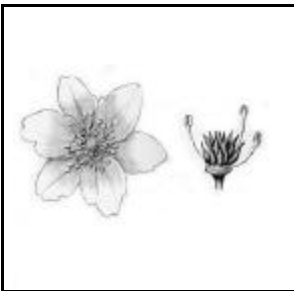


THE BRIDGE



Wood Anemone
(*Anemone nemorosa*)



The delicate white or pale pink Wood Anemone, or Wind-Flower, is the wild relative of the many species of ornamental anemones that grace our borders and rockeries. A member of the buttercup family, it has solitary flowers which, strictly speaking, have sepals rather than petals. There can be between six and twelve of these, which are often pinkish on the underside. The deeply divided leaves grow from the stem below the flower on long, often rather reddish stalks; later, after the plant has finished flowering, further leaves appear at ground level. Like many woodland flowers, the Anemone flowers early in spring, between March and May while the trees are mostly leafless, because it's only at this time that sufficient light is able to reach the woodland floor. In Greek myth the Anemone grew from the blood of Adonis as Aphrodite wept over his body. Other stories claim that the pink blush of the Anemone 'petals' is painted on each night by woodland elves (this is probably not the case).

APRIL 2008

No. 292

DIARY OF EVENTS - APRIL & MAY 2008

Thur 3rd Apr	Llandrinio Church Annual Vestry Meeting, 7.30 pm
Fri 4th Apr	Concert for Llandrinio Village Hall funds, 7.30 pm
Tue 8th Apr	Llandrinio Mothers' Union meets Four Crosses Evergreens meet Llanymynech Gardeners' Association meets
Wed 9th Apr	Christian Aid Week planning meeting Llandrinio WI (open meeting) - members 7.15, guests 8 pm
Thur 10th Apr	Llandysilio Mothers' Union
Sun 13th Apr	Llandysilio School PTA Car Boot Sale Four Crosses Young Farmers Car Wash NB planned 'Big Curry Party' (Youth Group) postponed
Tue 15th Apr	Llandrinio Mothers' Union (probable) Closing date for material for the May 'Bridge'
Fri 18th Apr	Coffee Evening for Llandysilio Church, 4XVC, 7 pm
Tue 22nd Apr	"PACT" meeting with PC Dave Walker - Four Crosses VC
Sun 27th Apr	Car Boot Sale, Llandrinio Village Hall, 2 pm Youth Group meets, 4.30 pm Rogation Service / Event, Criggion Church, 7.00 pm
Wed 30th Apr	Llandysilio School Ascension Day service, 1.45 pm Sealed bids by today for "Monty 08" sale
Thur 1st May	Ascension Day service at Llandrinio Church, 7 pm Llandrinio Village Hall Committee, 8 pm
Tue 6th May	Llandrinio Mothers' Union Hospice Visit
Wed 7th May	First Night of "From Canaan to the 60's" (this year's Show)
Thur 8th May	"From Canaan to the 60's" Llandysilio Mothers' Union coach outing
Fri 9th May	"From Canaan to the 60's"
Sat 10th May	Penrhos Church Coffee Morning "From Canaan to the 60's"
Sun 11th May	Christian Aid Week begins County Service of Remembrance at Montgomery Car Boot Sale at Llandrinio Village Hall
Tue 13th May	Llanymynech Gardeners' Association plant auction Llandrinio Branch, Royal British Legion
Fri 16th May	Grand Quiz Night for Christian Aid, Llandrinio Village Hall
Fri 23rd May	Bridge Drive in aid of RNLI, Llandrinio Village Hall

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

● The family of the late Mrs Evans Rhoslan who sadly passed away on 13th February aged 102 would like to thank all relatives and friends for cards and messages of sympathy, also for attendance at the funeral service and donations received which amounted to £750 for the Wales Air Ambulance.

● Olive, Angie and Carol would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported their 'Prize Bingo' evening on Friday March 14th in Llandrinio Village Hall. A total of £240.50 was raised for the Starlight Appeal, a charity that helps terminally ill children and their families.

● I would like to say a big thank you to all my friends and neighbours for their visits, prayers, cakes, wonderful flowers and books. It was really cheering to see it all. I am gradually becoming more mobile, so Terry will give up being my chauffeur! God bless you all - May Hillier.

