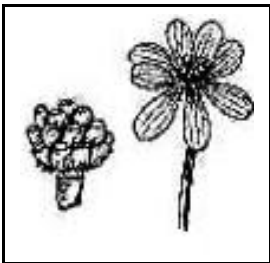


THE BRIDGE



Lesser Celandine

Ranunculus ficaria



The Lesser Celandine is a herald of spring sometimes seen as early as late January, quite often beginning to appear towards the end of February, and becoming abundant through March and April. It is a member of the buttercup genus and, despite appearances, is without petals - what appear to be yellow petals are in fact the sepals, the outer ring, but brightly coloured. There are between eight and twelve of these (sometimes more), while three green bracts take the place of the sepals below. Celandines grow on hedgebanks, in woods and other shady places, and (alas) all too readily in gardens, where it is an invasive weed, spreading readily as it does both from seeds and bulbils - though garden varieties (like 'Brazen Hussy') have also been developed. The plant has heart-shaped leaves which sometimes have lighter markings. The lesser celandine (and not the daffodil!) was the poet Wordsworth's favourite flower.

FEBRUARY 2008

No. 290

DIARY OF EVENTS - JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2008

Tue 5th Feb	Shrove Tuesday
Wed 6th Feb	Ash Wednesday - Llandysilio School Service 1.45 pm Arddleen WI
Thur 7th Feb	Four Crosses WI
Sun 10th Feb	Four Crosses YFC 'Tea and Memories', Four Crosses VC 2 pm
Mon 11th Feb	Llandrinio Mothers' Union
Wed 13th Feb	Llandrinio WI Open Meeting, with presentation of cheque to Wales Air Ambulance, and talk about their work
Thur 14th Feb	Valentine's Day Coffee Morning, Stone Grange, Llandysilio, 10.30 am Llandysilio Mothers' Union
Sat 16th Feb	Llanymynech Gardeners' Association annual lunch 'Heaven & Hell Night' at the Four Crosses Inn
Tue 19th Feb	Deanery Conference
Sat 23rd Feb	Llandrinio MU Coffee Morning (for 'Make a Mother's Day') 10 am to 12 noon at the Rectory - all welcome
Sun 24th Feb	Llandysilio School PTA Sponsored Walk Youth Group re-starts, 4.30 pm
Mon 25th Feb	Beginning of 'Fairtrade Fortnight' Fairtrade event at Welshpool Methodist Church
Sat 1st Mar	Whist Drive, Llandrinio Village Hall Llanfair Male Voice Choir at Four Crosses VC, 7.30 pm Musical Talent Show for 'Starlight', at Theatr Clera
Sun 2nd Mar	Mothering Sunday Special services at Llandysilio (11.15 am) and Llandrinio (4.30 pm)
Thur 6th Mar	Bingo Evening at Criggion Village Hall
Sun 9th Mar	Youth Group meeting, 4.30 pm
Tue 11th Mar	Royal British Legion Branch Meeting, 7.45 pm
Fri 14th Mar	Prize Bingo, Llandrinio Village Hall, 7.30 pm
Sun 16th Mar	Palm Sunday
Thur 20th Mar	School Term ends / Maundy Thursday
Fri 21st Mar	Good Friday Children's Easter Workshop at Llandrinio Church, 4.30 pm
Sun 23rd Mar	Easter Day
Sun 30th Mar	Group 'Lady Day' Service at Penrhos Parish Church

LLANDRINIO VILLAGE HALL

available for
meetings, parties, dances etc
Fully licensed bar

Booking Secretary

Mrs Olive Evans
01938 556680

Each week at Llandrinio Village Hall

Tuesdays:

Karate 6-8 pm

Bingo 7.30 pm

Salsa Dance Lessons 8 pm

Wednesdays:

Age Concern from 10 am

Bridge 7.30 pm

Women's Institute 7.30 pm

(2nd Wednesday in each month)

Thursdays:

Playgroup 10 am

Bowls 7.30 pm

Saturdays:

Whist Drive (1st in each month)

Thanks and Good Wishes

- Congratulations to Sarah Stowey (nee Jay of Bausley, now of Silverstone). A baby daughter Gemma, born on Christmas Day 2007. Congratulations to both Sarah and husband Richard.
- Thanks to Hubert and Glenys Jones for their kind loan of a tractor and plough for the Plough Sunday service at Llandrinio Church on 20th January - too big to get into church . . . but thankfully the weather held, and we were all able to go outside for a special prayer of blessing at the end of the service.
- Steve Winter's band of carol singers and musicians performed outside the Shop and Post Office in Llandrinio just before Christmas and raised £150 for the Llanfyllin section of the North Powys Youth Band. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Why Fairtrade?

On Monday February 25th, Martha Musonza -Holman is visiting Welshpool to mark the start of Fairtrade Fortnight. She was born in Zimbabwe and will visit the Methodist Church for their coffee morning, where she will also be selling crafts from Zimbabwe. In the afternoon she will be visiting the High School and will run two workshops for Year 7 (the first year in Secondary schools) and will be selling her crafts after school.

On Saturday March 1st (St David's Day, of course) there will be a Tasting Session in the Corn Exchange. We hope this will allay people's fears that Fairtrade products aren't as tasty as others!

