his money in the coffin. The Scot said that he had put a quarter of his in with his friend. The Welshman criticised the other two for their meanness and said he had given all his share to the deceased. When the other two expressed surprise the Welshman replied “I wrote him a cheque”.

THE ORIGIN AND MEANING OF SOME COMMON SAYINGS

(part 2)

FLY IN THE OINTMENT

This is yet another old saying from the Bible. In Ecclesiastes 10:1 the writer says that dead flies give perfume a bad smell (in old versions of the Bible the word for perfume is translated as 'ointment'). The phrase usually indicates a small defect that spoils something valuable.

GET THE SACK

This comes from the days when workmen carried their tools in sacks. If your employer gave you the sack it was time to collect your tools and go.

GILD THE LILY

This phrase is from Shakespeare's *King John*. "To gild refined gold, to paint the lily is wasteful and ridiculous excess".

GO THE EXTRA MILE

By law a Roman soldier could force anybody to carry his equipment 1 mile. In Matthew 5:41 Jesus told his followers 'if somebody forces you to go 1 mile go 2 miles with him'.

GO TO POT

Any farm animal that had outlived its usefulness such as a hen that no longer laid eggs would literally go to pot. It was cooked and eaten. Anything that is worn out, shabby or of no more use is said to have "gone to pot".

GOODBYE

This is a contraction of the words "God be with ye", used at the end of a meeting.

HAT TRICK

This comes from cricket. Originally a bowler who took three wickets in successive deliveries was given a new hat by his club.

LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER

This is from Isaiah 53:7 'He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter'. Later this verse was applied to Jesus. Today it is used of a person undertaking a task without knowing the unpleasant consequences.

KICK THE BUCKET

When slaughtering a pig, its back legs were tied to a wooden beam (in French buquet). As the animal died it kicked the buquet.

HIDING YOUR LIGHT UNDER A BUSHEL

A bushel was a container for measuring grain. In Matthew 15:15 Jesus said 'Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel but on a candlestick'. To "*hide your light under a bushel*" simply means that you have hidden your ability to do things.

HOBSONS CHOICE

This means to have no choice at all. In the 16th century and the early 17th century if you went on a journey you could hire a horse to take you from one town to another and travel using a relay of horses. (That was better than wearing out your own horse on a long journey over very poor roads). In the early 1600s Thomas Hobson was a man in Cambridge who hired out horses. However he would not let customers choose which horse they wanted to ride. Instead they had to ride whichever horse was nearest the stable entrance. So if you hired a horse from him you were given 'Hobson's choice'.

HOISTED BY YOUR OWN PETARD

A petard was a type of Tudor bomb. It was a container of gunpowder with a fuse, mainly used to blow open wooden gates. However, sometimes things did not go to plan and the petard exploded prematurely blowing the user into the air. He was hoisted by his own petard.

HOLIER THAN THOU

This comes from the Bible, Isaiah 65:5; the Old Testament prophet berates people who say 'stand by thyself, come not near me for I am holier than thou'. It is used of people that have taken the moral high-ground.

BY HOOK OR BY CROOK

This old saying probably comes from a medieval law which stated that peasants could use branches of trees for fire wood if they could reach them with their shepherds crook or their billhook. Modern usage means "by any means necessary".

MOOT POINT

This comes from the Saxon word moot or mote, which meant a meeting to discuss things. A moot point was one that needed to be discussed or debated.

RESTING ON YOUR LAURELS or LOOK TO YOUR LAURELS

In the ancient world, winning athletes, other heroes and distinguished people were given wreaths of laurel leaves. If you are 'resting on your laurels' you are relying on your past achievements. If you need to 'look to your laurels' it means you have competition.

EAT HUMBLE PIE

The expression to eat humble pie was once to eat umble pie. The umbles were the intestines or less appetising parts of an animal which servants and other lower class people ate. If a deer was killed, the rich ate venison and those of low status ate umble pie. In time it became corrupted to eat humble pie and came to mean to debase yourself or act with humility.

KNUCKLE UNDER

Once knuckle meant any joint, including the knee. To knuckle under meant to kneel in submission.

A LEOPARD CANNOT CHANGE HIS SPOTS

This is another old saying from the Bible. This one comes from Jeremiah 13:23 'Can an Ethiopian change his skin or a leopard his spots?' and means one cannot change one's own nature.

LICK INTO SHAPE

In the Middle Ages people thought that bear cubs were born shapeless and their mother literally licked them into shape.

LILY LIVERED

This means cowardly. People once believed that passions came from the liver. A person was lily livered if the liver was white (ie contained no blood).

A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME

This old saying also comes from the Bible. In Ecclesiastes 10:20 the writer warns us not to curse the king or the rich even in private or a 'bird of the air' may report what you say. Another explanation is a simple allusion to carrier pigeons or other such messenger birds.

LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL

This phrase, meaning complete, comes because guns used to have three parts, the lock (the firing mechanism), the stock (the wooden butt) and the barrel.

A LONG SHOT

A long shot is an option with only a small chance of success. In the past guns were only accurate at short range. So a 'long shot' (fired over a long distance) only had a small chance of hitting its target.

LONG IN THE TOOTH

When a horse grows old its gums recede and if you examine its mouth it looks 'long in the tooth'. Elderly people are, therefore, described as 'long in the tooth'.

MAD AS A HATTER

This phrase comes from the fact that in the 18th and 19th centuries, hat makers treated hats with mercury. Inhaling mercury vapour could cause mental illness.

TAWDRY

This is a corruption of St Audrey because cheap jewellery was sold at St Audrey's fair in Ely, Cambridgeshire. Now used for anything gaudy, flashy or tasteless.

NICKNAME

This is a corruption of 'eke name'. The old word 'eke' meant alternative.

NO REST FOR THE WICKED

Yet another phrase from the Bible. In Isaiah 57:21 the prophet says: 'there is no peace saith my God to the wicked'. Primarily used today when there is more work to be done.

ON TENTERHOOKS

After it was woven, wool was pounded in a mixture of clay and water to clean and thicken it. This was called fulling. Afterwards the wool was stretched on a frame called a tenter to dry. It was hung on tenterhooks. So a person who is very tense, like un-stretched cloth, is said to be 'on tenterhooks'.

PANDEMONIUM

This comes from John Milton's poem *Paradise Lost*. In Hell, the chief city is Pandemonium. In Greek, Pandemonium means 'all the devils'. Today it indicated noisy behaviour, particularly of a crowd.

PASTURES NEW

John Milton wrote a poem called *Lycidas*, which includes the words 'Tomorrow to fresh woods and pastures new'. It simply means 'to somewhere else'.

PAY ON THE NAIL

In the Middle Ages 'nails' were flat-topped columns in markets. When a buyer and a seller agreed a deal the money was placed on the nail for all to see. Now the expression is used for an immediate payment without delay.

SCOT FREE

This has nothing to do with Scotland. Scot is an old word for payment, so to go scot free meant to go without paying.

To be continued.

Research by Roger Pike

WHERE TALLEY LEADS, OTHERS FOLLOW

Each month, on the first Tuesday, a small group of villagers meets in the Church Hall to drink coffee (or tea), eat biscuits and chat about village affairs. Last year, one of these Coffee Mornings coincided with Shrove Tuesday and those who came for their monthly social get-together were treated to pancakes instead of the usual biscuits. This proved to be very popular, so it was suggested that having pancakes could become an annual event.

