

THE BRIDGE



www.llandrinio.org.uk



Daffodil

*Narcissus
pseudonarcissus (etc)*



Is the Daffodil the quintessential flower of early Spring? I'm sure it is, even if primroses and crocuses might wish to stake their claim. Wild daffodils are a very special sight, with a delicate sulphur yellow quite different from the brash colour of the Dutch bulbs in our gardens.

The borders of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire around Ledbury, Newent and especially the little village of Dymock, are good places to view wild daffs in all their glory. They like damp woodland habitats - don't pick, though! They're strictly protected by law.

The Tenby Daffodil is rarer still - a species known only from a few sites in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen, and unknown outside Britain. It seems it was once to be found in this part of the country, and could be descended from an early garden variety.

And our common or garden Daffodils are lovely anyway! Some have been out since January, and they'll be cheering us on through Spring until well after Easter I hope. So keep planting the bulbs!

MARCH 2008

No. 291

DIARY OF EVENTS - MARCH & APRIL 2008

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)
Wed 5th Mar	Arddleen WI
Thur 6th Mar	'Walking for Health' Llandrinio Village Hall Committee 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
Wed 12th Mar	Llandrinio WI
Thur 13th Mar	Llandysilio Mothers' Union, 7.30 pm
Fri 14th Mar	Prize Bingo, Llandrinio Village Hall, 7.30 pm
Sun 16th Mar	Palm Sunday
Tue 18th Mar	Pradoe Singers: 'Crucifixion' at Llandrinio Church, 7.30 pm
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 Auditions for 'Les Miserables'
Sun 30th Mar	Group 'Lady Day' Service at Penrhos Parish Church, 10.30 am
Thur 3rd Apr	Llandrinio Church Annual Vestry Meeting, 7.30 pm
Fri 4th Apr	Concert for Llandrinio Village Hall funds, 7.30 pm
Sun 13th Apr	Big Curry Party (Youth Group) - details next month
Tue 15th Apr	Llandrinio Mothers' Union (probable)
Fri 18th Apr	Coffee Evening for Llandysilio Church, 4XVC, 7 pm
Sun 27th Apr	Car Boot Sale, Llandrinio Village Hall, 2 pm Youth Group meets, 4.30 pm Rogation Service / Event, Criggion Church, 6.30 pm

**Male Voice Choral Concert
at Llandrinio Village Hall
Friday 4th April - Tickets £6**

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

- Many thanks to Margaret and Harry Boyle of Orchard Croft, for their donation of Xmas lights and decorations to the Village Hall - this is most appreciated - Llandrinio Village Hall Committee.
- Thank you all once again for all the used stamps I've received and passed on to Hope House. Keep saving! I know there won't be so many until Christmas comes round again, but every stamp counts! - Glad Jones
- Thank you to Councillor Graham Brown for your support and for the hard work you put in for the village and village hall. - Joyce Burgoyne

MEALS ON WHEELS

It's nearly 24 years ago that we first started to deliver Meals on Wheels - 3rd April 1984, to be exact. It would be nice if we could have a few more volunteers to deliver the meals. At the moment there are only five recipients, so it doesn't take long to collect the meals, deliver them, and return the hot-lock. The present rota is made up to the end of May, so if there is anyone out there willing to give up an hour of his or her time to do a good deed for the day please phone me on 01691 830534 or ring 01691 831226 to offer your help. We deliver on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and collect our meals from the Four Crosses Inn at 12.45 pm.

Glad Jones

GARDEN REFUSE

We as a community are fortunate enough to have a garden refuse skip provided by Powys County Council, which I'm sure most people use in the correct way - though I do wonder sometimes who may have been the inventor of a skip of this construction. It is so impractical that once it is half full bags become difficult to empty. This leads to obvious frustration for those who want to use the skip as it is intended - hence the abandoning of bags and contents either inside or outside, the latter leading to an accumulation, especially in summer months.

But there are also those who blatantly disregard the rules regarding garden waste disposal. Some, even if the skip is empty, throw plastic bags, a multitude of other waste, even to such extremes as paving slabs and left-over fish and chip wrappings.

We tend to blame young people these days for not conforming, but I cannot imagine that there are too many under-20s who are disposing of garden debris, so who does that leave? Us - the so-called responsible people in our community. Although the situation is not perfect, let's not abuse what we have. Let's make the effort to ensure we keep this service. *Roger Davies (Llandrinio Comm Cllr)*

Editor's Note: On taking this further I was told that the skips were designed in-house by Powys CC. Open skips aren't permissible for health & safety reasons when sites are unsupervised, and apparently to arrange the loading access points differently would seriously weaken the structure of the skips.