The Fairtrade movement started so that small-scale growers in the developing world who supply goods to the West get a fair and, just as importantly, stable price for their produce. Fairtrade pays that price and also a social premium for investment in community projects. Where Fairtrade is not present unscrupulous middlemen often exploit and cheat growers. Slave labour still exists and children can be sold and trafficked into a life of misery on cocoa plantations, which produce our chocolate.

Welshpool Fairtrade Town Group is still very new - we started in September 2007. In November the Town Council voted to make Welshpool a Fairtrade Town and imagine our delight when Powys was awarded Fairtrade Status in December! However, we still have a long way to go to raise people's awareness of the reasoning behind Fairtrade and the need to buy Fairtrade products where possible.

Several retail outlets in Welshpool already stock Fairtrade products and there is at least one café. We need to build on this and involve businesses and other employers. One of our future aims is to produce a leaflet listing all outlets where Fairtrade goods may be purchased.

PTO

How can you help?

[From Previous Page]

- Come along to the Fairtrade Fortnight events in Welshpool.
- Let us know about Fairtrade items being stocked and/or used in the area.
- Buy items with the Fairtrade logo (that chocolate bar won't feel so decadent).
- Join the Welshpool Fairtrade Group - after all 'many hands make light work'.

You can contact me, Lynette Davies, on 01691 839917 or lynette43davies@btinternet.com I look forward to hearing from you.

POSTAGE STAMPS Thank you to the people who have saved their postage stamps for me. They've come from here, there and everywhere, but not a lot from Llandrinio. I know that there are lots of charities that ask for them, so perhaps they will benefit as well as Hope House. Letter writing is not as popular as it used to be, but please don't throw away your stamp when you receive one. *Glad Jones*

news FROM CLASSES M & J AT LLANDYSILIO CHURCH IN WALES SCHOOL

We began the New year with eight new pupils in our to Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes, all of whom have settled in very quickly.

This half term we are looking at water and weather, a rather apt topic with all the flooding around us at present. There is a weather station in one of the classes and the children have been busy filming themselves reporting the weather with our Digital Blue video cameras. The children are awaiting the arrival of an aqua-play system very soon, so that they will be able to build and control canal systems in their other role-play area.

Recently we had a visit from the Book-Runner and also Darren Mayor for an Impact Team assembly, both activities which the pupils really enjoy. In their art-work the children are working with clay, and at the moment there are coil pots everywhere! Dina and Wally, our Dinosaur School puppets, are working hard with the children on developing really good listening skills.

There is an Ash Wednesday school service at Llandysilio Church on Wednesday 6th February at 1.45 pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Happy New Year from all of us at Llandysilio School!

FORTHCOMING PTA EVENTS

Sponsored walk on 24th February - see next page.

Car Boot on Sunday April 13th, 10.00 am to 12 noon

Clothes Collection - also Sunday April 13th, at the Village Centre, Four Crosses, between 2 and 4 pm. Or if you can't store your bags don't worry - call the school (830339) and we will collect your bags.

Remember we still collect empty ink cartridges for recycling - all the money raised goes to help with much-needed equipment for the school.

Kim Negri

MY WORD and lots more new ones!

I started school just after my 4th birthday, and I don't suppose my vocabulary was very extensive then - I understood that at playtime we played games, and at school I learned about scripture and arithmetic. However, when I moved on to High School gradually I began to learn a new language. I went to P.T., R.I. and Maths lessons. I didn't go to the pictures any more, I went to the flocks, and the wireless became a radio. The back kitchen became the utility room, and lavatory across the yard was now called the loo (and sometimes the bog!).

When war started in 1939 we soon learned about the ARP Wardens and the LSV who took care of us in the village, and we realised how fortunate we were when doodlebugs were destroying the towns and cities. I wonder why they called those bombs by such a name? I thought that to doodle was to idly scribble, and bugs were horrid things that bite!

So many words come into my mind, and I think there may be others about my age who are hearing a new vocabulary that I'm struggling with. My grandson has a computer and it seems to be controlled by a 'mouse'. Now, I've always known that a mouse is a small grey furry little thing that cats chase, but I'm proved wrong because this mouse is made of grey plastic and has to be moved by hand. It provides information on the screen of the computer. Amazing! And how I envy the youngsters who are taught to use these machines, even at primary school.

Can I just mention a few words? Ebay, blog, download, Google, firewall, Wikipedia, search engine, antivirus. What do they all mean? Ah! Well, I think I've had My Word - so maybe I should send it all to the Rector on www.llandrinio.org.uk, or bridgemag@bilkro.fsnet.co.uk - but I don't think I will, I'll just pop it through his letter-box!! Tonight I shall watch the TV and get back to my knitting and a language that I understand :-

K1. P1. K2 tog. K1. S1 pssso. K1 - T.T.F.N. *Glad Jones*

LLANDYSILIO CHURCH IN WALES SCHOOL PTA

Llandysilio School is holding a **SPONSORED WALK** on
SUNDAY 24th FEBRUARY

All are welcome, and sponsorship forms are available from PTA members. All the money raised will go towards much needed school funds. The route will mean walking down the Domgay Road - please note all parents and carers are responsible for their own children.