In 2014, the 'Pancake King of Tipi Valley' amazed those present with the large quantity of pancakes he was able to eat. So this year, on the first Tuesday in February (two weeks before Shrove Tuesday) the Coffee Morning organisers were seen sneaking vast supplies of flour, eggs and milk into the hall for a repeat performance. In anticipation of the Pancake King trying to exceed last year's consumption, two cooks eagerly set about making pancakes at an alarming tempo.



Last year the speed of pancake production was exceeded by the rate at which they were being eaten, but this year the supply and demand for pancakes was better matched. "Why was this?" I hear you ask. Was it improved efficiency on the part of the cooks? They like to think so, but the answer became immediately obvious when it was noticed that the Pancake King was not present. (It later came to light that a complete memory failure on his part meant that he simply forgot to come and only remembered where he should be when it was too late).

Those villagers with better memories were able to enjoy their pancakes without the pressure of trying to keep up with the forgetful pancake consuming expert. However, the 'king' will doubtless be pleased to know that his record for the number of pancakes consumed remains unbroken; perhaps next year?

Thus it was that Talley indulged in a pancake-eating event two weeks before the rest of the world did.

Coffee Morning Charlie

THE REBECCA RIOTS

The Rebecca Riots is the name given to a series of disturbances and popular protests which took place in parts of south-west Wales during the 1830s and 1840s. The name Rebecca was taken from the biblical verse: “and they blessed Rebecca and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions and let thy seed possess the gates of those who hate them.” (Genesis, chapter 24, verse 60.). The leader of each band of rioters was designated a ‘Rebecca’ and rode a white horse to distinguish him/her from the rest of her ‘daughters’.

It was a time of economic depression with farmers enduring poor harvests and low prices between 1837 and 1841. At the time farmer’s rents were increased as well as them having to pay tithe payments (taxes), poor rates and turnpike tolls .The tolls for road maintenance were collected by gate-keepers along different sections of roads, increasing the cost of fertiliser by several times on its journey from the ports to the farmers’ land. The Rebecca Rioters attacked these toll gates and poor houses with men, disguised as women, on horse-back and during the summer of 1843 these attacks reached their peak.

During 1843 and 1844, George Rice Trevor (1795-1869), who eventually became the 4th Lord Dynevor in 1852, was the local MP and the Vice Lieutenant of the County of Carmarthen and it was his responsibility for policing the disturbances.

The Rebecca rioters attacked a Carmarthen Workhouse in June 1843. George Rice Trevor rushed back from his London residency to take over the responsibility of law and order in Carmarthenshire from his elderly father. He developed a personal interest once the Rebecca rioters had burned down corn stacks on the Dinefwr estate. Trevor assured a meeting of magistrates at Newcastle Emlyn in June 1843 that he would order troops to fire on the rioters if necessary. The response of the protestors was particularly fearsome in September 1843. They audaciously dug a grave within the site of Newton House and announced that Trevor would occupy it by 10th October. Trevor, however, surrounded by soldiers, survived unscathed.

It was in 1843 that the authorities decided to send for troops and the Metropolitan Police into Carmarthenshire from London. The Metropolitan Police had been created in 1829 not to combat crime but political unrest. They combated the unrests by a combination of riot control and information gathering. In addition to the Metropolitan Police, 2000 plus troops were also used to quell the disturbances and their barracks were located at Carmarthen. So serious was the threat to the establishment that the Duke of Wellington sent in one of his top army officers to oversee the military operation. Eventually a Royal Commission was

set up to look at turnpike tolls in Wales and Parliament passed a new Turnpike Road Act which took away the hefty tolls. The Rebecca Riots resulted in the first ever Carmarthenshire constabulary; a chief constable, 6 assistants, 10 sergeants and 20 constables at a cost of £5000 per year.

Interestingly, any informants of the Rebecca Rioters were given rewards of £500 (roughly £30,000 in today's money – just like winning the lottery). On one day £1500 was paid out in rewards. So next time you are done for speeding blame the Rebecca Rioters for introducing the police to Carmarthenshire.

Richard Hughes

Reference: www.llandeilo.org/dp_rebecca.php

TALLEY SCHOOL

Talley School pupils had a special day celebrating St David's Day.

YSGOL TALYLLYCHAU

Cafodd disgyblion Ysgol Talylychau diwrnod braf yn dathlu Dydd Gwyl Dewi.



Y Llychau

Talley School pupils took full advantage of the Solar Eclipse with home made pin hole viewing aids to see the full extent of the eclipse.

Buodd disgyblion Ysgol Talylychau yn brysur iawn yn gwneud cynhorthion gwyllo twll pin. Cafodd y plant profiad gwych or achlysur.



On Friday 10th March the children of Talley School attended St Michael's Church for a special service for mothers. Although the service was led by Mr John Walford, the children played a very active part. They played their recorders, sang songs, led the congregation in prayers and collected small posies to give to their mothers.

THE TALLEY DINNER

A month has now passed since I “volunteered” to write this piece for the village magazine. Roger Pike has just emailed me to jog my memory. So, as I find myself sitting about for a few hours in a draughty, badly lit, sheep shed, waiting for the arrival of new born lambs, I thought it might be a good time to make a start.

So, lap top propped up on a straw bale with me propped in front, one eye on the screen and one on my companions for the evening I shall begin.

'Twas the night before Valentines; the 13th Feb, a great opportunity to take the wife out for that long promised meal; enjoy some light entertainment from Geraint and family; and all in a good cause.

Linda and I arrived at the White Hart in Llandeilo in good time, parked the car, then, not sure which door to enter the building by, proceeded to start at the front door into the saloon bar, then worked our way through the lounge bar down the corridor through a door and back into the car park!..... where luckily we met some more villagers who actually knew where they were going.

Hold on a minute is that ewe looking like something is about to happen? No it's alright for now, I'll carry on.....

We found ourselves in the function room, everything is all beautifully laid out and Jean is busy ticking off the guests names as they arrive. About 80 people in all I'm told.I'd better keep my eye on her rear end in case a small black head and two feet appear, (I'm talking about the ewe now!). Geraint is busy meeting and greeting and receiving items from guests for the auction. Everybody has found their seats, friends and drinks. Geraint then calls for some quiet to welcome everyone to what is now some 30 years of Talley dinners, and tells us that this year's appointed charities are The Breast Cancer unit at Llanelli and the chemotherapy unit at Carmarthen hospital.

Well, dinner is not far away now so Mary Davies says grace, and our starters are served, soup, melon or prawn cocktail are the choices and served by a whirlwind of waitresses all at once, very impressive and with a smile too..... That No. 747 is curling her top lip back, I may have to get up in a moment, (she is the size of a jumbo and ready to pop!).

Getting back to dinner, we are served with a lovely hot roast dinner with all the trimmings and more than enough to satisfy our appetites...Oh go on then, just one more tatty and a splash of gravy.

I'm just going to take a minute to look over to see how she's getting on. She's up, she's down, there's a bit of pushing going on, could be any moment now.....