Speed Limits

The Montgomeryshire Highways and Local Services Sub Committee met on 13th February 2008 and the B4393 Four Crosses to Coedway Speed Limits were discussed as part of the Agenda. The report was presented as an up-date on the present situation and a decision on the next move, if any. Firstly, I was obviously aware that a number of representations had been made by the Llandrinio Community Council regarding the new speed limits and, also, Mr & Mrs Turner, Grantley Court, had written a number of letters and forwarded a number on behalf of others. The area of complaint is the 50 mph length of road running from by the Punch Bowl to Llandrinio bridge. No representations had been received by the Council regarding any of the other areas although I am aware of concerns in the Crew Green and, particularly, the Coedway area. The report supplied evidence demonstrating that the 85th percentile speed (the speed at which 85% of traffic is travelling at or below) of traffic travelling through the centre of the village was 44.1 mph before the introduction of the 30 mph limit, 39.6 mph at the latest reading. In the 50 mph area it was 49.7 before, 50.3 at the latest reading. Similar results were recorded along the rest of the route. The readings led Council Officers to report that the 50 mph limit was appropriate for the road and the 30 mph areas showed slower speeds but still above the limit. No injury collisions had been recorded along the relevant length of the B4393 during 2007. The Police had written to say "It is interesting to note that there has been no real change as the feedback I am getting from residents states that it is much worse. Patrols have been paying attention to the area as and when other duties allow and prosecutions/cautions have been issued*...., I do not feel that there is much more that can be considered to resolve the issue completely". Further, the Welsh Assembly is responsible for producing guidance on setting speed limits in Wales and, whereas the Dept for Transport issued new guidance for England in August 2006, the Assembly is preparing their draft for consultation and expects it to be issued for use in the Summer. As part of the guidance, the Assembly will require all Local Authorities to review all their existing speed limits in accordance with the new criteria within 5 years.

Given all the above, the reports' recommendation was "that no further action with regard to speed limits is taken at this location until the Welsh Assembly Government produces their revised guidance on setting speed limits and that the required speed limit review has been completed". There was some discussion on the matter during which I raised the concerns of the community and discussed the options left with regards to enforcement of the speed limits - which I think could prove equally controversial. It would not have been feasible to argue that the speed limits be changed now as it is a very costly process and the impending guidance meant that the support of the committee would not be forthcoming. I did suggest that the Four Crosses-Coedway road should be the first to be reviewed when the guidance was published but this was followed by a number of calls from other Councillors around the Council Chamber arguing that stretches of road in

their areas were creating equal concerns - which shows what an emotionally charged, and universally widespread problem, traffic through our rural communities causes. In the end, in a bid to address the local concerns, I was successful in amending the recommendation by adding "and that in the meantime Officers continue working with the Police and local Community Councils to investigate further methods of raising the awareness of the speed limits and methods of effective enforcement" - it is envisaged that they investigate the installation of warning lights etc, to include the possible placement of permanent speed cameras through discussions with the Safety Camera Partnership. The matter has already been raised by the Llandrinio Community Council with the Police in respect of the impending Neighbourhood Policing Project to be launched in the area.

* Although not available in time for the Committee meeting I have received information from the Police confirming that, in the past 6 months, not including stop checks or warnings, the Police have issued 6 endorsable and 1 non endorsable tickets in the area.

Graham Brown, County Councillor

Young Performers Needed

Llandrinio Shows are putting on an exciting new production in the first week of May, and require a young female and male performer between the ages of 10 and 12 to play the parts of Oliver and Cossette (Les Miserables).

Anyone wishing to audition should contact Christine Jones on 07901885182 before 20th March. Auditions will take place on Sunday 23rd March.

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.

FREE TO GOOD HOME

Plastic flower pots - assorted sizes. Phone 01691 830534.

FOR SALE

JOHNSON & HOLLAND OXFORD RECLINER CHAIR

in Barcelona Sage - very good condition.

Cost new £435, will accept £100 ono.

Also - TWO-SEATER SETTEE, cream, with foot-rest - very good condition

Cost new £495, will accept £125 ono.

Contact: 01691 839542 (Llandrinio)

COFFEE EVENING

A Coffee Evening will be held at Four Crosses Village Centre on Friday 18th April, 7-9 pm, for Llandysilio Church. Entertainment by Llandysilio School.



A Profile of MIKE PALFREYMAN

Who's that new chap in the village - seems a busy old soul? Well - I was born in Woking in Surrey during the second world war. My parents' roots were in the West Midlands, although my mom was born in Bradford, but moved to Wednesbury at the age of three.

We moved back to the West Midlands towards the end of the war - only to be bombed-out of our 'new' house in Alum Rock Birmingham. Whilst I was too young to remember any detail we walked from Alum Rock in thick fog to relatives at Wednesbury - some twelve miles away. Apparently I rode in my pushchair and clutched the canary cage all the way - with Billy still whistling away despite all the glass in his cage having been broken by the bomb blast.