[Apologies for overlooking this message last month - eds]

● Malcolm and Helen Goddard, of Cleveland, Four Crosses would like to announce the safe arrival of their fourth son Leo, born on the 5th March 2008, weighing in at 8lb 7.5oz. Mal and Helen would like to thank everyone associated with Llandysilio School, family and friends for their very kind support and good wishes, lovely cards and beautiful gifts for Leo.

● Congratulations to Harriet Turner, Grantley Court, Llandrinio, who won first prize in her section 11-14 year old vocal solo, at the Minsterley Eisteddfod last month - well done!

● Congratulations are also due to those children from Llandysilio School who have had success at the Minsterley Eisteddfod, and also in the Urdd Eisteddfod - both locally and regionally. More about this in next month's 'Bridge'.

● Thank you to Simon Harrison and all the members of the Pradoc Singers who sang Stainer's 'Crucifixion' so beautifully at Llandrinio Church in Holy Week. It was very much appreciated by all those who came to hear it!

● Llandrinio Mothers' Union wish to thank everyone who contributed to, helped at and supported the Coffee Morning held at Clinton, Llandrinio in February. Many thanks also to those who donated refreshments, raffle prizes and items for the stalls. A cheque for the total sum raised of £205 has been sent to the Mothers' Union 'Make a Mother's Day' appeal.

**MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT
HALFWAY HOUSE & ORTHODAEDIC CHOIRS
LLANDRINIO VILLAGE HALL - FRIDAY 4TH APRIL
7.30 PM - TICKETS / ADMISSION ON DOOR £6**

PART NIGHT LIGHTING

Some of you may have read in the papers that the Council has adopted a policy where it intends to have part night lighting throughout the County. The aim is to save money but it will also help to reduce light pollution. It is part of a number of initiatives being introduced with respect to street lighting, another of which is to listen to local communities in respect of lighting on new developments - the housing development on the old garage site in Crew Green is the first in the County not to have lighting installed as a matter of course. The community expressed a wish not to have lighting installed and this was adhered to, with only the infrastructure being put in place should a need arise in the future. The part night lighting scheme will entail the switching off of street lights between 12.30 am and 5.30 am and, so, for the majority of people, will probably not be noticeable.

Schemes put forward by communities will be scrutinized by the Highways Officers and the Police in respect of road safety and community safety. Letters introducing the scheme were sent to all Community Councils and the Llandrinio Community Council fully supported it. I have travelled the villages of Arddleen and Llandrinio with a local Community Council representative and we identified lights which we believed it was necessary to stay lit all night. These were those by road junctions, properties identified as for occupation by the elderly and public buildings/businesses. The information has been passed to the County Council for inspection by the relevant authorities and, once approved, work will begin on changing the sensor/timer systems. Because of the times during which the lights will go out, the scheme should have very little impact on people. If you do notice a grave difference when the scheme is introduced and a real safety issue arises please contact me on 07789 748135. *Graham Brown, County Councillor.*

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.

PACT - POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

An open meeting is to be held on Tuesday 22nd April at Four Crosses Village Centre, at 7 pm. The purpose of the meeting is for PC Dave Walker to introduce himself as the officer in charge of the rural neighbourhood policing team. The meeting is open to all who live or work in the villages of Arddleen, Bausley, Carreghofa, Criggion, Four Crosses and Llandrinio - PC Walker is keen to learn of the concerns and problems of our area. Any enquiries, please contact the Clerk to Llandysilio Community Council, Carol Davies, The Crest, Four Crosses - telephone 01691 831008.

WANTED - CHILDREN'S JIGSAWS

Would anyone have any children's jigsaw puzzles they no longer require? If so, Arddleen Brownies would be grateful to receive them to help them complete a challenge - and in doing so will be raising money for children with leukaemia and Brownie Pack funds. Please contact: Meryl 01938 590335

Angie 07703 281854

June 01691 830815.

CAR BOOTS AT LLANDRINIO VILLAGE HALL

Car Boot Sales are due to take place at the Village Hall on the following dates, all at 2 pm. Further information from Olive, 01938 556680.

April 27th

May 11th

June 22nd

July 27th

September 14th

November 23rd.

