



RHIFYN 74  
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ONLINE

NEW YEAR  
2019

Snow at  
Talley Abbey  
last year

# Y Llychau

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## From the Editor

First a great thank you from us all for the hard work of Roger Pike and his team over the years, creating, can you believe it, 73 issues of Y Llychau, enjoyed by many through Talley and beyond. Writing this now, it feels a pretty daunting act to follow. I will do my best and heartened by the support I have received. I was asked, why take it on? I'll explain more on page 29.

## From the Vicar

Should everything go to plan, when this article is printed I will be on the other side of the world, visiting our son and family in Queensland Australia. We will have celebrated the New Year 9 hours before the UK.

What will 2019 bring?

As the song goes, "there may be trouble ahead... ", and if the economic predictions around Brexit are accurate we are heading for an even more challenging time. How do you cope with the uncertainties of life, what strategies will you use to help you face this New Year.

In many countries New Year traditions are based on peculiar superstitions which apparently influence your future. In Ecuador to banish any ill fortune or bad things that happened in the past year, Ecuadorians set fire to scarecrows filled with paper at midnight on New Year's Eve. They also burn photographs of things that represent the past year, which leads us to believe that New Year is just a thinly veiled excuse for Ecuadorian pyromaniacs to set things on fire.

In South American countries such as Mexico, Bolivia and Brazil, fortunes for the year ahead are all decided by your underpants. Those who want to find love wear red underwear for New Year, whilst gold diggers should opt for yellow, which brings wealth and luck. If you're just after a bit of peace for the New Year, some white pants should do the trick nicely.

As the clock counts down to 12 and people around the world are preparing to watch fireworks and drunkenly kiss each other, Spaniards are staring at bunches of grapes with a steely gaze. This challenge involves stuffing your face

with 12 grapes, one for every ring of the bell. Succeed and you've got good luck for the year ahead.

Seriously, what will you do – "...will you face the music and dance"? As much as I enjoy watching Strictly Come Dancing, I don't think that just having a positive spin on life is the answer either. As a Christian I am called to be full of hope, faith, and love, even when it looks like things are falling apart, however to do this I need help.

I often turn to the Bible for direction and one of my favourite sections is Psalm 27 and the first five verses, it says this

The Lord is my light and my salvation —  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life —  
of whom shall I be afraid?

In this classic psalm we are reminded that whatever difficulties may overwhelm us, there is a light that casts out all fear. The psalmist looks to the goodness and ability of God, and God alone to help him get through tough times.

Does your hope lie in superstition or in a higher, the highest authority? I pray that we all learn to lean on Him at this time and be open to receive God's blessings for this year and the years to come.

Pob bendith a iechyd i chwi oll,  
Delyth



## King Arthur and his Knights

A PANTOMIME PRESENTED BY  
TALLEY COMMUNITY PLAYERS  
ON SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2019  
AT 6.30 P.M.  
IN ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, TALLEY

TICKETS £5

INCLUDES GLASS OF  
WINE OR FRUIT JUICE

CHILDREN FREE

CHILDREN'S  
COMPETITION FOR BEST  
DRESSED KNIGHT OR  
DAMSEL

ALL PROCEEDS TO ST.  
MICHAEL'S CHURCH



Y Llychau

# **Talley Photographic Calendar**

Entries are invited for the 2020 Talley photographic calendar, the 12 winning pictures will make up the calendar and will also be hung in St. Michael's Church Hall

All pictures are to be taken of Talley's landscape & wildlife

Entries should be with Angie Hastilow, in any format, by 1st September 2019  
angiehastilow@gmail.com  
Ty Ann Arthur, Talley, Llandeilo SA19 7AX

\* \* \*

## **Talley and Llansawel Luncheon Club**

The luncheon Club are looking for new members to join over 60 at The Black Lion, Llansawel for lunch, 12:30 – 13:00 every Thursday.

Please contact Jean Davies, Telephone No. 01558 685 252

## Ammanford Food Bank



is being supported by St Michael's Church

As the bank depleted their stocks over the summer period, the helpers are desperate to acquire more food, especially with the introduction of Universal Credit.

If you can help by donating tins or packet food, there will be four locations in which to leave items.

1. In the Church on a Sunday, 10.30 - 12.15.
2. At Jeanette's house, Plasmedi (or in the porch if no-one is home).
3. At Pat's house, Ty Golan (there will be a box under the balcony if we are out)
4. At Coffee morning in the Church Hall.

Please will you help the many people, who are struggling to feed their children and themselves.

**EVERY TIN AND EVERY PACKET WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**AMMANFORD FOODBANK**  
**HELPING LOCAL**  
**PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

## Life hacks: Fighting a cold

The life hack page was a suggestion for people to share ideas of common issues. The answers suggested will be a mix of things that work and maybe some that don't, but you never know. We cannot comment on the authenticity or integrity of some of the responses.

1. Take cold showers
2. Sweat it out, go for a run
3. Make a spicy soup; sweat potato, fresh coriander, fresh chilli, fresh garlic, fresh garlic.
4. Staying hydrated
5. Sleep with a cut onion
6. Cream of garlic soup but no good for a social life
7. Fruit and nut on porridge with soya milk
8. Plenty of exposure to little people
9. Sneeze in to your elbow, to stop germs spreading

## Life hacks: Wine

1. For a sharp wine, decant into a jug and back in to the bottle (Ed: Just don't drink it?)
2. The bigger the dimple at the bottom of the bottle, the better the wine
3. Eat food from the same country as the wine.
4. Start with the cheapest and work up till you find something you enjoy
5. Freeze left over red wine to add to food
6. Only cook with wine you would drink.
7. Always avoid bottles with a picture on the label.
8. Store unfinished bottles in the fridge.
9. Blag it; think of a fruit or a flower and waffle on about it to others. The wine will taste great.