Apparently the 'troop' stopped for a PNB (personal needs break) at the public toilets at Scott Arms on the Birmingham / Walsall border. It was to be our lucky day. My dad found a half crown on the floor of the Gents - quite a find in those times. I still have that coin, so there was no pecuniary benefit after all.

I went to school in Wednesbury and eventually passed the 11+ for Wednesbury Boys' High School. There were around 300 pupils but - due to the pressure on lads to get out and earn - sixth form was very small. In my two years in 'the Sixth' there were five in the Science part and only one on the Arts side.

It was at that school that I developed my passion for older cars. The head had an Austin Seven. During the two years in sixth form he used to let us build the odd 'special' as long as we did the basic maintenance and cleaning of his Austin. For economic reasons (a runner could be bought for less than £1) and the fact that we had a running version as an aide - we chose an Austin Seven as our donor vehicle.

I left school in 1959 to become a Structural Steelwork Apprentice with Rubery Owen at Darlaston - 4 miles away. Having to ride my bike in all weathers - often in the dark - to work in a very dirty and noisy factory and be at the beck and call of all and sundry was a bit of a come-down from being deputy head boy. Despite that some of the pranks played on me taught me salutary lessons that I will never forget, but working in that awful place and 'to the clock' was not for me.

Within a year or so I was out one day riding my bike through Walsall when I came across a premises that bore a sign - British Railways, District Civil Engineer, Walsall. What do they do here? I wondered. Well - within less than ten minutes the exceptionally keen gateman had 'sold' me the idea that - with my Structural Engineering background - they couldn't manage without me. Whilst I waited in the gate-house an immediate interview was arranged in the drawing office. Before I could get my bike clips off I was being interviewed by the Chief Draughtsman. After less than a quarter of an hour I had agreed to an interview with The Engineer the following day. Needless to say within days I had a new career.

Continued on next page

25 Years later after designing and building a dozen, or so, bridges and a fair few miles of track in many parts of the UK, London suffered the Kings Cross Fire and Clapham. As one of the few professionally qualified Safety folk in the industry I was pressed to go to London to help sort out the mess in the management processes that had caused these events to happen, and try to prevent anything else like them happening again.

By then domestically I had moved out to rural South Staffordshire - where I lived until I moved here. To save my family the trauma of house move, I travelled from Stafford to London every day for ten years where I was Planning Manager (No. 3) to the Director Occupational Health & Safety, British Railways Board. He was a Medical Doctor, a hard drinker and heavy smoker. Weren't most doctors then ?

It was during that time that the in-house 'companies' were formed, all being directly accountable to British Railways Board. Train performance was so bad on West Coast Intercity trains that free drinks were given out when the train was running late - almost every night. What a chore. Being 'staff', protocol demanded that we 'hang-back' when the beer was handed out. I got quite an affinity for G&T - not so popular with the public traveller, apparently.

When Railtrack was to be formed in 1994 I 'jumped ship' and started my own consultancy in Occupational Safety & Health and Training. After ten years I decided to hang up my boots and move to a smaller property to play with my toys. Domgay House was the only property to provide the immediate accommodation that I needed for the 'jewels' of my collection.

Not quite so new now, I've been here just over two years - since 1st December 2005 in fact. It should have been 30th November - my birthday - but the vendor of the property would not let me in because his solicitors had not received my money! Solicitors acting for the buyer of my former property had 'lost' the money so my solicitor could not pass the money on to the solicitors of the sellers of Domgay House. Consequently I had to go back to South Staffordshire and stay with a friend.

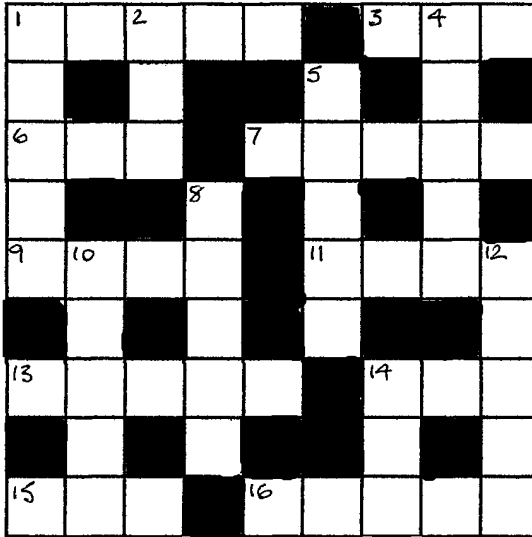
Although Domgay House had needed a lot of work - and there's still a lot more to do - the chapel is now regularly in use for services - but not the kind of previous times, or the ones that Bill Rowell is used to. Nevertheless I am often in there on my knees.

in brief

FAMILY PRIZE BINGO - there will be a Prize Bingo on Friday March 14th at 7.30 pm, in Llandrinio Village Hall. Other events coming up include a Car Boot Sale on Sunday 27th April, 2 pm (01938 556680), and a Bridge Drive on Friday 23rd May at 7.15 pm. The Bridge Drive will be in aid of the RNLI, with an entry fee of £2.50 - top winners £10 each.