Ah yes, pudding next, the treat for having eaten all your dinner. It comes with an invitation to buy some raffle tickets with the prospect of winning of a box of chocolates just in time for St Valentine's Day tomorrow.

Then without further ado comes the auction. Geraint has lined up various bottles, whiskey, wine, port, boxes of chocolates, biscuits and some very large photo pictures. So the master auctioneer, with his own unique style, proceeds to pit one bidder against another encouraging them to bid far more than they had initially intended, and all with a cheeky smile. You can't help but be captivated by a man who runs a farm and is so full of charm. I went all poetic then.

As the evening progresses there are some very generous amounts bid for the items. Mr J Walford's table is groaning under the weight as whisky and wine bottles seem to be intent on collecting together there, helped on by those sat with him. The wine bottle marked 'cure for chilblains' brings a chuckle, a remedy brewed by a local no doubt. If you would like to know if it works please ask John about it next time you see him.

That's a lamb! Just make sure it's breathing alright, yes it's ok. Better wait to see if it's twins. She is busy licking it dry. Anyway the auction proceeds at quite a pace..... Hold on! Here's number two coming, a long fall to the ground as mum is standing. It's small but alive.

Geraint brings the auction to a close having successfully set the folk of Talley to bid against one another in order to obtain the highest amounts possible for the items generously given. She's had another one! triplets! very small and in a matter of minutes they are all trying to stand up, amazing. Then the raffle begins, pink, yellow, blue tickets are held aloft for those lucky enough to win – sorry Linda no chocolates this year. (“Nothing new there then” says Linda!)

Well, another successful Talley Dinner and auction. John Rees closes the evening with thanks to Geraint and all those who have worked to put the event on, and for bringing the village together and supporting such a worthwhile cause and, of course, for the staff of the White Hart for looking after us so well. We look forward to next year. We don't yet know the full amount raised as lots of donations come in later the following month; we will let you know. Think I will retire to bed now and let Linda know there is an extra mouth, or two, down in the sheep shed that need bottle feeding.

Ian Tame

WELSH SCHOOLS

Prior to January 2015 all secondary schools in Wales were placed into one of five bands, intended to show their effectiveness. Those in Band 1 were considered by the Education Authorities to be excellent, while those in Band 5 were thought of as failing their pupils and in need of urgent external guidance.

The Welsh Assembly Government announced that the controversial school ‘banding’ system would be replaced by a new colour-coded support mechanism designed to raise pupil performance. Earlier this year officials in the Welsh Department for Education launched the “national school improvement and categorisation system” as a means of ensuring schools get the right support and intervention to improve.

Unlike ‘banding’, the new system will cover primary **and** secondary schools. Each school will be categorised annually into one of four groups; green, yellow, amber or red in a bid to raise standards.

GREEN	HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good track record with high level of achievement• Able to identify and implement priorities• Can demonstrate resilience at all levels• Capable of moving towards or sustaining excellence
YELLOW	EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good level of achievement in key areas• Able to address areas in need of improvement• Many aspects of performance are self-improving• Capable of seeking challenges and implementing them
AMBER	IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unaware of areas where improvement is needed• Some areas not improving quickly enough• Will receive tailored challenge and intervention• Will need their improvement plan to be approved
RED	IN NEED OF GREATEST IMPROVEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experiencing a decline in performance• In need of intensive support• Will be subject to intervention• Will have a more directed approach

The grading will be announced every January.

When deciding in which group a school will be placed, the Education Authority, in consultation with the head teacher and others, will make a judgement on standards – based on available data from past years.

There will be strong emphasis placed on the performance of pupils entitled to free school meals – a measure of poverty – and a three-step categorisation process will take account of self-evaluation, moderated at a regional and national level.

Red schools (group 4) will be those “causing concern” and “failing in most or all aspects of school performance”. They will be sent an automatic warning letter from their local authority and be subject to statutory powers of intervention where necessary. It has been suggested that red schools will suffer “loss of autonomy” and “a more directed approach” will demand specific expectations within tight timescales. There is a possibility that schools permanently in the red zone will be at risk of closure.

Amber Schools (group 3) will be “at risk of causing concern” and head teachers and governors will be “clearly informed of the school’s critical status”. It is hoped that by implementing an approved improvement plan and with short-term external support the school’s performance will develop and standards will rise.

In a surprise twist, Green and Yellow schools (groups 1 and 2) will be expected to provide collaborative support and advice to those which are struggling.

In the first categorisation under the new system, of the 1,332 Welsh primary schools assessed, 206 (15%) have been put in the green support category and 58 (4%) have been put in the red support category. Of Wales’ 211 secondary schools, 30 (14%) have been put in the green support category and 23 (11%) are in the red support category.

In Carmarthenshire there are 119 schools. 19 (16%) have been placed in the Green group and just 2 (1½%) in the Red. These figures are slightly better than those for the whole of Wales.

Our local Primary Schools (in Talley, Llanwrda, Llangadog and Llansadwrn) are either Yellow or Amber.

Roger Pike

RHUBARB

Rheum is rhubarb's botanical name, however it is commonly called Pipeplant or Buckwheat. In fact, rhubarb is a vegetable and not a fruit; it has a particular flavour like garden sorrel and is ideal for tarts or puddings. What is the difference between a vegetable and a fruit? According to the RHS this is the explanation "A fruit is actually the sweet ripened ovary or ovaries of a seed bearing plant. A vegetable in contrast is an herbaceous plant cultivated for an edible part (seeds, roots, stems, leaves, bulbs, tubers or non-sweet fruits). So to be really nit-picky, a fruit could be a vegetable, but a vegetable could not be a fruit".

Rheum, Rhaponticum, Rheum x hybridum and Rheum x cuetorum are the most common forms of rhubarb grown. Rhubarb was grown in Siberia for over two thousand years for medicinal purposes as it contained a high concentration of Vitamin C and fibre. Rhubarb was introduced into Britain one thousand eight hundred years later. It is a hardy perennial and the roots are in the form of a rhizome, which means that it grows near the surface of the soil. Consequently rhubarb must be exposed to hard frost every winter in order to develop a strong stem. As you are aware, the leaves of the rhubarb plant are poisonous and should never be eaten as they contain a high level of oxalic acid, if

RHIWBOB

Yr enw botanegol y rhiwbob yw Rheum, serch hynny gelwir ef yn gyffredin fel "Pieplant" neu "Buckwheat". Yng ngwir ystyr y gair llysieuyn yw rhiwbob ac nid ffrwyth, mae ganddo flas unigryw fel soran (garden sorrel) ac yn addas i'w ddefnyddio mewn pastau a phwddin. Beth yw'r gwahaniaeth rhwng llysieuyn a ffrwyth?. Yn ol yr RHS dyma yw'r eglurhad "A fruit is actually the sweet ripened ovary or ovaries of a seed bearing plant. A vegetable in contrast is an herbaceous plant cultivated for an edible part (seeds, roots, stems, leaves, bulbs, tubers, or non sweet fruits). So, to be really nitpicky, a fruit could be a vegetable, but a vegetable could not be a fruit".