Look out and contribute your best advice to life hacks through 2019.

## **A Poetry Page: Be Sure Your Sins Will Find You Out** By Muriel Coy

I go to church and seek forgiveness, always on a Sunday,  
Then feel refreshed, renewed, forgiven, always by the Monday.  
By Tuesday I am well aware of things I have done wrong,  
So when I go to bed that night, I pray and sing a song.

When Wednesday comes, it brings with it my hopes and dreams to come,  
On Thursday I repeat my prayers, "Dear God, please make me strong".  
On Friday as I kneel to pray and sing a little hymn,  
I only hope the Lord above is always listening in.

Now Saturday brings such pleasures that tend to make me weak.  
I do the things I shouldn't. I just can't last the week.  
So back to church I go again, ashamed and feeling blue,  
Repeat my prayers, confess my sins and hope He hears them too.

It really is a struggle, trying so hard to be good,  
Although the good Lord up above has always understood.  
Temptations lying all around are so hard to ignore.  
My aim to be a godly soul lies shattered on the floor.

So when I die and leave this world, I hope it's early Monday,  
Before I've broken all the vows I promised Him on Sunday.  
Then I may get to Heaven and see Him face to face.  
I really do not want to go down to that other place!

## **Darganfod** Gan Roger Thomas 08/02/18

Pan bu farw fy ngwraig bum mlynedd yn ôl, roedd yn rhaid i mi ail-ddarganfod fy nghanol mewdol. Cyn priodi, roeddwn i'n enaid unigol. Ar ôl pedwar deg saith mlynedd o briodas, er mwyn i'r briodas ddigwydd roedd y ddau enaid wedi dod yn un.

Ar ôl marwolaeth fy nghwraig, bu'n rhaid i mi ddarganfod sut i fyw bywyd hebddi hi. Roedd cyngor gan ffrindiau'n amrywio o ymuno â chôr, prynu ci a chwilio am berthynas newydd ymhen amser! Beth ddylwn i ei wneud i ddarganfod bywyd newydd ar fy mhen fy hun? Digwyddodd y darganfyddiad hwn ar siawns. Roeddwn i'n dychwelyd adref o dŷ fy merch i yn Llundain un diwrnod oer o mis Chwefror, pan benderfynodd y pwyntiau ar y rheilfordd rewi. Oedd ymyrraeth ddwyfol wedi oedi fy nhrên, efallai? Nid wyf i'n gwybod yn iawn! O ganlyniad, roeddwn i wedi colli fy nghysylltiad yn Amwythig ac wedi cael ychydig oriau cyn i fi allu dal y trê'n arall.

Penderfynais gerdded o'r orsaf i ganol y dref. Wrth i mi ddringo'r bryn i'r dref, es i heibio'r siop seiclo gyda beic newydd sbon ar y palmant y tu allan. Heb feddwl, es i i mewn i'r siop ar unwaith a phrynais i'r beic newydd sbon oedd tu allan. Ar ôl ei gasglu dair wythnos yn ddiweddarach, dechreuodd fy narganfyddiad newydd. Dechreuodd yn araf ar y dechrau. Rwyf wedi seiclo llwybr beiciau lleol gyda dau fryn fychan a goncrais i yn y pen draw. Penderfynais fynd ymhellach i ffwrdd a seiclo o Rosslare i Ddulyn ac yna o amgylch Ynys Manaw. Nid oedd fy rhyddid yn gwybod dim terfynau – hefyd Y Gamlais di Medi yn Ffrainc Deheuol a Dubrovnik i Split yn Croatia. Rwyf i wedi ymuno â Chlwb Seiclo Abertawe a rwyf i wedi prynu tri beic newydd gan gynnwys un trydan! Eleni, gyda ffrind o'r clwb, aethom i seiclo Gogledd Iwerddon i weld yr Arddangosfa Titanic yn Belfast ac yna ar hyd yr arfordir i Gorsffordd y Cawr. Nesaf, ym mis Chwefror, rydym ni'n mynd i seiclo ar draws India o'r arfordir gollewinol i'r arfordir dwyreiniol.

Rwyf i'n aml yn myfyrio ar y ddau ddiwrnod pwysig yn fy mywyd newydd – y diwrnod y bu farw fy ngwraig heb unrhyw syniad sut yr oeddwn i'n mynd i ymdopi ar fy mhen fy hunan – a'r diwrnod pan gafodd y trê'n ei ohirio a newid yn ddamweiniol fy mywyd yn llwyr gan arwain at ddarganfod y bywyd mewdol newydd hwnnw a gefais yn ddamweiniol ond na ddisgwyliad i mi ei gyflawni. Ai damwain oedd? Neu a oedd rhyw fath o ymyrraeth ddwyfol sydd wedi transnewid fy mywyd gan roi y dewrder a'r ffydd i fynd ymlaen a darganfod

'bywyd a anwyd eto', heb y côr, y ci a'r berthynas ddynol newydd? Efallai, un diwrnod, byddaf yn sicr yn darganfod yr ateb!

## **Discovery** By Roger Thomas 08/02/18

When my wife died five years ago, I had to re-discover my inner being. Before marriage, I was an individual soul. After forty seven years of marriage which meant sharing your soul in a relationship, so that two souls became one for the marriage to succeed.