LLANDYSILIO MOTHERS' UNION

Once again there was a full attendance of members at the meeting held on March 13th. Mr Pryce Southerton conducted the short service at the beginning, and the bible reading was given by our guest speaker Revd Hilary Jalland.

Mrs Margaret Barlow, Branch Leader, welcomed everyone and proceeded with the usual business. Minutes of the previous meeting were read, and future dates were noted, including the Lady Day service to be held at Penrhos Church on March 30th. Mrs Glenys Lloyd had already made some arrangements for our outing on May 8th, and it is hoped to have a full coach. Non members can contact Mrs Lloyd for details on 01691 830101.

Mrs Barlow introduced Revd Jalland as our speaker for the evening, but of course as our previous Rector he really needed no introduction, and was welcomed by all as a friend. He talked about his favourite hymns, and we too listed our own favourites. Thanks to Ann Rowell, who played the piano for us, we managed to raise the roof singing verses from twelve hymns. Glad Jones was the winner of the hymn competition organised by Revd Jalland. Mrs Gwen Edwards proposed a vote of thanks to Revd Jalland and Mrs Rowell, and said how much we had enjoyed the evening.

Refreshments were given by Gwen Edwards and Jean Passant, and the two ladies were also the winners of the draw prizes. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 10th April, when our speaker will be Mrs Margaret Jandrell. *GJ*

MARCH WHIST DRIVE - 13½ tables, M/C D. Lewis

Ladies - 1 Margaret Wilkins

2 Mrs Watkins

3 Nesta Williams

Gents - 1 Geoff Thomas

2 April Joy

3 S Hughes

Please note that entry fees have now increased to £1.50.



"NOW THAT APRIL'S HERE . . ."

April's an interesting month of transition. You can get an April like last year's - warmer than most of the summer months that followed; or you can have a flow of biting northerlies and a late flurry or two of snow. You can get fooled by the weather in any month of a British year, but especially in April, with its traditional showers.

But it's not only the weather that'll fool you as the month begins. On 'All Fools' Day' people are allowed and expected to play practical jokes and pranks on each other; whenever a victim is taken in by surprise, the cry goes up - 'April Fool!' The good traditional starter is to suggest somebody's shoelaces are undone, or that they've a smut on their face. It's a great chance for children to play pranks on their classmates and even their teachers - but only, of course, until midday.

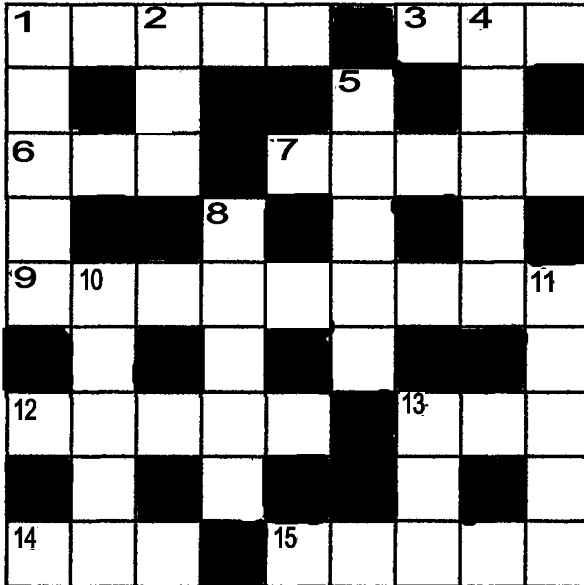
Jokes played after midday are supposed to bring bad luck to the perpetrator. It's also supposed to be bad luck if you get angry at being fooled by an April Fool trick - you're supposed to endure such tricks with a smile on your face - though they would say that, wouldn't they! It's also said that if you're fooled by a pretty girl you can expect marriage or at least friendship with her. On the other hand, men who marry on All Fools' Day will be ruled by their wives forever. Children born on this day are considered lucky generally, except in gambling where they are bound to fare badly.

These days the media climb on board the bandwagon with great gusto, and you can expect a few choice April Fool stories to be placed in the paper or on TV. I wonder if you've been fooled by any of this year's - since, of course, you won't be reading this until All Fools' Day is safely past. So what else happens this month? Well, of course, all the Easter customs that very often fall in April have this year been dealt with in March. But that does allow Rogationtide, usually a May festival, to turn up at the end of April. A traditional day for beating the bounds of the parish was either Ascension Day (May 1st this year) or one of the four days before, from the Fifth Sunday after Easter (now called the Sixth of Easter). These days may also be called Cross Days, Gang Days or Grass Days.