Y mathau mwyaf cyffredin i'w tyfu yw Rheum Rhaponticum, Rheum x hybridum a Rheum x cultorum. Planhigyn wedi ei dyfu yn Siberia, yw y rhiwbob, a hynny am dros dwy fil o flynyddoedd, ar gyfer ei ddefnyddio mewn meddyginieth, gan fod ynddo ddigonedd o'r fitamin C ac hefyd mae'n uchel mewn fibwr. Deunaw cant o flynyddoedd yn ddiweddarach y cyflwynwyd y rhiwbob i Brydain. Planhigyn lluosflwydd caled (hardy perennial) ydyw, ac mae'r gwreiddiau yn dilyn ffurf "Rhizome", hynny yw mae'n tyfu yn agos i'r wyneb. Oherwydd hyn mae'n yn holl bwysig i'r rhiwbob i fod yn agored i

they are eaten they could cause swelling of the windpipe and tongue, eventually leading to choking.

A sunny position should be chosen for planting, and, as it is not advisable to move rhubarb, the site should be sunny and permanent. The roots should not be disturbed for at least ten years in order to ensure a good crop every year. The soil should contain a level of ph 6.8 to 7.0 and dug to a depth of 60cm, with as much organic matter as possible during the process. This is essential as the rhubarb plant will remain in this position permanently. The site should be prepared a month in advance so that the organic matter can be incorporated well in the soil and ensuring that the roots of weeds, especially couch grass, are removed as weeding can disturb young roots. Rhubarb may be grown from seed or plants brought from a garden centre. There are disadvantages in growing from seed as it can take about 18 to 36 months to form a stem, which may be misshapen. Year old plants may be bought throughout the year in the form of 'crowns'. The ideal planting time is the end of October until the beginning of December as the soil is easily worked and frost free.

If, for any reason in the future the position needs changing, the crown and roots should be divided into four, ensuring that the tip of the crown is about 2.5cm under the soil. The soil should be placed carefully around

rew caled bob gaeaf, er mwyn cynnyrchu coesgyn cadarn cryf. Fel gwyr pawb ohonoch mae dail y rhiwbob yn wenwynig, ac ni ddylid ar un cyfri eu bwyta, gan eu bod yn cynnwys graddfa uchel o asid oxalic, ac os'u bwyteir, gallant beri i'r biben wynt a'r dafod chwyddo, ac yn y pen draw peri i'r person fygu.

Man delfrydol i'w blannu yn llecyn heulog, yn wynebu 'r de ac yn un sefydlog, gan nad yw symud rhiwbob yn beth doeth. Fel rheol dylid gadael y gwreiddiau yn yr un safle am o leia ddeng mlynedd, os am gael cynnyrch da yn flynyddol. Dylid gwueud yn siwr fod pridd y llecyn oddeutu Ph 6.8 i 7.0, ei fod wedi balu yn dda i ddyfnder o 60cm, gan ychwanegu cymaint a sydd bosib o fater organig yn ystod y broses. Mae hyn yn hanfodol bwysig gan y bydd y rhiwbob yn aros yn yr un fan. Dylid paratoi y safle tua mis o flaen llaw, er mwyn i'r mater organig i ymdoddi i fewn i'r pridd, gan ofalu cael gwared o wreiddiau chwyn (yn enwedig porfa ymledydd "couch grass" am y gall y broses o chwynnu aflonyddu ar wreiddiau ifanc. Gellir tyfu rhiwbob o hadau neu blanhigion, a gellir eu cael o Ganolfan Garddio. Mae yna anfanteision wrth dyfu o had, am y gall gymryd o 18 i 36 mis cyn cynnyrchu coesgyn, a fydd o bosibl ddim o ffurf iawn. Gellir prynu planhigion tua blwydd oed drwy'r flwyddyn mewn ffurf coron "crowns". Yr amser mwyaf delfrydol i'w plannu yw diwedd Hydref, hyd ddechrau mis

the crown and firmed in order to avoid air pockets. If the soil is dry then it should be watered well and covered with straw, mulch, or any organic matter around the crown without covering it completely. This will give the crown the ideal conditions to come to the surface after about two months. Usually three crowns should be sufficient for the first planting. A space of about 75 to 125cm should be allowed between the crowns, depending on the type of plant. Little attention is required after planting but a fresh blanket of compost or straw should be spread after the leaves rot during the autumn and then a handful of general fertilizer such as Growmore should be spread around the crown in February. If the soil is dry during the summer, remember to water well. If flower heads develop in the spring, they should be removed before they seed; unless this is done the plant could die. Despite the temptation, the fruit should not be taken during the first season. This could weaken the plant and it should not be disturbed in order to ensure strong growth during the following year. During the second season a few sticks only should be cut – two sticks out of six. During the third season four sticks could be cut and during the fourth season you may cut as many as you wish. There will be growth from March in shady positions and throughout the summer. There may be a further spurt of growth during August and

Rhagfyr oherwydd, yr adeg yma, mae'r pridd yn rhwydd i'w drin ac yn rhydd o rew caled.

Os yn y dyfodol am ryw reswm, bydd angen newid y safle, dylid rhannu (coron) y gwreiddiau yn bedwar rhan, gan sicrhau fod pen y goron tua 2.5 cm o dan y pridd. Dylid llanw pridd yn ofalus oddeutu'r goron, gan ei wasgu'n gadarn er mwyn cael gwared o'r "air pockets". Os bydd y pridd braidd yn sych, yna dylid dyfrhau yn dda ,a'i gorchuddio a gwellt, "mulch", neu unrhyw fater organig oddeutu'r goron ond heb ei guddio'n gyfangwbl. Fe rydd hyn berffaith chwarae teg i'r goron arwynebu mewn tua deu fis Fel arfer dylai tair coron fod yn ddigon i'w plannu yn y safle am y tro cyntaf. Ar gyfartaledd dylid ollwng tua 75 i 125 cm rhwng y coronnau, dibynnu hollol ar y math. Nid oes rhyw lawer o waith i'w trin ar ol eu plannu, on dylid taenu blanced ffres o gompost neu wellt ar ol i'r dail grino yn yr Hydref, ac yna taenu llawn dwrn o gwrtaiith cyffredinol fel "Growmore" oddetu'r goron yn mis Chwefror. Os bydd y pridd yn sych yn ystod yr haf, dylid dyfrhau. Os bydd "pennau blodau" yn datblygu yn y Gwanwyn, dylid eu torri i ffwrdd cyn y byddant yn hadu, os na wneir hyn gall difetha'r planhigyn yn gyfan gwbl. Er cymaint a all y demtasiwn fod, ni ddylid tynnu ffrwyth y tymor cyntaf. Gallau hynny wanhau y planhigyn, felly gadwch lonydd iddo am flwyddyn arall i sicrhau tyfiant cryf y flwyddyn nesaf.

this provides good produce for show competitions. It is possible to have three crops in a season. Before cutting the stems it is essential that the leaves on the stem have opened. They should be cut as near as possible to the base and twisted in the process. The leaves may be placed on the compost heap. The rhubarb plant is not attacked by aphids or disease, possibly because of their Siberian origin. In time, the crown could rot and it should then be removed and burnt. In conclusion, this is the first verse of the song 'The Rhubarb Tart' which John Cleese, the comedian, sang in the television series 'At last, the 1948 show'.

I want another slice of rhubarb tart.
I want another lovely slice.
I'm not disparaging the blueberry
pie,
But rhubarb tart is, oh so very nice.
A rhubarb what? A rhubarb tart.
I want another slice of rhubarb tart!