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

Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS:

- 1 - Senior cleric, 100 soon (5)
- 3 - Extra breakfast you're eating, to begin with (3)
- 6 - Moan without beginning to be ill (3)
- 7 - Hear Arab ruler quiver (5)
- 9 - Farmer starts to lubricate fencing implement(4)
- 11 - Is the French Man, perhaps? (4)
- 13 - Undersea expert is a loon (5)
- 14 - A theologian to take more on (3)
- 15 - Animal doctor check (3)

DOWN:

- 1 - Taps a very loud tease (5)
- 2 - Small bird escapes net, turning over nothing (3)
- 4 - Rustic shackle, light at first (5)
- 5 - Cold thatch to sit on? (5)
- 8 - Speedy ships (5)
- 10 - Four in Spanish cry for oil (5)
- 12 - Bequeath within hidden dowry (5)
- 14 - Song style (3)

- 16 - Small animal confused her in Devon or Cornwall (5)

Answers on page 16 (Web - page 18)

Punch Bowl

Following the sell-out Mexican evening in January another is being held on Thursday 6th March to be followed by one on the first Wednesday of every month. Please book to avoid disappointment (830247). Three courses for £14.95, to include a bottle of Corona lager.

Easter weekend promises to be a busy one and we will be providing Specials throughout. Again, please book to avoid disappointment.

From the beginning of March, Monday is going to be "Pool Night" with a free table throughout the evening - if you're a keen Pool player please feel free to come along and have a game - and, if there is enough interest, we will start an in-house league. No great cash prizes but a lot of prestige for the winner!!

With many thanks for your continued support, Sue and Graham

THE IMAGES OF A MOTHER . . .

4 Year Old	My Mummy can do anything!
8 Year Old	My Mum knows a lot! A whole lot!
12 Year Old	My Mother doesn't really know quite everything.
14 Year Old	Naturally, my Mother doesn't know that, either.
16 Year Old	Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.
18 Year Old	That old woman? She's way out of date!
25 Year Old	Well, she might know a bit about it.
35 Year Old	Before we decide, let's get Mum's opinion.
45 Year Old	Wonder what Mum would have thought about it?
65 Year Old	Wish I could talk it over with Mum . . .

BORDER BRIDGES 200 CLUB WINNERS FOR JAN & FEB 2008

January - £10 each to	Mr Redvers Jones, Llandrinio Mr W.P. Jones, Llandrinio Mrs M. Wigley, Llandrinio Mrs M. Jones, Criggion Mr G. Balman, Criggion
February - £10 each to	Miss Roberts, Llansantffraid Mr W.P. Rogers, Llandrinio Miss J. Foulkes, Four Crosses Mrs W. Mottershead, Arddleen Mr & Mrs E. Wigley, Deytheur

GRADUATE VOICES

Science graduate:
"Why does it work?"
Engineering graduate:
"How does it work?"
Business Studies graduate:
"How much will it cost?"
Media Studies graduate:
"You want fries with that?"
*[With apologies to Media
Studies graduates, all of
whom no doubt have good
and fulfilling jobs . . .]*

Many thanks to all who continue to support the '200' Club, now in its 28th year!
Special thanks to Mrs Kath Foulkes who acted as Independent Examiner - a
copy of the Accounts for 2007 can be obtained from the churchwardens of any of
the churches, or from me on (01691) 831008. *Carol Davies*

"Children today know only two words - 'No' and 'Wallet'" Jasper Carrott

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

A chance to be utterly self-indulgent by making some **MARS KRISPIES**

You need: 3 Mars Bars, 3 oz butter, 3 cups of Rice Krispies, and 8 grams of chocolate.

Melt the Mars Bars and butter over low heat in a saucepan. Add the Rice Krispies and mix well. Spread the mixture on a Swiss roll tin, and leave it to cool. When cool, cover with melted chocolate, and cut into squares.

LLANDYSILIO MOTHERS' UNION

The AGM was held in the Village Centre on Thursday February 14th, followed by the monthly meeting. Mrs Margaret Barlow, Branch Leader, welcomed members and accepted apologies, and a short service was led by the Rector, with Mrs Ann Rowell playing piano to accompany the hymn.