After her death, I had to discover how to become an individual again. Advice from friends varied from join a choir, buy a dog and in time, seek a new relationship. What was I to do to discover a new life for myself? This discovery happened by chance. I was coming home from my daughter's in London one cold February day, when the points on the line decided to freeze. My train was delayed by divine intervention, perhaps! As a result, I missed my connection in Shrewsbury and had a few hours before another connection was possible.

I decided to walk from the station into town. As I climbed the hill, I passed a cycle shop and a shiny new bicycle was standing on the pavement outside. Without thinking, I immediately entered the shop and bought it! After collecting it three weeks later, my new discovery began. It started slowly at first. I cycled a local cycle path with two small hills which I eventually conquered! I decided to go further afield and cycled from Rosslare up to Dublin and around the Isle of Man. My freedom knew no bounds – I cycled the Canal di Medi in France and from Dubrovnik to Split. I joined Abertawe Cycling Club and have since bought three bikes, one being electric! This year, with a friend from the club, we are cycling across India from coast to coast.

I often reflect on the two important days in my new life – the day my wife died with no idea on how I was going to cope with being alone. And the day the train was delayed which accidentally changed my life totally leading to the discovery of that new inner life that I craved, but never expected to achieve. Was it an accident or was there some kind of divine intervention which has transformed my life and given me the courage and faith to pursue and discover this born again life without the choir, the dog, and the human relationship? Perhaps one day, I will find out for sure!

## What's on

### at Dinefwr

- Count the number of birds they see at Dinefwr as part of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> January from 10am
- Mini Ranger Academy at Dinefwr and learn all about what it takes to be a Ranger on a National Nature Reserve – monthly for ages 5-13, booking essential
- Join a ranger for an early morning walk around the estate on Dawn Chorus Walk

### at Dolaucothi Gold Mines

- Re-opens on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### in Llandeilo

- The Llandeilo Lit Fest and book fair 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April
- The festival of the Celts for Music, food & drink 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> May

### at National Botanic Gardens of Wales

- Doggy Days every Monday and Friday
- Food fair 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Antiques Fair 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Jan

### at The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society

- Smallholding and Countryside Festival from 9am on 18 & 19 May 2019
- The Royal Welsh Show, will be held on 22 - 25 July 2019 at the showground in Llanelwedd.

### Further afield

- Kick off your gardening year at RHS Flower Show, Cardiff 12-14<sup>th</sup> April
- The Machynlleth Comedy Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May
- Hay Festival from the 25<sup>th</sup> May
- 2019 Eisteddfod will be held in Llanrwst, Conwy County, 0 days from the first Saturday in August

Dates correct at the time of going to press and are subject to change. Contact the editor to add more events in the next quarter.

## Hop on, hop off in the Heart of Wales By Sarah Baxter editor Hywel Jones

The man on the 15.32 from Llandeilo poured a cup from his Thermos, sipping before he spoke. “The land’s level with the river here,” he said, looking out to where silvery puddles glazed the tufty green. “After heavy rain it’s more like riding a catamaran than a train.” He introduced himself: Hywel Jones from Cwmdy, volunteer with ‘Heart of Wales Line Travellers’ Association’ member, rail buff and Llanwrda railway station adopter for the last 15 years, he rides the train at least once a week. “Every trip is an adventure,” Hywel told us. “No two journeys are the same.”

The Heart of Wales Line, which runs for 120 miles (193km) between Swansea and Shrewsbury, isn’t like other train services. This sedate, rural railway is often only one carriage long and runs just four or five times a day (only twice on

Sundays) and calls at 29 stations, 16 of them request stops. But the countryside is a slowly unfurling joy. It’s not a journey from A to B, it’s an experience. In Switzerland it would have sleek rolling stock with panoramic windows. In the UK it bumbles along in a lower key. But it’s a source of great local pride. And a boon for walkers.



In 2018, the line celebrated its 150th anniversary. Opened in 1868, it escaped Beeching’s axe by the skin of its teeth. To mark its big birthday, and as part of the drive to regenerate the communities this railway serves, a Heart of Wales Line hiking trail has been created. The Shropshire section opened in summer 2017; the Carmarthenshire stretch in June 2018. By the end of the year, the whole 140-mile (225km) trail between Craven Arms and Llanelli should be ready for use. I was planning to hop-on, hop-off, using the train to access bits of new trail, to see if this really is a perfect railway for ramblers.

Our first stop was Llandeilo, where a little wooden shed stood near the platform in lieu of a proper station. This sustainably made “hub” is the first of a trail that’s looking at cheap ways of reviving stations. Llandeilo’s is home to Black Mountain organic food supplies; in Llanelli, there are plans to turn the old goods shed into an arts centre; in Llandovery, the old station is now a thriving community café. We left the train tracks, walked along Llandeilo’s main street and out towards Dinefwr Castle. First a Roman site, this vantage above the Towy River was later used to defend against the Vikings, the Normans and the English Crown. It evolved into a formidable fortress – the southern kingdom of Wales was ruled from here – but fell to ruin in the 17th century. Its lichen scarred staircases and crenellations still provide a spectacular lookout over woodland and across to the austere turrets of Newton House. We had plenty of time until the next train so it was a short walk we could dally over.