**CAN ALL CAR DRIVERS PLEASE SLOW DOWN ON THIS SUNDAY
AROUND FOUR CROSSES AS THE WALK IS GOING ON - THANKS!**

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when looked at in the right way, did not become even more complicated."
Paul Anderson

CHORAL CONCERT - A choral concert at Four Crosses Village Centre, in support of Llandysilio Parish Church is planned for Saturday 1st March, St David's Day. See page 6 for full details.

FAMILY PRIZE BINGO - there will be a Prize Bingo on Friday March 14th at 7.30 pm, in Llandrinio Village Hall. The last prize bingo, in November, made £341 for Guide Dogs; thanks to all who supported us, and to those who gave donations and prizes.
Carol, Ang & Olive

BINGO AT CRIGGION VILLAGE HALL - There will be a Bingo Evening at Criggion Village Hall on Thursday March 6th at 7.30 pm.

COFFEE MORNING - By kind permission of Mrs Philippa Shapter, a Coffee Morning will be held at Stone Grange, Llandysilio, on Thursday 14th February from 10.30 am, to raise funds towards the renovation of the Garden of Remembrance in Llandysilio Churchyard. Entrance is £2.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BRANCH MEETING - The next Branch Meeting of the Llandrinio Branch, the Royal British Legion, will be held at the Golden Lion Hotel, Four Crosses, on Tuesday 11th March, at 7.45 pm.

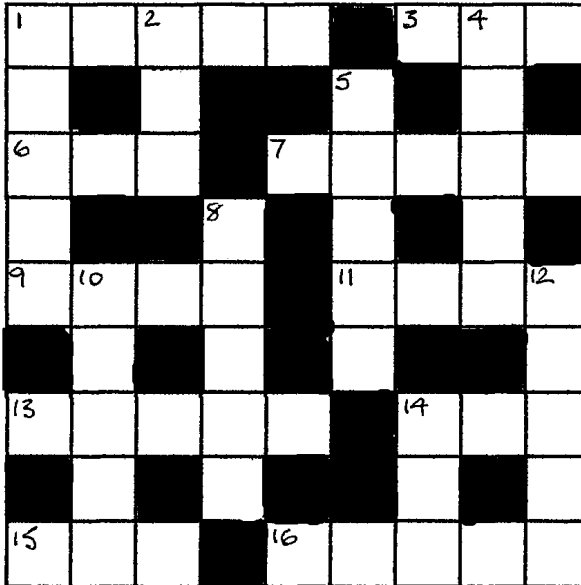
MOTHERING SUNDAY - A special Family Service for Mothering Sunday will be held at Llandysilio Parish Church on Sunday 2nd March at 11.15 am. This will be a short service with lots to do for young children, and there will be gifts of flowers and cards for children to take to mothers, grans etc. All are very welcome.

'DUCHESS COUNTESS' BOW KNIFE

The original 'Duchess Countess' packet boat ended its days on the bank of the Llangollen canal, where it was eventually burnt. Two items salvaged from the boat, however, namely the Bow Knife and a name-plate, can be seen in the Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire. Funds have been raised for a replica to be made of the Bow Knife, which would have been used for cutting through ropes and other items that impeded the boat's progress, and a local blacksmith has been engaged to make it. The replica will, it is proposed, be dedicated in memory of the late Geoff Gilman, a great enthusiast for the restoration of the Montgomery Canal, in recognition of his strong support of the 'Duchess Countess' project.

Completion of the replica Bow Knife symbolises the beginning of the work to re-create the boat, and the 'Packet Boat Duchess-Countess Trust' is well under way with negotiations with partners and possible funders. A lot of money will be needed to complete this project, as will a strong and committed membership. The Trust is looking for new members (annual fee £10), and also is hoping existing members will take out Bronze (5 year @ £50), Silver (10 year @ £100) or Gold (life @ £300 / £450 joint life) membership. To know more, contact the Trust c/o 12 Cae Haidd, Llanymynech SY22 6FA.

Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS:

- 1 - 19th century monarch receives no order with sound of engines? (5)
 3 - Question: job failed to begin (3)
 6 - Western commercial bundle (3)
 7 - Skivvy left in keep (5)
 9 - 51 books to bandage (4)
 11 - Number beginning nuclear impact, neutrons emitted (4)
 13 - Stick a very loud 11 (5)
 14 - Douglas perhaps reversed timeless breach (3)
 15 - Alternatively, earth's first lode (3)
 16 - 500:1, 10:1, evens to start with, down south (5)

DOWN:

- 1 - Wove confused Latin letter (5)
 2 - Not even strange (3)
 4 - River without river number (5)
 5 - Brief affair with fast Heather (5)
 8 - Remove clothes from long thin piece (5)
 10 - Friend, mostly confused, read between the lines (5)
 12 - Religious instruction in view, in mountain refuge (5)
 14 - Animal trick (3)

Answers on page 16 (Web - page 18)

Tea and Memories

Four Crosses and District Young Farmers Club are celebrating our 75th Anniversary this year and are in the process of producing an anniversary book which will include stories, photographs and adverts. We would like to invite past members to Four Crosses Village Hall on the 10th February 2008 2-4 pm to join us for a cup of tea and to share your memories and photographs. We can scan your precious photographs for publication in our anniversary booklet. If there is anyone who is unable to come on that day but have anything they would like to share with us they can get in touch with Denise Williams on 01691 830327 or Mark Foulkes on 01691 830285.