The minutes of the 2007 AGM were read, approved and signed, and the statement of accounts was accepted. Mrs Barlow gave a detailed account of the past year's activities, and thanked everyone for their support. Special thanks were given to the Rector for his help and support, and Mrs Barlow congratulated him on becoming a curial canon of St Asaph Cathedral, also expressing regret that he would be leaving in the summer to become Vicar of Welshpool. Mrs Barlow agreed to continue as Branch Leader, with Mrs Glenys Lloyd and Mrs Glad Jones continuing as Treasurer and Minutes Secretary respectively.

There was very little business to attend to at the monthly meeting, but we look forward to an outing in May which will be organised by Glenys. Canon Rowell then spoke to us about Lent, giving a very interesting talk which was enjoyed by all. He was thanked by Mrs Barlow.

Refreshments were supplied by Jean Clare (in her absence) and Betty Davies, with Jean Rhodes helping to serve. Jean Rhodes and Glad Jones were draw prize winners. The speaker at the next meeting, on 13th March, will be Revd Hilary Jalland. *GJ*

MOTHERS' UNION "LADY DAY" SERVICE

There will be a special service at PENRHOS PARISH CHURCH on Sunday 30th March at 10.30 am, to mark the Annunciation (Lady Day) and as a Festival for Llandysilio and Llandrinio Mothers' Union Branches.

FEBRUARY WHIST DRIVE - 11½ tables, MC D. Lewis

Ladies 1) Mrs Gwen Pickstock 2) Ida Powell 3) Bernard Powell
Gents 1) April Joy 2) M. Benting 3) Ian Roberts
Knockout 1) Mrs Lloyd and Mrs Thomas
2) Mrs Williams and April Joy



Services in March (No service on March 2nd) :-

9th	11 am	Mr Brian Bedson
16th	11 am	Revd D Watkins (Palm Sunday)
23rd	11 am	Mrs Betty Hughes (Easter Day)
30th	11 am	Mr Ron Hughes

On Good Friday, 21st March, there will be a United Service at Llandrinio Methodist Church at 11.15 am, led by Revd Norman Price. The preacher will be Revd Canon Bill Rowell.

AIR AMBULANCE WALES

*Notes from the Open Meeting on 13th
February, hosted by Llandrinio WI*

The Welsh Air Ambulance, which originated in 2001, is one of the youngest charities in Wales, which was one of the last countries in Europe to have an air ambulance. By 2003 Wales had two helicopters, one based at Swansea and one at Caernarfon. In 2006 £100,000 was granted by the charity for a third helicopter in Welshpool for 3 months, and later in 2007 it became permanent.

The air ambulances in England and Wales have NO GOVERNMENT FUNDING, though those in Scotland do. The Welsh Assembly is 'for the time' giving £150,000 per year to help pay the costs of the paramedics when they are on loan from the land ambulance service. Each air ambulance costs about £1 million per year, which has to be found from fund-raising. The helicopters are leased from a private firm, and present funding allows for ten hours for seven days a week for those based in Swansea and Caernarfon, and eight hours for five days a week for the one at Welshpool. Air Ambulance Wales does get some sponsorship from big commercial companies, especially those who frequently need their services, e.g. NPower and NFV. Unlike other emergency services Air Ambulance Wales has no tax free fuel, and therefore this is their biggest financial cost. Air Ambulance Wales aims to remain a separate charity and so avoid any form of politics - though they work with the NHS, they are not part of it.

The average time for a helicopter to go from the scene of an accident to an A & E hospital is 18-20 minutes. 40 to 50% of incidents are road traffic accidents, especially motor-cycle accidents - otherwise the majority of emergencies are heart and breathing cases. The great advantage of helicopter travel, apart from speed, is that it is very smooth; there is a crew of three persons (one pilot and two paramedics), as against two persons in land-based ambulances. The helicopter normally carries one patient - in exceptional cases two can be carried, but then some equipment has to be left behind. The helicopters are not capable of night flying.

Llandrinio WI has raised over £1600 for the work of Air Ambulance Wales, through sales of its 2008 calendar, and a cheque was presented at a meeting in February (for report, see page 14 - web: page 16).

A Word to the WISE

Mike Palfreyman, who has contributed his Profile for the 'My Word' page this month, has also supplied this very useful idea from the Ambulance Service :-

<< We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than us would know if we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this '**ICE**' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency). The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognised name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialling the number you have stored as 'ICE'.

Please pass this idea on! It won't take too many 'forwards' before everybody will know about this. It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest. For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc. >>

Many of the best ideas are like that - simple, easy to carry out, with no or few cost implications - and unlikely to make any money for their inventor or initiator, though I'm sure that thought was furthest from their mind. Not from mine, though! We need to be aware just how much the human race owes to those who work, plan, invent and give support without thought for themselves, and for the noble army of **volunteers** without which our communities would be so much the poorer.