However, while we were relaxed in Llandeilo, easily making our onward train to Llandovery, the timetable soon became an obsession. Using a line with such a limited service meant poring over schedules and maps to plan each day’s escapade. For instance, in order to squeeze in more walking, we were up with the lark to leave for Llanwrtyd the next morning, passing through some of the line’s remotest country – via the 18-arch Cynghordy viaduct and the lonely halt of Sugar Loaf, under its namesake summit. Then after a short, wild stroll from Llanwrtyd (“bog snorkelling capital of the world”), it was back on board to hop off again at Cilmeri, where we strolled with swans along the Wye river and paid our respects to Prince Llywelyn, last native Prince of Wales, killed here in 1282. By the time we trundled into Llandrindod Wells, we were in need of its spas, so beloved by the Victorians. However, a pint of local ale did just as well.

The drink certainly set us up for a wonderful walk around Llandrindod the next day. In the late 19th century, 80,000 visitors a year came to take the waters here, and our stroll through the restored Rock Park passed the free “Chalybeate Spout”, the only mineral spring still open. We followed the Ithon River to Shaky Bridge – the original was apparently unsteady.

After wending our way along the line to Knighton, our final walk followed the official Heart of Wales Line Trail across the border. Heading into a Sunday of low fog and muted church bells, we joined Offa’s Dyke, crossed a bridge straddling England and Wales and strode into Shropshire. We were soon stopping to stare into the Heyope Valley, where the mist was veiling and

unveiling, offering tantalising snatches. We should have had views down to 13-arch Knucklas viaduct. But not that day.

We continued along the remains of the dyke before veering eastwards along an old drovers' road. It carried us along the hills, via the Iron Age hill fort of Caer Caradoc and neat plantations where mist swirled around the trunks. Eventually we wound down to the pretty Englishness of Bucknell, with its church square, old post office and half-timbered houses.

We decided not to catch a train; instead, we hotfooted to Hopton Heath, the next station along, to see if we could make it before the 14.32. The risk added a little frisson to our stroll. When Hopton Castle hove into view, we knew we were safe and paused to picnic beside this restored 13th century keep, built not for defence but as a fashionable country retreat.

Hopton Heath station was the end of the line for us. From here, the “big city” of Shrewsbury beckoned. Change may be afoot for the Heart of Wales. KeolisAmey recently took over the franchise from Arriva; it's hoped more money will be put into it to provide a better service. But for now, everything felt as it should do: sitting on the quiet platform of a request station, legs buzzing from a walk well done.

## About the Heart of Wales line

#heartofwalesline

<https://www.heart-of-wales.co.uk/>

The Heart of Wales Circular Two Day Ranger offers you a circular two day tour with unlimited travel in either direction. All holders of Welsh bus passes can travel free between October 1st and March 31st along the Heart of Wales Line between Swansea and Shrewsbury. Dogs are allowed on the trains as long as they are kept under control and all trains have some space for bikes.



## **The curious story of the 1730 communion chalice by Wyn Edwards**

In 2018, an accident happened in Talley church, which led to us uncovering a touching story from the 1730's, a story which has lain undiscovered for nearly 200 years. What follows is an account of how the story emerged and the questions which remain unanswered.

The accident happened because the church safe is small and full of Registers, which means there is little room for the chalice. Closing the door led to the pressure being put on the base of the chalice, with the result that the stem was pushed into the cup causing significant damage. Happily, retired silversmith David Corcoran, Cwmdru, offered his services and we undertook an examination of the chalice.

There is an inscription reading *Poculam Benedictionis De Talley Lewis Davies John ap John Guardi Anno Dom 1730* This tells us that this "Cup of Blessing" was given in 1730 and as the church was not built until 1773 it means that this cup was used for 40 years at services in the Abbey. It would have been a time when this remote community was struggling to worship in what remained of the Abbey, so to have a new cup would have been an important event. We have looked for information about the donor and his father John Guardi but have found nothing so far.

With David's trained eye a number of features stood out. The cup was not made from a disc of silver, which is the traditional means of making a communion cup. Rather, it was made in the way that a tinsmith would make a billycan. There is a join line on the side which no silversmith would have left visible. The bottom of the cup is made from a flat disc with a folded join, a style of construction that the writer recognised as similar to work the metalwork apprentices were taught in schools in the 1980's. The cup has not been gilded, a standard process for silver cups, which will be drunk from.



Looking at where the stem had been pushed into the cup, it was apparent that the stem was most likely from part of a candlestick. Where it was joined to the cup none of the reinforcement that a silversmith would have seen as necessary, had been made.

There was no Assay mark, so it never went to Chester, Birmingham or London and there is no Makers mark telling us who made it. Every silversmith has a unique mark.

Pulling all this information together, it seems that we have a poor rural church, which needed a communion cup. A candlestick and perhaps the silver sheet were donated to have a cup made. The work was undertaken

by a person who was a skilled metal worker but not that familiar with working in silver. We can imagine that whoever it was would have felt both honoured and challenged by the task, and I doubt that they expected their work to be appreciated nearly 200 years later. When completed the engraving could have been carried out locally. It wasn't assayed, perhaps because of the cost involved or perhaps there were concerns that as it had not been made by a silversmith it would not have been accepted.

The cup has now been repaired and reinforced by David, to whom the Church is most grateful. It is now kept in a container for protection, in the safe. Perhaps when you see it next you can appreciate the work of the unknown craftsman, who took on the challenge to make something special for the Church.