Hywel Jones
(kindly translated by Janet James)



Yn ystod yr ail dymor, ni ddylid tynnu ond ychydig o'r cynnyrch e.e; dau goesgyn allan o chwech. Yn y drydedd dymor gellir tynnu pedwar allan o chwech, ac am y pedwerydd tymor torrwcw fel y mynnwch. Mae tyfiant yn parhau o fis Mawrth mewn manau cysgodol ac yna ymlaen drwy'r haf. Mae yna dyfiant rhiwbob yn "spring" Awst sef tyfiant newydd ac fe rydd hyn gyfle i'r rhai sy'n cystadlu yn Sioeau i ennill gwobrau. Mae yn bosib cael tri cyflenwad mewn tymor. Cyn eu torri dylid sicrhau fod y dail ar y coesgyn wedi agor. Dylid eu torri mor agos a phosib i'r gwaelod, a'i twisto rhywfaint yn y broses. Gellir osod y dail ar domen sbwriel. Nid yw planhigyn y rhiwbob yn agored i ymosodiad gan bryfed a phla, efallai ohewydd ei darddiad o Siberia. Gydag amser gall y goron bydru, os felly dylid ei godi i fyny a'i losgi. Fel diwedd glo dyma'r pennill cyntaf o'r gan "The Rhubarb Tart" oedd y comediwr enwog John Cleese yn canu ar y gyfres deledu "At Last, the 1948 Show".

I want another slice of rhubarb tart.
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I'm not disparaging the blueberry
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I want another slice of rhubarb tart!

Hywel Jones

S4C

S4C (from the Welsh “Sianel Pedwar Cymru”, meaning “Channel Four Wales”) is the Welsh-language public-service television channel based in Cardiff. It is the fifth-oldest British television channel; only BBC One, ITV, BBC Two and Sky1 are older.

In the 1960s Welsh speakers had been served by occasional television programmes in Welsh broadcast by BBC Wales or HTV Cymru Wales (the ITV franchise), but these were usually at off-peak times. In 1962, Teledu Cymru, the new ITV network for North and West Wales, started to provide significant levels of Welsh-language programming. However, problems with transmission infrastructure and poor market research led to financial difficulties and within two years the station was taken over by its neighbour TWW (Television Wales and West) that favoured programmes in English.

During the 1970s, Welsh-language activists campaigned for a proper Welsh TV service and obtained a promise from politicians that one would be introduced. However, shortly after the Conservatives won the 1979 General Election, the new home secretary, William Whitelaw, decided against a Welsh television channel and suggested that, except for an occasional opt-out, the service should be the same as that offered in the rest of the UK.

This announcement led to acts of civil disobedience, including refusals to pay the television licence fee. Some took more extreme measures, including attacking television transmitters in Welsh-speaking areas. In 1980, the former president of Plaid Cymru, Gwynfor Evans, threatened to go on hunger strike if the Conservative government under Margaret Thatcher refused to honour its commitment to provide a Welsh-language TV service.

As a result, S4C started broadcasting on 1st November 1982, and the following day Channel 4 was launched in England.

In the early days, S4C provided an analogue television service. It broadcast bilingual (Welsh and English) programmes outside peak viewing hours and English-language programmes from Channel 4 at other times. (Analogue reception of Channel 4 was unavailable in most of Wales). S4C’s remit was to provide a service that featured programmes in the Welsh language, but like Channel 4, it did not produce programmes of its own; instead it commissioned them from BBC Cymru and independent producers. BBC Wales fulfilled its public service requirement by producing programmes in Welsh, including news bulletins and a soap opera (Pobol y Cwm), which it provided to S4C free of charge.

To make the content more accessible to English speakers, all S4C Welsh-language programming carried English subtitles. Originally these were on Teletext, as were Welsh subtitles. For speakers of English who are learning Welsh, certain programmes (particularly those aimed at children) had Welsh subtitles with the English translations in brackets. Up until 2009, S4C ran its own teletext service, Sbectel (from “Sbec”, meaning “a peek or glimpse”). In addition, S4C also operated a sister channel, S4C2 until 2010. This second channel broadcast coverage of the National Assembly for Wales when it was in session. The programme content, however, was provided by the BBC.

When digital television arrived several years later, S4C added a second, 100% Welsh-language service, called S4C Digidol (“digital”). With the completion of the digital switchover in Wales on 31st March 2010—which made Wales the first fully digital nation in the UK, and made both S4C and Channel 4 available across the whole of Wales – S4C’s bilingual analogue channel closed. What had been S4C Digidol became, by default, the S4C channel.

A high-definition service called S4C Clirlun (“clear picture”), showing the same programmes as S4C’s main channel, began transmission on 30th April 2010. However, it was announced on 11th July 2012 that, as part of cost-saving measures designed to deal with the impact of cuts to S4C’s public funding, the Clirlun channel would close.

Today S4C also hosts Clic, a free online video-on-demand service. It offers live-streaming S4C television, signed programming, a 35-day catch-up service and archive programming.

In 2005, S4C had appointed Iona Jones as its first woman Chief Executive Officer, but on 28th July 2010, she left her post without explanation. Welsh Assembly Members and Members of Parliament requested an independent investigation into the circumstances leading up to her departure. The S4C Authority refused to comment further and commissioned a review into how the broadcaster was governed. On 3rd February 2011, it was announced that issues between Iona Jones and S4C had been settled. No further information was given.

Initially S4C was financed from its advertising revenue and a fixed annual grant from the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Additionally, some Welsh-language programming were produced by BBC Wales (as part of the BBC’s public service remit) and provided to S4C free of charge. Since 2013, responsibility for funding S4C began to transfer to the BBC, with the DCMS reducing its funding. The effect of this will mean an overall decrease of around 25% to SRC’s annual budget when the transfer ends this year.

S4C is controlled by the S4C Authority (Awdurdod S4C), an independent body unconnected to Ofcom, the regulator of other UK television channels such as ITV and Channel 4.

Since its launch in 1983, the Welsh television company has used five logos. For the first five years its logo included words to show it was from Wales. After that the logo design was simplified and adopted a more 'traditional' and colourful look. After adding a 'flag' for a few years, a computer generated logo was used to mark the switch to digital broadcasting, before the current, 'more modern' design was adopted.

The logos used were

From 1983 – 1988	
From 1988 – 1995	
From 1995 – 2007	
From 2007 – 2014	
Since 2014	

Roger Pike

ROTARY YOUNG MUSICIAN COMPETITION



The Rotary Young Musician Competition for Area 1 was held at the Queen Elizabeth High School in Carmarthen on 20th November 2014. The photograph above shows Llandeilo Rotarian Richard Hughes presenting Non Roberts of Talley with her Rotary Certificate after she finished runner up in the vocal section.

Non, who attends Bro Dinefwr school in Llandeilo, was the youngest competitor at just 14 yrs old and gave an outstanding performance to finish in the top two.

Richard, who lives opposite the Robert's household in Talley, often hears the sweet sound of Non's voice which makes a change from his own singing voice which has been described as a cow in pain.