It's easy to get carried away by the notion that ours is an irredeemably selfish and materialistic society - shallow, celebrity-obsessed, etc, etc. OK, there's some of that about, and maybe rather too often that's what gets prominence and even approval in some sections of the media. But, looking a little deeper, there are plenty of people, old and young, who are net contributors to the community, looking out for one another, lending a helping hand, and generally cheering the world around them up. Bravo to you all!

A writer to the Shropshire Star not so long ago belittled those who work for nothing as idiots. He (or perhaps she) represented a sterile and uncaring way of looking at the world, and I do pity those for whom cash and flash are the only measures. The givers of this world always seem to me the happier people.

LLANDRINIO PARISH CHURCH and the churches of the Border Bridges Group
SUNDAY SERVICES THIS MONTH **FLOWERS**

2nd - Lent 4	9.00 Holy Communion	<i>No flowers</i>
	4.30 Mothering Sunday Service	<i>in church</i>
9th - Lent 5	6.30 Evening Service	<i>during Lent</i>
16th - Palm Sun	11.15 Family Communion	
23rd - Easter	11.15 Family Communion / Baptism	<i>Mr D Ingram</i>
30th - No service at Llandrinio (see below)		<i>Mr D Ingram</i>

LLANDRINIO MOTHERS UNION

The Branch AGM was held at 4 Sunnymead on Monday 11th February. After the annual and business meetings, members were able to hear about the important work of the Marie Curie Nurses, who give vital care and support to patients in the terminal stages of illness, and their families. Marie Curie Nurses are trained and resourced mostly by voluntary donations, and one of their main roles is to enable family carers to have rest and respite, and to feel they have access to specialist help. On Saturday 23rd February members held a Coffee Morning at Clinton, Llandrinio, by kind invitation of Myfanwy and Ken Lloyd, to raise funds towards the 'Make a Mothers' Day' appeal, enabling the MU to bring help and support to needy mothers and families around the world. The morning was well supported, and raised over £150. Arrangements are being made for members to visit the Severn Hospice later in the spring, to see for themselves the vital work that is done there.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

The Family Communion on Palm Sunday, 16th March, will begin at the Lych Gate, from where there will be a procession with palms into church for the service at 11.15 am. On Tuesday 18th March the Pradoc Singers will visit Llandrinio to sing Stainer's 'Crucifixion', at 7.30 pm. On Maundy Thursday, 20th March, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion in Llandrinio at 7.30 pm, followed by a watch with readings and prayers, in church from 8.45 to 9.45 pm. On Good Friday the united service will take place at Llandrinio Methodist Church at 11.15 am. There are also services at Criggion at 10 am, and Penrhos at 6.30 pm. At 4.30 pm, children are invited to a workshop at Llandrinio Church, at which the Easter Garden will be made. On Holy Saturday, 22nd March, a Vigil Service will be held in Llandrinio at 8 pm. The Family Service on Easter morning will include a Fairtrade Easter Egg Hunt.

SERVICES AT THE OTHER CHURCHES [* = Holy Communion]

	Llandysilio	Penrhos	Criggion
2nd	11.15	11.15	10.00 *
9th	9.00 *	11.15 *	10.00 *
16th	11.15	9.00 *	10.00 *
23rd	9.00 *	10.00 *	10.00 *
30th		10.30 * (Group)	

FEATHER REPORT Musings from the Rectory Garden

The spell of very hard frosts we had in mid-February may have brought some unusual visitors to your bird-tables. Not to mind this time, I have to say - but I can recall previous cold snaps when redwings have invaded my garden, one occasion when a little sparrow-sized lesser-spotted woodpecker dropped in for a while, and even a raiding party of waxwings, very special winter visitors from eastern Europe. This year the most exotic visitors were a goldfinch and a party of long-tailed tits.

The fields and trees, meanwhile, are quite full of those noisy winter thrushes, the redwings and fieldfares. I've written about them before, so for now I'll just content myself with observing that the numbers of fieldfares that can sit almost unseen in a winter tree quite beggars belief. I was walking across the fields towards Gwernybatto, following one of the footpaths that have been so nicely restored, when a squadron of fieldfares (and a few accompanying redwings) flew from a tall tree ahead of me, complaining as they did so. As I walked on, as many again flew out, and then another squadron, and there were still some late-goers flying from the upper branches as I passed under the tree. There had been hundreds of birds in that one tree, but until they took flight I would hardly have noticed them.

My walk that day took me on along the Severn Way, i.e. along the argae south from Llandrinio Bridge. Several herons were at work in the area, and there were some waders prospecting in the mud at the water's edge that took off in alarm as I approached - too quickly for identification, but they will have been common sandpipers almost certainly. I had good views, too, of a buzzard which would I think have liked just to glide about in the pleasant sunshine of that day without bothering too much with anything or anyone, but a couple of crows had other ideas and did their best to harry and annoy him. River birds included a party of mallards and a cormorant.