## A brief history: Policing in Wales by Roger Pike

From the Middle Ages, law enforcement in Wales, like the rest of the UK, was the responsibility of regional communities; the national government in London was not directly involved in policing. Local officials, called constables, were appointed and given the responsibility of keeping the peace. Men took it in turns to hold the post for one year and they were unpaid. If somebody witnessed a crime, the constable was supposed to raise the alarm and all men were expected to help chase and apprehend the criminal. This was called 'hue and cry' and the practice was not abolished until 1827.

By the mid-seventeenth century many provincial towns had also engaged night-watchmen to patrol their streets during the hours of darkness, but rural areas had to rely on more informal arrangements. Initially, like constables, these night-watchmen were expected to carry out their duties for nothing, but from the 1730s an Act of Parliament made provision for them to be paid. This produced a change in law enforcement practices with annual engagements of constables and night-watchmen being replaced by more permanent appointments.



The first modern police force in the UK was formed in London in 1829 by Sir Robert Peel. His policemen were called Bobbies or Peelers after him. Sometimes they were referred to as Coppers, from the old English word 'cop', meaning to grab or seize hold of. These first policemen were armed with truncheons and rattles. (These were replaced by whistles in the 1880s, considered to be a more efficient method of summoning assistance). Officers originally wore top hats, which were later replaced by helmets designed to protect the head. Based on the success of Robert Peel's police force, in 1835 all town boroughs in

England and Wales were compelled to form their own police forces and by 1856 each county had to establish a police force for its rural areas. Thus by 1860 all parts of Wales, town and country, were covered by a force of policemen. In that year there were over 200 separate and independent police forces in England and Wales.

These new police forces were not just responsible for the maintenance of law and order, but also for solving crimes and arresting the criminals. To achieve this, each police force incorporated a team of detectives, which later became known as the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). During the First World War there was a shortage of men available for recruitment into the police so from 1915 the first women police officers were employed in England and Wales. At that time, police forces also became unionised.

Clearly, the system of having separate police forces controlled by town boroughs and county authorities was far from efficient. A series of Acts of Parliament gradually reduced the number of police forces (by combining several local forces) and introduced common methods of policing to achieve a more uniform operation.



In Wales, many of the urban Borough police forces were incorporated into the County force and in the mid-twentieth century further amalgamation produced just four territorial police forces to cover the entire country. Similar changes were adopted in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Today the four Welsh forces are 1. North Wales Police (Heddlu Gogledd Cymru) 2. Dyfed–Powys Police (Heddlu Dyfed Powys), South Wales Police (Heddlu De Cymru) and Gwent Police (Heddlu Gwent).

Dyfed–Powys Police is the territorial police force responsible for policing Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire (which made up the former administrative area of Dyfed) and the unitary authority of Powys (covering Brecknockshire, Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire). The territory it covers is the largest police area in the UK.



Photo: Nigel Davies / Dyfed-Powys Police HQ, Llangunnor, Carmarthen

## Y Llychau

The region has over 350 miles of coastline and many remote rural communities. Despite the size of the area, the population is under 500,000, although this is boosted each year by large tourist numbers. The force was formed in 1968, with the merger of the Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire Constabulary, Pembrokeshire Constabulary and the Mid Wales Constabulary. The force's headquarters are located in Carmarthen.

Gwent Police is the territorial police force responsible for policing the local authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. The force was formed in 1967 by the amalgamation of Monmouthshire Constabulary and Newport Borough Police. In 1974 its area was realigned to cover the new administrative county of Gwent and in 1996, the area was further expanded to cover the former Rhymney Valley district area as a consequence of it becoming part of the Caerphilly county borough, in order to incorporate the entirety of the county borough in one police area. The force's headquarters are located in Cwmbran.

North Wales Police (originally called the Gwynedd Constabulary) is the territorial police force responsible for policing North Wales. The Gwynedd Constabulary was formed in 1950 by the amalgamation of Caernarfonshire Constabulary, Anglesey Constabulary and Merionethshire Constabulary. Flintshire Constabulary and Denbighshire Constabulary were combined into the force in 1967 and in 1974 the force was renamed North Wales Police. Its headquarters were in Colwyn Bay, with divisional headquarters in St Asaph, Caernarfon and Wrexham but in 2011 the three divisional headquarters were closed.

South Wales Police is the territorial police force responsible for policing most of the historic county of Glamorgan (including Cardiff), as well as Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, Swansea and the western South Wales Valleys, it is the largest police area in Wales in terms of population. The force was formed as the South Wales Constabulary in 1969 (the name was changed in 1996) by the amalgamation of the former Glamorgan Constabulary, Cardiff City Police, Swansea Borough Police and Merthyr Tydfil Borough Police. In 1974, with the re-organisation of local government, the force's area was expanded to cover Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and the newly created Mid Glamorgan, South Glamorgan and West Glamorgan. The force's headquarters are in Bridgend. The joining together of smaller police forces to form larger territorial forces was not the only change to policing in Wales. All four of the country's police forces

also now involve the use of Special Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers.

While the idea of a populace policing itself dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, with common law requiring that all citizens have the legal obligation to come to the assistance of a police officer, it was not until 1673 that Charles II ruled that citizens could be temporarily sworn in as Special Constables during times of public disorder. In 1831 Parliament passed “An act for amending the laws relative to the appointment of Special Constables, and for the better preservation of the Police”. This Act outlined the special-constable principles that still exist today. ‘Specials’ would be unpaid, could be appointed at any time (not just during periods of public disorder) and would have the same powers as full-time police constables. A further Act in 1835 redefined the Special Constabulary as a volunteer organisation within a statutory police force. Special Constables wear the same uniform as other police officers and many forces use them to maintain their required staffing levels.