John Morris

Christmas Quiz

The Christmas Quiz organised by Sylvia Jones raised a total of £42, divided between the Breast Cancer Unit at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, and the Wales Air Ambulance. The winning entry came from Keith Shuttleworth.



**A CHORAL
CONCERT
FOR**

**ST DAVID'S
DAY
SAT 1ST MARCH**

**LLANFAIR CAEREINION
MALE VOICE CHOIR**

FOUR CROSSES VILLAGE CENTRE

**7.30 PM, TICKETS £7.50 INCL
'THEMED' REFRESHMENTS**

JANUARY WHIST DRIVE

11½ TABLES M/C DAI LEWIS

Ladies: 1 Mrs M Williams; 2 Mrs
M Charles; 3 Mrs Vi VaughanGents: 1 Geoff Thomas; 2 E Lloyd;
3 E. ThomasKO: 1 Mr Roberts & Mrs Isaac
2 Mrs M Breeze & Sandra
Wood**SUNDAYS AT THE FOUR
CROSSES**

Come along to the Four Crosses and enjoy our "Silly Games Sunday". We either play knockout pool or darts - or, if you're feeling more energetic, why not challenge the Wii Box! It's crazy but it's fun - gives the adults a chance to relive your youth!

LLANDYSILIO MOTHERS' UNION

Members were invited to the home of

our Branch Leader, Mrs Margaret Barlow, where we held a short meeting. Mrs Glenys Lloyd collected the annual subscriptions, and distributed the annual balance sheets. Suggestions were made for our outing in May, to be further discussed at our Annual Meeting which will be held at Four Crosses Village Centre on Thursday 14th February. Our own Rector will conduct a short service and will be our speaker for the evening. We would all like to congratulate him on his appointment as a Cursal Canon of St Asaph Cathedral, and wish him well. Before leaving we all enjoyed refreshments that Margaret had provided. Pryce Southerton and Gwen Edwards were the lucky draw prize winners. *GJ*

WALKING FOR HEALTH

I am looking to start a walking group in Llandrinio, prompted by Montgomeryshire Age Concern and local Walking for Health groups.

The walks would be easy walking around the village and neighbourhood lasting just over an hour. We would start in the village hall and return to the hall for coffee / tea and biscuits.

If there are sufficient people interested and hopefully enough leaders, there would also be a shorter walk for those who feel they cannot walk longer distances. The frequency and times etc. to be decided by the group.

Would those interested please contact me :-

Jenny Evans, Hawthorn Cottage, Llandrinio

Telephone: 01691 831389 - e-mail: brother.evans@tesco.net

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

LEMON CAKE

Ingredients : 4 oz margarine 3½ oz caster sugar
 5 oz self-raising flour 2 eggs
 2 tablespns lemon curd Sugar and lemon juice to drizzle

Method:
 1 Cream the margarine and sugar.
 2 Add the eggs, and beat together.
 3 Add the flour and lemon curd.
 4 Bake in loaf tine for one hour at 350°F (180°C, GM 4).
 5 While still hot in tin, dissolve 2 tablespoons sugar in the juice of one lemon. Drizzle over the top of the cake.
 6 Leave in the tin until cold.

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

February 1988 was a very special milestone for the 'Bridge Magazine'. It was exactly 20 years ago this month that the 50th edition was printed.

It was started in January 1984 after a brain-storming session between three members of the Village Hall Committee, Daphne Burton, Dick Jones and Jean Lewis, and had evolved from a couple of A4 sheets to a total of ten A4 sheets stapled together by the 50th edition. Back in the 80's it was painstakingly typed onto stencils, then carefully rolled out by hand on a rather rickety duplicator - all 3.450 pages of it. Flo and Graeme Robertson from Elms Cottage, Haimwood had taken over as editors from Daphne Burton, and a record number of people gave donations for that particular issue. Jean Clare was one of the typists, along with the late Edith Parks.

Readers were invited to take part in a questionnaire, to give their views on what they would like to see in the magazine. The person persuaded to take part in the Profile was the President of the WI, Doreen Barnes, who confessed to a secret ambition to fly in a hot air balloon.

There were regular weekly sessions of bowling, bingo, badminton and bridge, with youth club on a Wednesday, toddlers on a Thursday and a baby clinic every third Tuesday. Unity Residential Home for the elderly was advertising for day and night staff, and the new owners of the 'Golden Lion', Elsie and Tony Isherwood, were hoping to promote their business as a 'social centre, not just a pub', by offering a 'good range of soft drinks, morning coffee and an outdoor barbecue area.'

Glenys Jones provided the monthly recipe for marmalade, there was a gardening quiz, jokes for children, even an astrology page. The British Legion were looking forward to a busy year and appealing for new members, while the monthly whist drives were going strong - with 16 tables in January that year.