Richard Hughes

TALLEY OPEN GARDENS DAY

Since the first Talley Open Gardens day in 2010, this annual function has become an accepted part of the life of the area on the second Saturday of June. Originally envisaged as a one-off event for a few keen gardeners to visit each others gardens and share the occasion with local residents, it has evolved into a very pleasant social experience, attracting visitors from outside the area and involving new people each year. In fact, the gardens that usually open on these occasions now include Cwmdu as well as Talley.

Although few visitors manage to visit every garden that is open in the six and a half hours allocated – 10.00am to 4.30pm – the variation of garden designs and the vast range of plants and other garden contents on display make for a very interesting day. Many of those who visit the gardens are curious to see how they have developed since their last visit and wonder at the many different uses of the land, normally hidden behind private homes.

This year the Talley Open Gardens Day will be on **Saturday 13th June**. Although some people have already let me know that they are willing to participate, we need a few more. If you would like your garden to be included this time, it's not too late. Please contact me for an application form before the end of May. My contact details are on page 2.

Roger Pike
Talley Open Gardens organiser

TALLEY COMMUNITY WEBSITE

The website can be viewed at **www.talley.org.uk** and you are encouraged to take a look at it. The intention is to involve as many local residents and organisations as possible, so if you would like to add an entry to the site, please contact Peter Knott by using the contact form on the site.

The website was launched for the benefit of the whole community. Please make use of it. The website would become a more significant asset to the area if an adequate number of people are interested enough to contribute articles to it. Your ideas of what should be included are important. Please help us to make this project a continuing success.

VISIT OF MUSICAL TRIO

A musical trio from Newbury in Berkshire will be visiting Talley for a week-end in June. They have kindly agreed to sing at an afternoon tea party in the Church Hall on the Saturday. This will be an event not to be missed, so why not come along and join in the fun?

You are cordially invited to an Afternoon of
TEA, COFFEE, BISCUITS & CAKES

With Musical Interludes by **3
4Time** a Trio from Newbury, Berkshire

Alison Willis – soprano
Daphne George – soprano
Sarah Cope – alto
Accompanied by Nic Cope

Saturday, 20th June
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
St Michael's Church Hall
Talley

Admission £5
Children £2
All Welcome

Tickets from Roger Pike, John Walford or at the door on the day

On the Sunday following, they hope to attend the service at 10.30am in Talley church, where they will again be providing musical support to our worship. Why not join them and show what they are missing by not living in such a beautiful part of Wales?

PAST HAPPENINGS ON DAYS IN JUNE

Continuing the series of historical events that happened on specific days is a list of incidents that occurred on each day of June in the last century or so. A similar list for different months will appear in future issues of *Y Llychau*.

- June 1st Rhodesia formally ended nearly 90 years of white minority rule in 1979 and declared it will now be known as Zimbabwe.
- June 2nd The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II took place in Westminster Abbey in 1953.
- June 3rd Pope John Paul II made the first-ever papal trip to Wales when he visited Cardiff in 1982.
- June 4th In 1940 the evacuation from Dunkirk was concluded and Winston Churchill gave his famous “We shall fight on the beaches We shall never surrender” speech.
- June 5th In 1972 the funeral of the Duke of Windsor, the king who abdicated in 1936, was held in St George’s Chapel, Windsor.
- June 6th D Day. 155,000 Allied troops landed in Normandy in 1944, the largest amphibious invasion in world history.
- June 7th The Queen started her Silver Jubilee celebrations with a special service in St Paul’s Cathedral in 1977.
- June 8th George Orwell’s famous novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* was first published in 1948.
- June 9th The first live transmission from the House of Commons was broadcast by BBC Radio and selected commercial stations in 1975.
- June 10th London’s new Millennium Bridge was closed for safety checks after large crowds caused it to sway violently in 2000.
- June 11th The revolutionary Hovercraft, invented by Sir Christopher Cockerell, was officially launched in Southampton in 1959.
- June 12th The Queen opened a modern reconstruction of Shakespeare’s Globe theatre in 1997 on the site of the original 1599 theatre.
- June 13th Rhode Island became the first of Britain’s North American colonies to ban the importation of slaves in 1774.
- June 14th A ceasefire between British and Argentine forces on the Falkland Islands, led to the Argentinean surrender to end the 22 day war in 1982.

Y Llychau

- June 15th Education Secretary Margaret Thatcher announced plans to end free school milk for children over the age of seven in 1971.
- June 16th The South Wales coalfield came to a standstill after 24,000 miners went on strike in support of the health service workers' demand for a 12% pay rise in 1982.
- June 17th An IRA bomb exploded at the Houses of Parliament, causing extensive damage and injuring 11 people in 1974.
- June 18th Amelia Earhart, the first woman passenger on a Transatlantic flight, landed near Burry Port in 1928.
- June 19th Ian Botham became the first man in the history of cricket to score a century and take eight wickets in one innings of a Test match in 1978. (Against Pakistan).
- June 20th In 1984, new GCSE exams were introduced to replace O-levels and CSEs.
- June 21st Prince William (later to become Duke of Cambridge) was born in St Mary's Hospital, London, in 1982.
- June 22nd The first Virgin Atlantic Airways flight took off from London Heathrow in 1984.
- June 23rd The future King Edward VIII was created Prince of Wales by his father, King George V, in 1911.
- June 24th America's first woman in space, Sally Ride, returned safely in the *Challenger* space shuttle after a six-day flight in 1983.
- June 25th North Korean forces invaded South Korea, thus starting the Korean War in 1950.
- June 26th In 1959 the Queen and US President Eisenhower inaugurated the St Lawrence Seaway in Canada that connects the Great Lakes to the Atlantic.
- June 27th US President John F Kennedy visited his ancestral homeland in County Wexford, Ireland, in 1963.
- June 28th 37 men were killed in a gas explosion at the Six Bells coal mine in Monmouthshire in 1960.
- June 29th Millionaire Richard Branson smashed the world record for the fastest powerboat crossing of the Atlantic in 1986.
- June 30th Maerdy colliery, the last pit in the Rhondda coalfield, closed in 1986.

Researched by Roger Pike

ROOTS

It began with a casual comment on the bus. Before I had hopped off in Carmarthen, I had agreed that an enthusiastic genealogical researcher should hunt up a few of my dodgy forebears. Our family, rooted in the East End of London and rich in folk-lore – my mother had somehow conditioned me to believe that I was personally related to the Krays, Jack the Ripper and Maria of the Red Barn – presented a number of mysteries that I should like to solve. My grandfathers, so entirely similar that, as a small child, I had difficulty differentiating between them, had both fallen out with their respective fathers and forbidden their wives to have any contact with that generation.

My maternal grandfather was sufficiently moved to change his name, with no trace of Wildean irony, to Ernest, thereby sundering an unbroken line of Josephs reaching back to the Huguenot weaver who set up his loom in Spitalfields in the eighteenth century, just so he would not have to share even a name with his hated parent. But why?

My mother made mention of a large, framed photograph of her grandparents and of her dawning realisation that the figures frozen in the undoubted matrimonial pose on the overmantel did not actually belong *in the same marriage*. My paternal aunt told of a clandestine visit – “You will not tell your father” – to an uncle whose family, while living in a subterranean chamber with sacking nailed over the window, boiled winkles in the copper for sale on the streets. I was eager to track these folk down.