Special Constables are not the same as Police Community Support Officers. A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) [Welsh: Swyddog Cymorth Cymunedol yr Heddlu, SCCH], referred to in legislation as a Community Support Officer (CSO) [Welsh: Swyddog Cymorth Cymunedol, SCC], is a uniformed civilian member of police support staff in England and Wales, a role created by Act of Parliament in 2002. Unlike special constables, PCSOs are paid, but their police powers are limited to maintain the distinction between them and their other police colleagues. Their day-to-day duties typically include high visibility patrolling, tackling anti-social behaviour, dealing with minor offences, crowd control, gathering criminal intelligence to support front-line policing and directing traffic at public events, roadblocks or scenes of accidents.

Police forces in Wales, like those in England outside London, were originally controlled by their own Police Authority. These authorities were abolished in 2012 and replaced by a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) [Welsh: Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu, CHT], an official elected for a four-year term and charged with securing efficient and effective policing of their police area. PCCs hold the ‘police fund’, from which all policing is financed. The bulk of funding for the police fund comes from the Home Office in the form of an annual grant, although Commissioners can also set a precept on the Council Tax to raise additional revenue. However, if a PCC wishes to increase the

## Y Llychau

precept by an amount deemed to be excessive, a local referendum must be held to accept or reject the proposed precept.

Dafydd Llywelyn is the police and crime commissioner for the Dyfed-Powys Police force area  
Photo: Dyfed-Powys Police



The devolved governments of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were asked to consider the amalgamation of their countries territorial police forces into a single national force. While Scotland and Northern Ireland agreed to this, the Welsh National Assembly did not, so Wales has retained its four territorial police forces, although the over-riding police policy is set by the Assembly.

### From the history archives

Photos: Creative Archive Licence Talley Parish History Group 2018



Detectives from Llanelli investigating the disappearance of Stanislaw Sykut at Cwmdy.

Dyfed-Powys Police brought their helicopter for everyone to see, during the Talley Fun Day



These images and many more from The Talley History group are now found at online at People's Collection Wales.

## Dark Skies of West Wales

On a clear night around Talley, you can see the Milky Way, major constellations, bright nebulas and even meteor showers. The area within just a few miles of us, is now world renowned for Dark Skies; the best places to see the heavens, with the highest quality darkness. We suppose that just means, no lights. The best of it, is we do not have to go anywhere, so to help we have a quick aide memoir to the skies above Talley this year.

Beyond the incredible constellations, meteor showers are one of best things to get spotting here. To see the most meteors, the best place to look is not directly at the radiant itself, but at any dark patch of sky which is around 30–40° away from it. It is at a distance of around this distance from the radiant that meteors will show reasonably long trails without being too spread out.

- The Quadrantid meteor shower: 1st – 6th Jan, NE & 119 degrees at midnight - 26 per hour.
- The Virginid meteor shower: 7th – 18th April, S & 28 degrees at midnight. 2 per hour & avoid early evening.
- The Lyrid meteor shower: 19th – 25th April. E & 38 degrees. 10 per hour. Could be limited by the moon.
- The  $\alpha$ -Scorpiid meteor shower: 20th April – 19th May, peaking on the 13th. SE, 10 degrees. Less than 5 per hour and limited by moonlight.
- The Ophiuchid meteor shower: 19th May to July, peaking on June 10th. S & 15 degrees. Less than 5 per hour.
- The Capricornid meteor shower: Every night July – August, peaking 8th July. SE & 20 degrees. Less than 5 per hour.
- The  $\alpha$ -Cygnid meteor shower: Every night July – August, peaking 21st July. E & 78 degrees. 4 per hour.
- The  $\delta$ -Aquarid meteor shower: 15th July – 20th August. SE & 14 degrees, 4 per hour.
- The  $\alpha$ -Capricornid meteor shower: 15th July – 20th August. S & 28 degrees, less than 5 per hour.

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- The Perseid meteor shower: 23rd July – 20th August. Peaking on the 13th August. NE & 42 degrees. 53 per hour.
- The Taurid meteor shower: 20th Oct – 30th Nov. S & 51 degrees. 7 per hour.
- The Geminid meteor shower: 7th – 16th Dec. SE & 60 degrees. 86 per hour.
- The Ursid meteor shower: 17th – 25th Dec. N & 43 degrees. 6 per hour.

On Tuesday 16th July the Moon will pass through the Earth's shadow between 21:02 and 23:59 BST, creating a partial lunar eclipse. It will be difficult to see from Carmarthenshire since the Moon will rise partway through the eclipse, and only attain an altitude of 14° above the horizon by the time it ends. Eclipses of the Moon are easy to watch with the unaided eye. A modest pair of binoculars will give a superb view of the Moon's surface, but are not required. Unlike solar eclipses, lunar eclipses are entirely safe to look at without the need to look through any kind of filter.

The Pleiades open star cluster (M45) in Taurus can be best seen on the 18th November. Try midnight, S & 62 degrees around midnight. At magnitude 1.3, M45 is visible to the naked eye, but best viewed through a pair of binoculars.

The small print: Y Llychau cannot guarantee you will be able to see the events above due to Welsh Weather!

## Match the castle

If castles are more your thing, then you may get these straight off...