At Rogationtide prayers were said for a blessing on fields and growing crops, but beating the parish bounds or 'ganging' also had a very immediate practical use. It helped everyone to remember the boundaries, before maps were commonplace. Along the way prominent trees might become places for preaching, or Gospel Oaks. One way in which the locations of landmarks like stones streams and ponds were impressed upon the children was by ducking them, ritually beating them - and then perhaps also giving them a treat. It was perhaps more fun for the grown ups - for example, a 16th century parishioner in a Norfolk village was able to say that he 'better remembreth' the fact that the boundary went to the parish church because he had drunk the 'ganging beer' out of one of the hand-bells! Recently, beating the bounds (though not the children) has been revived in many a country village, often closing with a church service and a village party.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS:



- 1 - Familiar garden bird (5)
 3 - Garfunkel, singer (3)
 6 - Giant extinct flightless bird (3)
 7 - Imitator (5)
 9 - English version of the name of a mid-Wales resort (9)
 12 - Area of small rocks and stones on a mountain side (5)
 13 - Beverage (3)
 14 - Stubbs, actress (3)
 15 - John, 15th century sailor and explorer (5)

- DOWN: 1 - Latin dance (5) 2 - Sheep noise? (3)
 4 - European river (5) 5 - Peter's real name? (5)
 8 - Nicene or Apostles', perhaps (5)
 10 - Francis, 20th century artist or 17th century essayist (5)
 11 - Used in making bread or beer (5)
 13 - Metallic binding on the end of a bootlace (3)

<p><i>Answers on page 16 (Web - page 18)</i></p>
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LLANYMYNECH GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

The Annual Lunch in February was held at Sweeney Hall, when 26 members and friends enjoyed the usual excellent food served there. The speaker was Mr Clifford Sansom, who talked about his cruise through the Panama Canal. He explained the complicated system so well that we all fully understood how it worked!

The talk by Barry Dunston in March was a scientific method of building hanging baskets. He and his team do this so well that the floral arrangements throughout Oswestry are so very impressive. Other towns in the area are also impressed - Chirk, Ruyton-XI-Towns and Llangollen to mention just a few - and grateful to be able to take advantage of his expertise. We wish him well in his venture.

The competition for a planter of foliage was won by Mrs Joliffe. The competition for April 8th is a container planted with flowering plants. The speaker will be Ted Bruce, talking on basket making. May 13th is the plant auction - please come to buy, but also bring to sell!

Jane Postings

FOUR CROSSES EVERGREENS CLUB

The Annual Meeting was held in the Village Centre on March 11th. Despite the wind and rain there was an excellent attendance. Jean Foulkes welcomed all the members and then gave a summary of 2007's activities. Glad Jones, Treasurer, presented the audited accounts and announced her retirement. She had held the post for over 24 years, but felt that Nanette McKay, who had volunteered to take over the job, would be able to carry on efficiently. Mrs Foulkes presented Glad with a gift from and on behalf of the club, for which Glad expressed her sincere thanks. Mrs Joyce Burgoyne gave an omnibus vote of thanks to all who had helped to make the past year so enjoyable.

Plans had been made for the day's outing on June 10th, and members were asked to consider where they would like to go on that trip. Those members who had celebrated their birthdays since November were each given a small gift from Jean Foulkes, and a piece of birthday cake was enjoyed with the refreshments which were provided by Gwen Edwards, Jean Passant, Peggy Jones and Phyllis Edwards.

One of our own members, Mrs Steve Tyler, spoke about some of his experiences while working as a driving test examiner. He certainly had some hair-raising tests! Afterwards, it was a case of 'Eyes down', while Pryce Southerton called out the bingo numbers. There was silence until 'House' was shouted. Prizes were provided by Jean, Pryce and Glad. The next meeting will be held on April 8th - if you're over 60 come and join us!

COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

The North Montgomeryshire Volunteer Bureau runs a Community Car Scheme which provides volunteer drivers to take people to health and hospital appointments. The drivers use their own cars, and the bureau pays the expenses involved. Over 300 people use the scheme at the present time - these are people who would not otherwise be able to access the services they need, for example the elderly or people with disabilities. For those who use the service, it has been a wonderful boon, and those who volunteer as drivers have found it a very fulfilling experience too. The cost of operating the scheme continues to grow, of course, particularly with the recent increases in the price of fuel, and the Volunteer Bureau is constantly looking for new sources of funding.

To know more, email the Volunteer Bureau on nmwbwelshpool@btconnect.com, or telephone 01938 554484.

CAR WASH

In conjunction with Llandysilio School PTA car boot sale Four Crosses YFC are holding a car wash at Four Crosses Village Centre on Sunday 13th April 9.30 am - £5.00 per car. Refreshments will be available. All proceeds from the car wash to go towards the 75th Anniversary charity weekend.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

One this month that requires no baking !!!

Ingredients - 8 oz margarine
 6 oz soft brown sugar
 2 large eggs (beaten)
 4 oz coconut
 2 oz sultanas
 12 oz rich tea biscuits (broken up in a plastic bag)
 6 oz cooking chocolate

Method - Put all ingredients except the chocolate into a saucepan, and stir over a low heat for 5 minutes, mixing well.

Grease a swiss roll tin; put the mixture into the tin and flatten.

Put into the fridge for an hour, or longer.

When ready, melt the cooking chocolate, and spread on the mixture. Cut before the chocolate sets . . . Yum! Yum!

MORE FROM MR PALFREYMAN

Mike Palfreyman, who supplied his profile last month, adds some further thoughts in the hope that they might provoke others to share their memories:

Do you remember your school friends asking you what your dad did during the war? I hope this account might be of interest - when I was asked what did my dad do during the war, initially I found the question a bit daunting. Most of my schoolfriends regaled great tales of 'daring-do' that made even our weekly comics look dull.

It then occurred to me that whilst my dad had not served in any great campaign, shot down the enemy, or won any medals he had 'done his bit' - twice. As my dad was 11 at the start of WW1 he was clearly too young to take part in 'hostile activities'. What did he do - well - my dad was in charge of a ball of whitewash, a bucket, and a brush.

It was his job to ensure that the letters SP were clearly painted (and re-painted) on the front walls of each house in his street that had been issued with a Stirrup Pump - the device to help put out a fire if an incendiary struck anyone's property. As he grew older - at around 13, I believe - he was given 'additional duties'. As a result of teachers having been called to duty, he taught Maths to younger pupils at his school.

His second input was during WW II when he was regarded as 'too old' for active duty. This time he was a tank tester - to be regularly seen tearing up the tarmac (literally) on local roads and towards the end of the war testing 'floaters' in specially preparing 'ducking pools' in remote places like Westward Ho in Devon.

MONTGOMERY CANAL SEALED BID SALE

A sealed bid sale relating to items and promises relating to the Montgomery Canal has been organised by Freda Davies of the Friends of the Montgomery Canal. The sale is to help raise funds towards the Monty 08 - the IWA National Campaign Rally for the Montgomery Canal. The Rally will be held at various locations along the canal between 30th August and 7th September. The largest event will be at Welshpool on 30th and 31st August with lots of boaters expected and events along the towpath and marques and stalls on the adjoining recreation ground. Smaller events will be at Llanymynech and Maesbury. A sponsored walk along the 35 mile length has been organised by the local WI's. Further details about events are on the www.Monty08.com website or tel Mr A Platt 01352 720649. The aim of the Rally is to raise the profile of the Montgomery Canal nationally, to highlight the restoration work that has been done and keep the impetus going until the whole canal is open to navigation.

There are various items to bid for, including a plane flight for three along the canal from Newtown to Llanymynech, a chance to lead the horse pulling the holiday boat based on the Welshpool section, a day ride and refreshments for two people on that boat, meals at local canalside pubs, an autographed book by a local Montgomery Canal author, a plaque (e.g. memorial) on one of the new seats along the Welsh section, a group trip on the narrowboat at Llanymynech, a former lock-keeper's cottage for a weekend, a framed photo and various other items.

A full list will be on the website above and on the www.montgomerycanal.co.uk website in due course, but if anyone has something they would like to add or ask about please contact Freda on 01938 552817. Sealed bids should be sent to her at Villas Cottage, Hope, Welshpool, Powys SY21 8HF before 30th April. The bids will be opened at the Mont 08 committee meeting after that date.