So now the hills of Brechfa (and the regulars on the bus) are privy to such muttered snippets as “Oh, yes, Emily Margaret is certainly Aunt Min who used to chase after people in the street clutching religious tracts and exhorting them to mend their ways ere it was too late”, or “Well, of course, there could be another explanation but it really does seem as if Jack and Eliza might well have been brother and sister as well as husband and wife”.

I was well aware of the large, impoverished matriarchies from which I am descended, rife with dubious liaisons, doubtful parentage and wholesale illiteracy. However, I now see that it was the folklore I was buying into. Having acquired a thick sheaf of certificates and census returns and an even thicker roll charting a tree of extraordinary complexity, I am struck by unappreciated facts. Dozens of these people lived within a very few London streets, most married folk having lived next door to each other or in the same building all their lives. The unmarried great-grandparents of the photograph brought up their ten children, five apiece, in one house, two rooms each, which meant that my grandparents were domestically, socially, practically and very possibly chromosomally siblings.

I find the long litany of menial occupations – porter, carman, drover, hawker, labourer (but also the occasional auctioneer, musician and furrier), – the many dead infants, the incidence of disease, especially diphtheria, and all those crooked crosses with their adjoining his/her mark on the marriage lines affecting. On the up side, given the utter lack of any taint of religion – if we discount Aunt Min – every child seems to have been baptized!

You will never get to satisfy every query and the road is full of suspect information spawning blind alleys and dead ends, but it is definitely a journey worth the trip. Not a new one, either, bearing in mind King James's aside to Lord Lumley – also hooked – "I did'na ken that Adam's name was Lumley".

S Shawe

THE GOLDEN HARP

Long, long ago, when the fair, green land of Wales was peaceful and calm, there lived a lovely girl, slender and fair, whose name was Rhonwen. She lived with her mother, Gwyneth, in a small, sturdy hut in the middle of a deep, dark forest, near a tumbling waterfall that fell into a deep, clear pool of sweet, fresh water.

Rhonwen was very happy and she would spend most of her day with her pet Gwinc – the glorious, magical singing bird. Rhonwen also could sing like an angel from heaven, sweet, high and clear, and she would sit by the pool, with Gwinc perched prettily on her shoulder, and they would sing for sheer joy.

One day a mighty lord, from a land far away, came riding through the deep, dark forest. He was looking for somewhere to rest, as his journey had been long and he was very tired. He heard the voices of Rhonwen and Gwinc, singing so enchantingly, and he was charmed. He decided to find the girl and the bird, for, surely, two who could sing so beautifully would also be kind and offer shelter to a weary stranger.

He rode his noble horse down many winding forest tracks until, at last, he came upon Rhonwen and Gwinc. He thought he had never seen a girl so comely, gracious and fair, nor a little bird so sweet and bright.

At first Rhonwen was afraid, for strangers did not often find them, but, as the lord – by name Athalwolf – assured her that he meant no harm and was merely looking for a place to rest, and had been guided by the singing, she bid him "Croeso", and took him home.

Gwyneth warmly welcomed the lord Athalwolf and, as she and Rhonwen

prepared a warm and hearty supper, he told them of the mission he had set himself – namely that of finding the most rare and precious object in all Wales – the Golden Harp.

Now, Rhonwen's father, Ehedydd, was a great bard of high renown. He travelled the whole of Wales, from the snow-capped mountains of Gwynedd to the lands of the great princes of Deheubarth, singing songs, telling stories and reciting poems of myth and legend. But the great bard Ehedydd was also revered by all the people as a maker of the finest harps ever to have been heard in all the land.

So, when Rhonwen and her mother listened to the Lord Athalwolf tell of his quest, they became troubled and a little afraid, for Ehedydd had made the Golden Harp, and it was his most beloved and invaluable possession.

Lord Athalwolf ate and drank his fill and the mother and daughter bid him lie down to sleep by the fire. Soon, he was fast asleep, for Gwyneth had poured a sleeping draught into the wine, and assured her daughter that the lord Athalwolf would not wake until late the next morning.

“You must find your father and warn him that a mighty lord from a land far away has come seeking the Golden Harp. Your father is wise and clever; he will know what it is best to do. Gwinc, spread your wings high and wide that Rhonwen may fly with you.” And Gwinc, the magical, singing bird spread his wings and grew to a hundred and again a hundred times his size, and Rhonwen climbed on his sleek, rust brown back and away they soared, high up into the evening sky, made rose red by the sunset.

On they flew, onward and onward, even as the moon came out and spread its honey glory to help light their way. They flew over rivers and forests and mountains, all the while singing to Ehedydd, that he might hear them and send a soaring song skywards, so that they would find him.

As morning broke Rhonwen's father answered her song, and when he heard how Lord Athalwolf was seeking the precious Golden Harp, he thought for many hours about what must be done. At last, he joined Rhonwen on the great Gwinc's back and they flew homeward as quickly as the beautiful, tireless bird could fly.

Lord Athalwolf had awoken refreshed from a long, deep sleep, and walked to the pool of clear, sweet water to wash. There he heard such melodious and exquisite singing showering down from the sky, that he thought he was in heaven. When he saw the bird Gwinc flying through the air like a giant eagle, he thought he was dreaming, but, as Gwinc landed, the magical singing bird turned back into the pretty little chaffinch Lord Athalwolf remembered, and sat chirruping happily on the shoulder of Rhonwen.

Then the great bard, Ehedydd, spoke. "I am Ehedydd, husband of Gwyneth, the blessed, and father of Rhonwen, the slender and fair. I am a bard and maker of harps. I understand you seek the Golden Harp, and can tell you your search is over, for the Golden Harp is mine. I am its maker, and prize it above all things, except my wife and daughter. If you are to own the harp, you must agree to my conditions. You must stay here for a year and a day and Rhonwen will teach you to play the Golden Harp. This is no easy task, but that which you desire you must earn. Only she and I know where the harp is hidden, and you must swear on your honour never to seek out the hiding place. When I return, in a year and a day, you will play and sing for me, and if I find you to be worthy of so exquisite an instrument, you may have it. I warn you though, Lord Athalwolf, if you do not keep my conditions, the Golden Harp will be lost to you and you will never return to your home."

Lord Athalwolf readily agreed to everything Ehedydd asked of him, and, the following day, the bard left and Rhonwen began teaching. All went well for a year. The lord Athalwolf, though sorely tempted, for he did not think Ehedydd would keep his word, did not dare to follow Rhonwen when she set off each day to bring the Golden Harp to him. So, he learnt to play and sing well and proved an able pupil.

Then, on the morning when Ehedydd was due to return, Lord Athalwolf could bear it no longer and set out in pursuit of Rhonwen and the magical singing bird, Gwinc. He must know the hiding place, for then he could steal away with the Golden Harp and return to his homeland.

Gwinc set up a terrible squawking as Rhonwen pulled the-Golden Harp from the clear, fresh water of the pool and she turned in dismay to see Lord Athalwolf behind her. He seized the harp and began to gallop through the deep, dark-wood, with Gwinc, grown a hundred and a hundred times his size, flying after him.