- |                                      |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. The leaning tower.                | A. Dryslwyn      |
| 2. Cliffs and caves.                 | B. Castell Coch  |
| 3. Headland, beach and Towy.         | C. Caerphilly    |
| 4. Birth of Henry VII.               | D. Llansteffan   |
| 5. Roman, Norman and Gothic.         | E. Cardiff       |
| 6. A folly or a masterpiece of Bute. | F. Pembroke      |
| 7. Seat of the rulers of Deheubarth. | G. Dinefwr       |
| 8. Hill top ruin above the Towy.     | H. Carreg Cennen |

See page 29 for answers

## Talley School help Carmarthen Food Bank



Fel rhan o'r diolchgarwch eleni, buodd Ysgol Talylychau yn casglu bwyd ag arian i Fanc Bwyd Caerfyrddin. Codwyd £55 yn eu gwasanaeth yn Eglwys Talylychau.

As part of this year's harvest, Talley CP School have been collecting food and donations for the Carmarthen Food Bank. They also raised £55 during their service at Talley Church.

## Ysgol Talylychau Eisteddfod Pumsaint

Buodd Ysgol Talylychau yn llwyddiannus yn Eisteddfod Pumsaint eleni.

Talley CP School were successful at this year's Pumsaint Eisteddfod.



## Hansel and Gretel

Buodd disgyblion Ysgol Talylychau yn frysur dros y mis diwethaf yn paratoi eu perfformiad eleni- Hansel a Gretel. Perfformiwyd tri sioe, un i Ysgol Ffairfach a'r gweddill i deuluoedd a ffrindiau yr ysgol. Perfformiodd y plant yn arbennig trwy gydol. Diolch i



bob disgybl am eu hymdrech a phawb a daeth i gefnogi'r sioe.

Talley CP School pupils have been very busy over the last month preparing their production- Hansel and Gretel. They performed three shows, one to Ffairfach School and the rest to families and friends of the school. The

children performed excellently throughout. Thank you to all pupils for their efforts and everyone that came to support the show.



*Thanks go to the pupils, staff and the audience in making the 2018 show another amazing success.*

## Parents and friends of Talley School from the PTA

Autumn is always a busy time in the life of a school, this autumn has been no exception. We also welcomed a new headteacher, Mr Gethin Richards and a new Chair of the PTA, Emily Ashdown. The term being finished off with a theatre trip, the amazing Christmas show (see the previous article) and on the last day of term, village carol singing. The PTA funds last term went towards the Halloween Party and a Christmas theatre trip for the children.

Plans for the year include a Spring Time Community event, a School Fayre, the village Scarecrow Competition, a summer pop up bar around Talley and autumn activities. Next up will be looking at plans to develop school community facilities, revitalising space at the school. Look out for dates of our open PTA meetings through the year and come and join us to find out about school life and help support our local school.

## School Winter Draw

The winter draw raised £374 for the school with 17 prizes won prizes won.

Overnight Stay in the Cawdor – Mrs Roberts  
Botanic Gardens entry – Sharn Race  
Dinefwr visit – Jo Richards  
Adventure Golf Heatherton – Ceri Jones  
Eve's Toys Shop – Emilys Grandad  
DL Williams prize – Councillor Jo  
Hamper 1 – Rhian Mai  
Hamper 2 – Beard  
Hamper 3 – Ceri Webster  
Hamper 4 - Andrea  
Hangout Brunch – Mr & Mrs Stone  
Cothi Valley Hamper – Roger Thomas  
Selection Box – Seren Atherton  
Selection Box – Becky Donaldson  
Llandeiolo Nusery Plant – Charlottes Nanna  
Cake – Ivy  
Bread – Roger Pike

Thank you to all those who purchased tickets and to those who provided our prizes. Please look out for the summer draw and keep supporting our school.

## Word Search – Heart of Wales

D Y T R W N A L L M Z D H I T R O Y J L M L H N  
 F M J S T M W Z W J Z T D A O R H T L I U B C R  
 V G O D A G N A L L A J K Y F F D H T R A G O I  
 U J D N K X J X A E G V D H A F F A I R F A C H  
 M F L R F I Z V H O C R C O L N D D X K Q O R R  
 D C O Y C G H N J L O R L L O N Y I A K S U U R  
 K H Q B J D O P L H A R E N M E I B Y D N A L L  
 A E N Y B T G A G M A N N C S F I V B K G U M F  
 L V L Q P X N N M G K Y R Y K T N O B Y N E P F  
 C Q Y O I E Y A U C F X K Q L L A N G Y N L L O  
 Y O H O L C G S U F J W D C I L M E R I P V Q F  
 N S D L A N G B Y W D P T B O K N I G H T O N I  
 N I I Z A M C T E Z J I O V S M R A N E V A R C  
 N A I L P J N O B Z U Y S X F Z K D C K K L P M  
 Y L L S E A Y Z L T D A O R R E T S I B N A L L  
 D U Y C P H A R F I L Q L L A N D R I N D O D W  
 S D K S J E D W E K E G Q K K U C E Q H X Y W P  
 U D K Q V B R H C V J D B S H A M M A N F O R D  
 X R Y A E A W U P J O Y N P X O U B V U V G U L  
 R A H L J V N Z B T Z D R A O T I X Y Y U F N N  
 F T C A S K A R N C D J N R L L T L B W A C V N  
 L N B E T X L G P I H U B A E L L S O Z L Q P D  
 P O H W Z K L X X G P Q V L L Y Z H I A O Q Q G  
 V P D L L A N G E N N E C H F L J J S S D F X N

Sugar Loaf	Knucklas	Llanbister Road	Pen-y-Bont
Builth Road	Llandeilo	Llanelli	Bynea
Llangennech	Pontarddulais	Pantyyffynnon	Ammanford
Llandybie	Ffairfach	Llangadog	Llanwrda
Llandovery	Cynghordy	Llanwrtyd	Llangammarch
Garth	Cilmeri	Llandrindod	Dolau
Llangynllo	Broome	Bucknell	Knighton
Hopton Heath	Craven Arms		

Bonus question – Which are the stations not found in Wales?