On the front cover of the 50th edition it states "Hats off to the 50th Bridge,

whodathoughtit!!" In December this year we will be celebrating the 300th edition of 'The Bridge', and it's thanks to the people over the years who have burned the midnight oil, printed, stapled and stuffed envelopes, trudged the lanes and given generous donations.

To quote a little verse tucked away at the bottom of a page in that February 1988 edition - "There are many ways of doing things
a casual glance discloses,
some folks turn up their sleeves and work,
and some turn up their noses!"

Here's to all the people with bare arms in and around Llandrinio!! *Jean Lewis*



Services in February :-

Sunday 3rd	No service	
Sunday 10th	11.00 am	J. Dyde
Sunday 17th	11.00 am	R. Hughes
Sunday 24th	11.00 am	M. Collett

Advance Notice: The united service for Good Friday this year (Friday 21st March) will be held at Llandrinio Methodist Church at 11.15 am. The service will be led by Revd Norman Price, with friends from the two parish churches warmly welcomed to join us.

BORDER SOCIAL AND SINGLES CLUB

This is a new club for people who want to go out more, meet new people and hopefully have fun. The club currently meets at the Cottage Inn, Montgomery on the first Friday of each month at 7.30 pm. In the near future we will be organising some nights out, e.g. bowling, cinema, meals, dances. Come in for a drink and a chat - you will receive a warm welcome.

Which years are leap years?

2008 is a Leap Year, and so we have a 29th day of February. This happens once every four years, as we all know, because years aren't exactly 365 days long, so there has to be an adjustment. Leap years happen whenever the year is divisible by 4. Or do they?

This was the rule in the old Julian calendar, but in fact the year isn't exactly 365¼ days long, either (it's actually 365.2422 days). So with the introduction of the Gregorian calendar, now used by most modern countries, the following rules decide which years are leap years:

- (1) Years divisible by 4 are normally Leap Years; **but**
- (2) years divisible by 100 are NOT Leap Years; **except**
- (3) when the year is also divisible by 400, then it IS still a Leap Year.

That's why 1800 and 1900 were not Leap Years, but the year 2000 was. 2100, 2200 and 2300 won't be Leap Years either, but 2400 will be. Italy, Portugal, Poland and Spain adopted the Gregorian Calendar in 1582, but it wasn't introduced in Britain until 1752 (when 11 days were lost in September).

A Word to the WISE¹¹

Those of us with ready access to cars can sometimes forget just how isolated those who don't can feel in small rural communities. We're lucky round here that we have good local shops and other facilities, and I suppose we're also lucky that we do have buses into our local towns, but these are somewhat few and far between, it has to be admitted.

So a bit of a pat on the back for those in charge, for the fact that the rather silly cuts made to the D74 service into Shrewsbury have for the most part been reversed (as from 10th December last), and in particular the (to my mind) crazy notion that passengers should be required to change buses at Ford. We now have the service back more or less as it was before, except for the last bus into Shrewsbury which no-one much used ever, anyway. There is still one bus - the last out of Shrewsbury at 5.50 pm - that requires a change at Ford off the Welshpool X75 onto the D74, but in that direction at least you do know the bus will be waiting there for you.

But I'm sure I'm right in assuming that 'use it or lose it' will be the order of the day. So do use the buses if you can; even if you do have a car, be a bit green now and again and leave it behind! Bus times into Shrewsbury are :-

7.45 arriving 8.30; 9.55 arriving 10.40; 12.55 arriving 13.40 and 15.30 arriving 16.04. All these go through to the bus station, and all but the last go via Gains Park and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Departure times are from Four Crosses - add about 3 minutes for departures from Llandrinio, and remember (since the timetable doesn't say this) that buses are permitted to go two or three minutes BEFORE the stated time under the terms of the contract.

Buses back leave Shrewsbury at 8.45, 11.50, 13.50, 16.20 and 17.50. The first four all come through to our villages, with a journey time of about 40 minutes to Llandrinio, 45 to Four Crosses. The last is the X75 as far as Ford, connecting with an 1810 departure from Ford, 1835 to our villages and beyond.

For those behind the wheels of your own vehicles, watch out for some really vicious potholes that have opened up over the past few weeks. There's a specially large selection of potholes on the road into Four Crosses from Llandrinio, with some nasty ones on the sharp bend before Sarn Wen Cottages - though the worst have now been filled. If going wide to avoid holes be aware how narrow the road is here, and of traffic coming the other way. I always feel that on that bend an accident is overdue to happen, and I just hope I'm wrong.

A recent survey revealed that many motorists head out onto the roads on frosty mornings without properly clearing their screens and other windows first - and I do admit I have been at fault here myself. A trivial incident a short while back demonstrated to me just how little peripheral vision I actually had - and how that might inconvenience and endanger both myself and others. So my New Year's driving resolution is to take a bit more time, and get clear before I go.