The great bird plucked Lord Athalwolf from his horse but he clung on to the Golden Harp as Gwinc took him over the tree tops and back to the pool of clear, fresh water. The chaffinch opened his great beak and Lord Athalwolf and the Golden Harp plunged into the water, which only Rhonwen, her father, her mother and her magical singing bird knew was as deep as the deepest lake in the whole world.

And that is why, on some nights, at the Pool of Athalwolf, when the moon is full and no wind blows, you may fancy you hear the most musical harp ever played and the angelic singing of a young girl and her magical, singing bird.

Jeanette Hughes

SPRING IN DINEFWR

Dinefwr Park is the only parkland National Nature Reserve in Wales and boasts some of nature's best wildlife spectacles. It is a place where you can walk in the footsteps of royalty with the characters from centuries past as your guide on our brand new Castles and Princes audio trail. This leads to Dinefwr Castle which overlooks the Tywi Valley with spectacular views of the countryside.

Spring brings out the best of Dinefwr, there are signs of new life everywhere you look. You can view Fallow Deer fawns and the White Park cattle calves close to Newton House, an experience you will never forget. The calving season runs throughout the spring and summer months at Dinefwr and the heifer calves are a welcome sight as that will carry the



bloodlines on, making the herd a living link to Hywel Dda and the Princes of Deheubarth. You can learn all about the white park cattle on the cattle safari every Wednesday and Friday throughout the spring period.



From 16th may onwards there will be badger watches every Saturday evening until the 1st July and both Wednesday and Saturday evenings from the 1st July to 8th August. The cost of the badger watch is Adult £8; Children £4 or a Family at £22. Please note that booking is essential and the hide can only accommodate a maximum of 10 people.

In May there will be the spectacular display of blooming bluebells around the estate, particularly Castle Woods where you seem to be walking next to a beautiful blue carpet – one of the best floral displays of bluebells you can see. Walk along the Capability Brown path amongst the ancient oak trees of the past

Y Llychau

which have rotted inside to ensure the trees are fed with nutrients and maintained for future generations. This walk eventually leads to the mill pond where children and Adults can have the experience of pond dipping, discovering newts, leeches, water boatmen, pond skaters and, towards summer, see dragon flies and may flies.



In the event of bad weather discover Newton house and its history and visit the servant's quarters. Some girls left school at 14 during Victorian times and they went straight into service, working 16 hours a day with very little time off. Learn how the family lived in comparison.



Dawn chorus walk with our Ranger – 6am 8th May (Bank holiday). A one off special at Dinefwr, you are invited to our early morning Dawn Chorus walk. We'll be heading to our ancient woodland and the Bogwood Boardwalk, a real treat for the senses. We'll even throw in a bacon bap and a cuppa when the birdsong has died down. Price Adult £8; Children £4.

Visit Dinefwr this Spring and experience a day to remember and one you will never forget!

Richard Hughes
National Trust Volunteer

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid is an agency of the churches in Britain and Ireland that works around the world with those in need.

Christian Aid has a simple aim – an end to poverty – and they believe that vision can become a reality. Poverty robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, but above all it robs them of power over their own lives. Christian Aid works with anyone who needs help, regardless of faith or nationality.

Christian Aid tackles the effects of poverty at its root causes – just one example is its campaign against those companies that fail to pay the taxes owed to the countries where they work. The Organisation stands alongside all those who struggle against poverty, powerlessness and injustice; it places honesty and respect for others at the heart of what it does; it supports work that empowers individuals and communities; it fights injustice and inequality; and is committed to caring for the earth for future generations.

Christian Aid works with and through ‘partners’ overseas: churches, ecumenical bodies, local non-governmental organisations and movements who have common values and competence in poverty eradication. For these partners to achieve success in their work, they need money and resources. Christian Aid aims to provide these.

Each year in May, Christian Aid Week provides an opportunity for everyone to support this work by action, prayer and financial contribution. Each year Christian Aid has a special theme for its Week. For 2015 this is “Helping the women of Ethiopia”. Much of this help will be provided through Hundee, Christian Aid’s partner in Ethiopia.

As our support for Christian Aid Week 2015 there will be a Joint Act of Worship in Esgairnant Chapel, Talley, on **Tuesday 12th May at 7.00pm**. The service, to which you are all cordially invited, will be bilingual. All four churches and chapels in the parish will participate in the service and there will be a contribution from the children of Talley School. The evening will be suitable for Christians of all ages and all denominations. As well as lively hymns, prayers and readings in both languages, there will be a Video of the work of Christian Aid.

There will light refreshments afterwards, so please do your best to support it by attending. You won’t be disappointed.

Roger Pike
Chairman of the Organising Committee

ASCENSION

The **Ascension** is one of the great feasts in the Christian Calendar and commemorates the bodily Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. In the Bible, Mark's account is very brief (see Mark 16). No description of the Ascension itself is given; Mark simply states that it happened. Luke is even briefer (see Luke 24): while in the act of blessing the remaining eleven apostles, Jesus was carried up to Heaven. Matthew makes no mention of it at all. The fullest account is in the Acts of the Apostles (see Acts 1). It implies it happened on Mount Olivet forty days after the Resurrection. Thus, in our Western Christian Church, Ascension Day is always on the Thursday of the sixth week after Easter, although in America the celebration is postponed until the following Sunday. In Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Germany it is a public holiday.

Several superstitions have grown up concerning Ascension Day.

- Welsh superstition believes it is unlucky to do any work on Ascension Day.
- In Devon, it was an ancient belief that clouds always form into the Christian image of a lamb.
- If the weather is sunny, the summer will be long and hot; but if it rains, crops will do badly and livestock will suffer from disease.
- Fresh rain collected on Ascension Day is said to be good for inflamed or diseased eyes, but if you eat lamb on Ascension Day, your eye will develop a sty and your retinas will detach.
- Those suffering from goitre should bite into the bark of a peach tree at midnight on Ascension Day, so that the disease passes to the tree and the sufferer is cured.
- Eggs laid on Ascension Day are said never to go bad and will bring good luck if placed on the roof.
- Gifts to the blind or lame made on this day are sure to be rewarded with great wealth within a year.

Every year, on the Eve of Ascension Day, a 'Penny Hedge' has to be erected on the beach at Boyes Staithe, near Whitby, Yorkshire. This commemorates a medieval penance imposed by the Abbot of Whitby on local noblemen who disturbed a holy hermit at his prayers and beat him up. The stakes and the woven twigs for the hedge have to be cut in a local wood at sunrise, carried to Whitby Harbour at low tide and made into a hedge strong enough to withstand three full tides.

Ascension Day this year falls on Thursday, 14 May.

Roger Pike

OEDFA O FAWL AR Y CYD
ar gyfer
WYTHNOS CYMORTH CRISTNOGOL

A JOINT ACT OF WORSHIP
for
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

7.00 o'r gloch
Nos Fawrth, Mai 12^{eg}, 2015

7.00pm
Tuesday, 12th May, 2015

ESGAIRNANT CHAPEL, TALLEY

(See Page 38)

THE NEXT ISSUE

Intended Publication Date – **Wednesday 1st July 2015**

Copy Dates – Please submit all items for inclusion in the next issue
as soon as possible & BEFORE the dates below

For contributions written in **Welsh**

Friday 22nd May 2015 (to allow time for translation)

For contributions written in **English**

Friday 29th May 2015.