I'm told that the mallard population is in decline, but no-one knows why. This is still a very common duck, so there's no great cause for alarm except for that 'not knowing why' bit. Are mallards finding it harder to raise their broods successfully - perhaps because of growing populations of mink, for example? Do they find it hard to compete for food and nest sites with the growing feral populations of Canada and greylag - and now also barnacle - geese? Is there a disease at work within the population? Some declines are natural, and perhaps cyclical, i.e., after a while the population will start to grow again - but our world is not very natural, even the wild bits of it, so research is needed. Certainly the ponds and rivers - and canals - of our land would be much the poorer without the dabbling ducks that so amuse us.

Signs of spring are all around us despite our cold snap, so listen out for birdsong as our residents pair up and establish territories - and as the very first summer migrants arrive this month. Who will hear the first chiffchaff?

TABERNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARDDLEEN

Sunday services for March:

2nd	11.00 am	Dr Jobling
9th	11.00 am	Rev. W.K. Jones
16th	2.30 pm	Joint Communion Service at Geuffordd
23rd	9.00 am	Easter breakfast followed by service at 10.00 am

Our annual English plygain was held on 18th January. This was a very enjoyable evening which was well-supported. The collection was donated to the work of Urban Saints in Albania, as represented by Stephanie Benbow who described some of their projects.

After taking part in joint services for the week of prayer for Christian unity, on 15th February we began a series of joint Lent studies with our Anglican friends. The venue may change, but details can be obtained from our church secretary, Mrs Vena Jones, on 01938 590350.

'Come and Worship' is held on the first and third Sunday of each month in the schoolroom at 7.00 pm

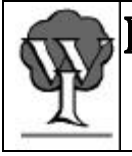
A WARM WELCOME TO ALL. REQUESTS FOR PRAYER ARE INVITED.

THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Over the next few months there will need to be changes in the way in which 'The Bridge' is edited and produced - please be patient with us through this transition period! One important thing, however, is that we shall need to be MUCH FIRMER as regards dates. Items for 'The Bridge' are supposed to be in by the 15th of the month, but we've generally managed to slip things in that have arrived much, much later. THIS CANNOT CONTINUE, THOUGH! - and late items will in future have to be held over till the following month. By the way, material sent electronically saves loads of typing time! Can we take the opportunity, while saying this, to also say a big and sincere THANK YOU to all those who give their time and energy as volunteers helping to produce what we're sure is one of the best community magazines around.

**Winter is over, and spring is almost here,
Buds are bursting and the new green leaves appear.
Thrushes are singing, sweetly and shrill,
Little wren, and blackbird with bright yellow bill.
Lambs are skipping and dancing around,
Cattle are lowing - what a lovely sound.
Gardens are waking, and the daffodils gold
Trumpet glad tidings, earth cannot them hold.
Help us, O Father, to be lovers of spring,
Peace and gladness, and every precious thing.**

Joyce Burgoyne



REPORTS

LLANDRINIO

The February meeting on Wednesday 13th started earlier than usual so the speaker could begin promptly at 8 pm, as this was an open meeting for villagers and any other interested parties. In the absence of the President, Vice-President Eileen and Secretary Sylvia took the meeting with 14 members present. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and approved, Margaret tried unsuccessfully to find any sportswomen members to be included in the Village Book, and announced more meetings for the sub-committee before the report for the WI of the year was to be submitted.

Lynn continued with the co-ordination of members participating in competitions in the County Show on 10th May at Four Crosses. Names were taken for the various craft and cookery sections, with quite a satisfactory response. Matters from the Newsletter were mentioned, and Julia said we hoped to enter a team in the Scrabble competition.

The March meeting is again an open meeting at 8 pm, with Jamie Ward talking about home-produced pork. Members are asked to bring cakes and savouries for half a dozen people to the hall between 6.45 pm and the beginning of a short business meeting at 7.15 pm.

The main matter of the evening began at 8 pm. We were joined by eleven visitors only, really a very disappointing attendance considering the importance of Air Ambulance Wales to our rural area, and the proximity of the helicopter to the village. Anne Evans from Llanrhaeadr, who is a permanent member of Air Ambulance Wales gave a most fascinating and informative talk about the origins, working and financing of this charitable service. A short article based on her talk is included in this magazine on page 9 (web: page 11).

David Ash, Annette's husband and co-worker on the calendar then took the floor, and, after paying tribute to the six ladies who were the main workforce / contributors in the production of the calendar (and 30% of membership), spoke about the origins and development of the calendar. All costs of production were covered by sponsorship and unsolicited donations. He praised Annette and Cicely in particular for having gained the support of local retailers for the project itself and the selling of the calendars.