LLANDRINIO PARISH CHURCH and the churches of the Border **Bridges Group**

SUNDAY SERVICES THIS MONTH

FLOWERS

3rd	Next before Lent	9.00 Holy Communion	Mrs L. Roberts
10th	Lent 1	6.30 Evening Service	<i>No flowers</i>
17th	Lent 2	11.15 Family Comm / Baptism	<i>during</i>
24th	Lent 3	11.15 Holy Communion	<i>Lent</i>

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday this year is 6th February, and there will be a service of Holy Communion at LLANDYSILIO church at 7.30 pm. There will also be the School Service earlier that day at 1.45 pm. Please note there will be no midweek communion service on Tuesdays 5th or 12th February.

SERVICE OF LIGHTS

A special Service of Lights to begin the season of Lent will be held at Llandrinio Church on Sunday 10th February, at 6.30 pm, in place of the usual service of Evening Prayer. We shall be using some of the traditional prayers and responses for the season of Lent, with appropriate hymns and their stories.

FAMILY WORSHIP

Our next family communion service takes place on Sunday 17th February at 11.15 am, and our theme will be 'Following Jesus'. As well as the usual children's activities etc, this service will include the Baptism of Kate Helen Owen. The March family service, on Sunday 16th, falls on Palm Sunday, and there will be (weather permitting) a procession with palms. There will be an additional family communion service on Easter Day, with an Easter Egg Hunt.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

There will be special services for Mothering Sunday around our churches on Sunday March 2nd. At Llandrinio there will be a family service with gifts of cards and flowers at 4.30 pm. This is in addition to the usual service of Holy Communion at 9 am on that day.

LENT GROUPS

Groups will be meeting for Lenten study on Wednesday mornings and Friday evenings. For venues and other details please see the notices in church.

SERVICES AT THE OTHER CHURCHES [* = Holy Communion]

	Llandysilio	Penrhos	Criggion
3rd	11.15 *	11.15	10.00 *
10th	9.00 *	11.15 *	10.00 *
17th	11.15	9.00 *	10.00 *
24th	9.00 *	10.00 *	10.00 *

It has been announced that the Revd Bill Rowell is to be the new Vicar of Welshpool with Castle Caereinion and Pool Quay. He will move to take up this new post in the early summer.

FEATHER REPORT Musings from the Rectory Garden

As I write this, my report form for the Big Garden Birdwatch has just arrived. By the time you read this, that will have happened (the weekend of 26th/27th January). I wonder what I'll have seen? It's tempting to treat it in a competitive spirit, hoping my garden might have more (and more interesting) birds than anyone else's. In reality, as I keep reminding myself, it's a serious survey which helps conservationists build up an accurate picture of how our birds are faring.

I am unlikely to see any swans in my garden. But I find myself thinking about swans this month, having recently taken a stroll along the canal towpath where I was quite surprised by the numbers of swans there were around. These are our familiar mute swans, of course. In fact, this bird isn't entirely mute, despite its name. It hisses and snorts when angry - and mute swans are quite often angry, being rather quarrelsome birds and often the bullies of the lake or pond - and it does also have a rather feeble trumpeting call.

The mute swan is the only wild swan resident in Britain - and it is a genuinely wild bird, despite the 'ownership' of Thames swans by the Crown or livery companies, and swanneries such as the one at Abbotsbury, Dorset where, sadly, there has been a recent diagnosis of bird flu. The orange bill and curved neck of the mute swan are distinguishing marks; the cob or male swan has a larger black crown to the bill than that of the pen, or female bird.

Two winter swans are regular visitors to - mostly - the north and east of our islands, the whooper swan and Bewick's swan. Both have yellow and black bills, and straighter necks than that of the mute swan. They are also much noisier birds. Whooper swans are the larger of the two species, and they have larger and more angular patches of yellow on their bills than the Bewick's swan. They are both birds of the wild Arctic (though, despite the confident assertion in my opening sentence to the previous paragraph, whoopers have been known to stay to nest in the very far north of Scotland!). Whooper and Bewick's swans have benefited from the reserves created by the Wildfowl Trust, and both species can be seen in winter at their Martin Mere reserve in Lancashire, while Bewick's are also a feature of the best-known Wildfowl Trust refuge at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire. Generally, the further south you are, the more likely it is that the winter swan you see will be a Bewick's swan.

All three swans are vegetarians, who often up-end themselves in the water to feed on submerged plants. Whooper swans can also be found grazing in stubble fields, particularly as the weather turns colder. The huge flocks of swans that gather in places like Martin Mere and Slimbridge really are a sight to see; more locally small groups may turn up from time to time, generally in passage.

These three species are the only wild swans to be seen in Britain, but since other swans find their way into wildfowl collections, and sometimes escape, there are here and there black swans (from Australia) and black-necked swans (from South America) to be seen, among others.

TABERNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARDDLEEN

Sunday services for February.

3rd	11.00 am	Rev. S. Brocket
10th	11.00 am	Rev. S. Brocket
17th	to be announced	
24th	10.30 am	Joint Communion Service at Groes

'Come and Worship' is held on the first and third Sunday of each month in the schoolroom at 7.00 pm For any enquiries, please contact our church secretary, Mrs Vena Jones on 01938 590350.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL. REQUESTS FOR PRAYER ARE INVITED.