## Writing the Y Llychau By Andrew Hill

Those who know me, know I'm fairly technically savvy and a great advocate of social media. Y Llychau will certainly reflect some of that, however such a publication as this, is at the heart of village life for many and shouldn't be lost. In my professional life, I know only too well the importance of the written word on paper. So thus, I'm here putting together the Y Llychau for us.

What to expect? We are trying out a few suggestions. As you can see, new sections, so if you need to dip in to the magazine you can easily. Submissions will be in the month before publication. Up and coming dates are difficult to address through this publication, so we will try a one page online and notice board diary. I'll attempt a mix of local features, useful information and news from around our villages. There will also be a tighter link to social media, more on that for those who are interested on page 31. I am sure, like any editor, I will trial and test differing formats (as you can see this time), while keeping the same approach to traditional content. Probably expect a few less articles from the editor – potentially wishful thinking by myself and others maybe! For those who have told me how much you love reading Rogers articles, he has promised me, he will continue to submit a feature for us. Please do talk to me about ideas you have, any feedback you have and suggestions for future approaches. Please also forgive my rooky errors too.

Suggestions have already been made about running some competitions in the Y Llychau, with the first idea being 'name that dog', so if you want to take part, send me a picture of your dog, his or her name and where it lives.

Finally, earlier this evening, my nine year old daughter was reading some of the back issues of Y Llychau (kindly passed on by Roger!). These dated, not only from before we arrived in the village but from before she was born and she was fascinated. It is a reminder to me of how important having our community life in print is for everyone of any age and at any time.

With a fair wind and flu permitting I'll be looking forward to delivering this edition during January. Happy reading (or browsing).

### **The quick castle puzzle answers**

| Dryslwyn 8 | Castell Coch 6 | Caerphilly C | Llansteffan 3 | Cardiff 5 | Pembroke 4 | Dinefwr 7 | Carreg Cennen 2 |

## Recycling and refuse

### Blue bag



### Black bag



### Green bin



### Glass recycling nearby:

Pont Melinddwr, Llansawel. Sexton Arms, Llansadwrn. Llanwrda Hall. Llandoverly Rugby Club. Llandoverly Car Park. Beechwood Industrial Estate, Llandeilo. Llandeilo Co-op. Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo. Llandeilo Rugby Club

January							February							March							April						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3					1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

Keep up to date

## @YLlychau

We are now on Instagram and Twitter, where not only you can read and share extracts of our magazine and together with our village Facebook pages, you can find out about things as they happen.

To make things easier to contribute, if you have a short piece of news or a photo of an event, tag us using @YLlychau and we will share the highlights on this page in months to come.



Y Llychau  
@YLlychau

Talley Parish History  
[peoplescollection.wales/users/29936](https://peoplescollection.wales/users/29936) Pretoria House petrol pump and window #Talyllchau #Talley



Y Llychau  
@YLlychau

Remember, #Talyllchau #Talley  
Coffee Mornings 10:30am till noon,  
St Michaels Church Hall, usually the  
first Tuesday of the month



Y Llychau  
@YLlychau

Llyfrgell Bach #Talyllchau #Talley



Y Llychau  
@YLlychau

Mobile library #Talyllchau #Talley  
Tuesdays 9:45 to 11:45am Dyffryn  
lg lay-by then Abbey

## Keeping in touch

### Y Llychau

Please submit all articles and contributions to:

Andrew Hill, King's Court, Talley,  
SA19 7AX

[kateandandrew@kingscourt.cymru](mailto:kateandandrew@kingscourt.cymru)

Latest news from Y Llychau or tag us to submit news or photos

<https://twitter.com/YLlychau>

<https://www.instagram.com/ylyllychau/>

### The Talley Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TalleyVillaGeGroup/>

### Ysgol Gynradd Talyllychau

Ffôn/Tel: 01558 685356

Ebost/Email:

[admin@talley.ysgolccc.org.uk](mailto:admin@talley.ysgolccc.org.uk)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/YsgolGynraddTalyllychau/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/YGTalyllychau>

### Ysgol Gynradd TalyllychauCRhA / Talley PTA

<https://www.facebook.com/YsgolGynraddTalyllychauCRhA/>

Chairperson: Emily Ashdown

Ebost/Email: [talleyschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:talleyschoolpta@gmail.com)

### TCAA

Chairperson: Linda Tame

### Cwmdu Inn, Shop and Post Office

01558 685156

<http://www.cwmdu.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CwmduInn/>

### Llansawel

<https://www.llansawel.org.uk/>

### Talyllychau

<http://www.talley.org.uk/local-events/>

<http://www.talley.org.uk>

History archive:

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/users/29936>

Contact Y Llychau to add or update details.

## Next Edition...

- Contributions as soon as possible, check with the editor for deadlines.
- **Name that dog competition** – please send a picture of your dog, with its name and where it lives.
- Send us additional **useful contact details** (or changes) for this page.
- Send us your **life hacks for a spring clean**. That good idea you wish you learnt years ago!

I'll also be consulting on the timing of publications, so let me know your thoughts or other ideas for the Y Llychau. Thank you.