Annette and Cicely presented a cheque for £1,640 to Anna Evans, which was the amount generated from the sale of the calendar (this has had a small addition since the event). Then Joyce Burgoyne presented a cheque for £50 from herself. David and Annette were given a gift from the WI. After tea and biscuits the raffle was won by Heather Wilmot, Sylvia Spear, Jenny Evans, Susie Jay, Joyce Burgoyne, Merionwen Weston, Rose Davies and Kay Portman.

FOUR CROSSES

The February meeting was held in the Village Centre, where members were

welcomed by the President, Kathleen Foulkes. A special welcome was given to Christine Savage, who has had major heart surgery, and had not been able to attend meetings for the past few months.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved, and correspondence received. An invitation to attend a meeting at Llandrinio had been received, and also one to the March meeting at Welshpool. It was decided that our efforts for charity this year would be to help the Welshpool Emergency Doctors, who, we understand, are on the scene of accidents as soon as possible but have only voluntary funding. Barbara Wellings offered to let us use her house and gardens again for a fund-raising effort later in the year.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr Mike Membery, who had come to inform us about Cae Post and recycling. Cae Post is a pioneering charity and social enterprise established in 1986. There are now 23 people employed there, and Cae Post provides work experience and training to people with disabilities.

Mr Membery proved to be an excellent and entertaining speaker, and the information he gave us regarding recycling was really worth knowing. There are so many different types of plastic - some recyclable, some not so. Yoghurt pots can be thrown away, as can 'Clover' containers, but pop bottles and milk cartons are very welcome for recycling. It is better to flatten these containers, so if you see any of the Four Crosses WI ladies jumping up and down on a Friday morning you'll know they are flattening their bottles etc for collection! Who would have thought that a talk on waste could have caused such hilarity - we do recommend Mr Membery as a speaker! He was thanked by Susie Jay on behalf of the members.

Refreshments were served by Marion James, Betty Davies and Susie Jay. Susie Jay also won the 'nodding duck' - but that is another story! The next meeting will be on March 6th, when new members will be made very welcome. Our speaker will be telling us about '600 years of hairdressing'.

ARDDLEEN

The President, Chris Hillidge, opened the meeting and welcomed 15 members, with about seven unable to come through illness. The minutes were read by our Secretary, Glenis Hart. An invitation had been received from Llandrinio WI to attend their meeting on March 11th, which will be a meat demonstration. The speaker was Dr Russell of Welshpool Medical Emergencies Doctors, who gave us a very interesting talk about his work. MED consist of two doctors who have a fully equipped car to reach road accidents as quickly as possible. They work in close harmony with the Air Ambulance, and the ground-based Ambulance and Fire Services. Dr Russell was thanked by Pat Barnet, and given a cheque for £175, part of the proceeds from the New Year's Eve dance. The meeting was open to villagers, who also enjoyed a lovely supper and a welcome cup of tea. The competition, 5 jam tarts, was won by Envis, and the flower of the month winner was Chris Hillidge. The next meeting will be on March 5th.

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 :-

Mark Jones, Oswestry
Phyllis Pierce, Four Crosses
Brian & Jennifer Arthur, Carreghofa
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Shop Sales

There was once an old lady who, deciding to do a spot of spring cleaning, came across a battered old lamp she didn't recall ever seeing before. She decides to polish it up, and has just set to with the cloth when shazam! there's a flash of light and a genie is suddenly standing there before her. "For releasing me from the lamp, you may have three wishes!" says the genie.

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"Well now," the old lady replies, "first of all, I'd like to be really, really rich." A wave of his hand, and suddenly her little cottage is a palace filled with rich and beautiful things.

"And I wish I could be young again, and beautiful." Another wave of the genie's hand, and the deed is done. "And what is your third wish?" asks the genie.

Just then, the old lady's tabby cat strolls into the room. "I wish Tibby could change into a handsome prince, who'll be my soul-mate for life!" cries the (former) old lady. And with a final wave of his hand, the genie turns the cat into an amazingly handsome young man, then disappears.

The young prince strolls across the room, gives a radiant smile that makes his mistress go weak at the knees, then whispers in her ear . . .

. . . "I bet you're wishing now you'd never had me neutered!"

Crossword Answers: AC - 1) Canon; 3) Bye; 6) Ail; 7) Shake; 9) Foil; 11) Isle; 13) Diver; 14) Add; 15) Vet; 16) Shrew. DN - 1) Chaff; 2) Nil; 4) Yokel; 5) Chair; 8) Fleet; 10) Olive; 12) Endow; 14) Air.

Copy for the April 'Bridge' by 15th March, 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