YGol - Youth Group Of Llandrinio

Meetings have been arranged on the following Sunday afternoons, 4.30 to 6 pm: 24th February, 9th March, 13th and 27th April, and 11th May. Young people aged 8 or over are welcome, fee £1 per session, please. Unless otherwise advised, all these meetings will be in Llandrinio Village Hall.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK SERVICE

A special service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held at Llandrinio Village Hall on Monday 21st January, with representatives of many of our local churches and chapels taking part. The service had been prepared by Mr Ged Cliffe with local church leaders, and the preacher was Revd Chris Penn. Readers and prayer leaders represented local Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, and singing was accompanied by piano and violin. This was the 100th year of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and this year's theme, 'Pray without Ceasing' came from the United States where the custom began. Refreshments were provided by members of Llandrinio Parish Church.

ADVERTISERS

We are very grateful to the advertisers who support the production and printing of this magazine, and at the same time we are pleased to support local business by providing a platform. We ask advertisers to make a donation of £5 per quarter, £10 per half year, £15-£20 for a year. Regular advertisers please note that many of our ads are now due for renewal: our thanks to those who have already renewed their ads. Please contact Llandrinio Shop or Revd Bill Rowell to ensure we continue to carry yours if you haven't yet.

We are always happy to carry want-ads or adverts for local and social events, and we make no charge for this, though we do appreciate donations towards our costs. The magazine is of course distributed to every household in Llandrinio, and to many beyond.

Please note that the web version of 'The Bridge' does not carry advertisements. To have a listing on our web pages, please contact the Webmaster.

SHOWTIME FOR STACEY

You'll have seen in the last two editions of 'The Bridge' mention of a Musical Talent Show to be held on Saturday 1st March at Theatre Clera in Welshpool. 14 year old Stacey Evans, who is a pupil at Welshpool High School, read about the charity 'Starlight' - which brightens the lives of seriously and terminally ill children. She was so touched by the stories that she wanted to do something to help.

So she issued an open invitation to anyone with an interest in music to come along and compete for the top prizes of £30 for a solo or duet, or £150 for groups. The entry fee is £2.50 per person, and applications must be received by 10th February. Forms are available from Stacey herself, who is in Class 9C (mobile 07922 969280 after 4 pm), or from Oliver Evans (01938 556680).

Stacey is no stranger to fund-raising. Though this is her first major charity event, she has previously organised sponsored bike rides on two separate occasions while she was a pupil at Leighton Primary School. She has also been involved in raising money for good causes with her family since she was a little tot.

The curtain goes up on Saturday 1st March at 7 pm, and admission is £2.50 by ticket only. Tickets are available by contacting Stacey or Olive on the numbers given above, or you can buy them over the counter at Llandrinio Service Station (01691 830102). If you'd like to know more about the work of the Starlight Children's Foundation (Reg Charity 296058) why not take a look at their website - www.starlight.org.uk?

WEEKLY EVENTS AT THE 'FOUR CROSSES' PUB

There's a lot going on at the Four Crosses. For instance, Monday is quiz night from 9 pm - a great chance to test your knowledge. It's £1 per person to play, plus Play Your Cards Right - turn over all seven cards correctly and win the cash jackpot. It's a good fun night to relax and have a laugh.

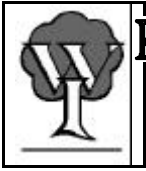
On Tuesdays the Crosses has a free Pool Night. From 6 pm you're welcome to come along and play as many games as you like.

And on Saturday February 16th there is a special HEAVEN AND HELL Night, with (optional) fancy dress. Are you an 'angel' or a 'devil'? Join in the fun from 8 pm until late - disco karaoke night with DJ Mark and Amanda.

The Crosses has lots of events through the year. Watch out for the 'Beach Party' - get out those shorts, shirts 'n' shades!

"The main purpose of children's parties is to remind you that there are kids in the world even more awful than your own"

Katharine Whitehorn



REPORTS

LLANDRINIO

After a very successful Christmas Dinner and shopping expedition in early December to the Old Station at Welshpool, arranged by Glenys, we held our monthly meeting at the Village Hall on Wednesday December 12th. This was the last meeting for Lynn as President and Julia as Secretary.

The business meeting proceeded in the usual fashion. The efforts of Sylvia, Lynn, Maxine, Cicely and all others who donated prizes, supported and helped at our tombola stall at the Christmas Fair were given great appreciation by the meeting, and it was reported the stall raised £122 for the Village Institute. Also the work of Annette and her husband David with our WI calendar was once again given special mention. The Christmas outing was applauded, but it was felt that perhaps in the future a less formal and more sociable setting might be considered.

Lynn thanked the members and officers for their support during her time as President, and was herself thanked for her leadership and input into the Institute's efforts and activities, along with the other officers who had given much time and support during the year.

The highlight of the evening was the competition - some entertainment, i.e. 'My Favourite Recipe', with samples as supper. So many scrumptious offerings were presented by members, both sweet and savoury, for the meeting to sample. In the end it was decided that a competition was inappropriate but that all who had contributed would receive an 'entry point'. Gretta and Annette won the prizes in the raffle.

The January meeting took place on Wednesday 9th with the new President Maxine and her committee in the driving seat. There were 19 members and one visitor present, of which one was a member returning to the fold, with new and prospective members. Written minutes of the December meeting were circulated, and it was noted that Eileen had apologised for her absence. The meeting at Margaret's for the 'WI of the Year' presentation took place on 4th January, with a further meeting on 10th January. It seems more than likely that we will get automatic entry into the first round, as at present there are only a small number of entries.

The coffee morning at Margaret's raised £74.10 for funds. There will probably be other coffee mornings and fund raising events in the summer. This was discussed but nothing was finalised. Some yearly subscriptions were collected, and a possible summer trip further afield was discussed.

The calendar reached its target of £1,600 and the cheque will be presented to a representative of Air Ambulance Wales at 8 pm at our next meeting on February 13th, followed by a talk on the work of the Air Ambulance. This is a completely

open meeting for the whole village. WI members meet at 7.15 pm.

The talk by Mr Brian Goodwin on bees was lengthy but informative, the speaker having great enthusiasm for his subject. Gems of wisdom such as local honey being less refined than the cheaper runny, also better for allergies which are often caused by local pollens.

The hostess kept within the spirit of the decision to reduce the scope of the catering. The Draw was won by new member Irene Price.

FOUR CROSSES

Despite the cold and damp weather members attended the first WI meeting of 2008 in the Village Centre. Our President, Kathleen Foulkes, welcomed us all and wished us a happy New Year. Jean Foulkes, Secretary, had not yet returned from her holiday, and so Isobel Jones stood in and read the minutes of the last meeting. An invitation had been received from Welshpool WI to attend their meeting on March 12th, which will be a 'Welsh Evening'.

We had looked forward to our speaker, Revd Bill Rowell, and we were not disappointed. It was a change to have a musical evening, and we were able to sit back and listen to music specially chosen by the Rector, beginning with Pachelbel's Canon, and ranging via the Beatles and Welsh singer-songwriter Martyn Joseph, to a west country carol sung in traditional folk style by Maddy Prior and the Carnival Band. To conclude, the Rector offered us his own rendition of 'Panis Angelicus', which was worth the applause.

Marion James proposed the vote of thanks, and invited us to take refreshments supplied by Betty Davies and herself. While supping our tea we all attempted a quiz which had been compiled by the Revd Rowell. Ann Rowell and Kathleen Foulkes were joint winners, and Betty Davies won the raffle prize. The next meeting will be on 7th February, when our speaker will be from Cae Post and the subject 'Recycling'. New members will be made very welcome.

ARDDLEEN

President Chris Hillidge opened the meeting and welcomed us all to the New Year, hoping we had had a good Christmas. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Doreen Lawson. Events and competitions were discussed for the coming year.

Our speaker for the evening was Maureen Preen, who showed us some very interesting slides of her travels abroad. Another very interesting subject was how she specialises in spinning dog hair, which she uses in her craft work. She also told members that if they had any dog hair she could spin in for them, to use for knitting. Sue Lampshire thanked her for a very interesting evening. The competition to draw a daffodil was won by Sue Lampshire, and the flower of the month winner was Elaine Gittens. The next meeting will be on February 6th, at 7.30 pm, in Arddleen Village Hall.

Thank You!

... to everyone who helps produce, print and deliver The Bridge' month by month. Thanks also to the many people who give donations, this month including :-

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 Merlin Ellis, Sarnau
 Mary Jones, Criggion
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The
Back Page

NOBODY LIKES YOU WHEN YOU GROW UP

Nobody likes you when you grow up,
 Nobody offers to steady your cup,
 Feeds you food on the end of a fork,
 Or thinks that you're great for learning to walk.

Nobody holds your hand on the stair,
 Or whips out a comb to tidy your hair,
 Rubs your face to get rid of the dirt,
 Kisses you better whenever you hurt.

When things you touch just happen to break,
 Nobody says, "It was just a mistake.
 Oh, whoops-a-daisy! We'll pick it up!"
 No - nobody likes you when you grow up!

"To admit you were wrong yesterday is simply
 to let the world know that you are wiser today
 than you were then." - Dean Swift

Visiting a small country school, an inspector was given the head teacher's office to work in. But as he sat there he became irritated at the noise the children were making in the classroom next door. Finally he went in, grabbed one of the taller girls who seemed to be doing most of the talking, and told her to stand in the corner of the head's office and not say a word. Peace reigned for a few minutes until a small boy stuck his head round the door and said, plaintively, "Please sir, could we have our teacher back now?"

Crossword Answers from page 5 (Web page 7)

AC 1 - VROOM; 3 - ASK; 6 - WAD; 7 - SLAVE; 9 - LINT; 11 - NINE; 13 - AFFIX; 14 - FIR; 15 - ORE; 16 - DIXIE

DN 1 - VOWEL; 2 - ODD; 4 - SEVEN; 5 - FLING; 8 - STRIP; 10 - INFER; 12 - EYRIE; 14 - FOX

**Copy for the March 'Bridge' by 15th February, please, to:
 Mrs Jean Lewis, The Garage, Llandrinio SY22 6SB (830102) or
 Revd W Rowell, The Rectory, Four Crosses SY22 6RW (830533)
 Electronic copy is very acceptable, preferably as MS Word file -
 Email to - bridgemag@bilkro.fsnet.co.uk**