Thank you very much - Freda Davies



SERVICES IN APRIL

- 6th April - No service
- 13th April - 11.00 am - Royce Warner
- 20th April - 11.00 am - Terry Joblin (Hospital Sunday)
- 27th April - 11.00 am - Jean Dyde

A warm welcome to all who wish to join us for worship!

LLANDYSILIO SCHOOL ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

At Llandysilio Parish Church on Wednesday 30th April (a day early because of the local elections), at 1.45 pm. Parents and others welcome.

PENRHOS PARISH CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

At Penrhos Old School on Saturday 10th May, 10 am - come and browse the stalls while sharing a coffee and a chat.

A Word to the WISE¹²

I very much appreciated Roger Davies' timely remarks in last month's 'Bridge' about using the recycling facilities properly - but obviously not everyone read them, or, if they did, they failed to take them to heart. For yet again I arrived the other day with my load of recycling only to find bags piled up around the garden waste bins (which, by the way, were by no means full). Some of the bags had red stickers on - in other words, someone had put garden waste out for the dustmen to take, which of course they didn't - what they load into the cart all goes to landfill. So having had their bags of lawn clippings rejected, whoever it was brought them to the recycling site, but couldn't be bothered to do anything more with them than just leave them there, unopened and un-emptied.

Meanwhile, someone else (or just maybe the same person) had decided to leave bags filled with plastic flower-pots, garden twine, and other stuff that clearly isn't something you can make compost out of. I am sorry to find people persisting in such self-centred and anti-social behaviour; and, as Roger said last month, it does spoil things for the rest of us. Meanwhile it's left to volunteers and other users of the facilities to sort the mess out and clear it away.

But of course, it's all a conspiracy anyway, isn't it - and probably hatched in Brussels, at that. For everyone knows there's no such thing as global warming, as our white Easter has surely proved - it's all just a plot by those nasty people who gobble our taxes to part us from even more of our hard-earned money: in other words, THEM - those whose aim is to stop us enjoying ourselves!

In case you're nodding in agreement at this point, let me make it clear that I'm not. I don't know that recycling my lawn clippings will make much immediate difference to global warming, and indeed I suspect it won't - but I do know this: the resources of our planet are finite and will run out; and those resources are far from equally shared, so most people miss out on life as we know it; and the ideal of treading as lightly on this earth as we're able has been around - and has been making sense - since long before anyone noticed, analysed or lectured about global warming. Enjoy life by all means - I do - but do it with thought for others, those you share the planet with now, and those who follow after you.

It was a wise person who said: "We don't inherit this earth from our forebears, we borrow it from our children." Surely we should want to pass it on in as good a shape as we can.

All right. Perhaps I shouldn't magnify the issue of a few plastic bags dumped where they shouldn't be into an epic of global proportions. And yet there is a real link, you know. In the end, what happens worldwide is the product of lots of little local decisions and actions. "Think globally, act locally," we're told. Oh, and by the way, where councils send too much stuff to landfill and too little to be recycled, there's a financial penalty. Where do you think that comes from? Who do you think pays? It's in our own interests, globally, nationally *and locally* to be responsible in what we use, and in what we throw away.

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

6th - Easter 3	9.00 Holy Communion	Mrs I Worvill
13th - Easter 4	6.30 Evening Service	Mrs I Worvill
20th - Easter 5	11.15 Family Communion	Mrs R Peate
27th - Easter 6	11.15 Family Communion	Mrs R Peate

FAMILY SERVICES

We had a very well attended Family Communion on Easter Day, when our service included the baptism of Rémi Marcel Davies Turner. We ran out of hymn books! Thank you to everyone who helped get the church ready for the festival, and especially to those children who helped build our Easter Garden which was blessed at the service. An Easter Egg hunt was enjoyed by all, and there were Fair Trade mini-eggs for everyone at the end.

In April we will have two Family Communions again - the first on our usual third Sunday (20th) will have "sheep and shepherds" as its theme; and as 27th is Rogation Sunday we'll have a special service then with the theme of "sowing seeds in God's garden". Both services are at 11.15 am.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid Week this year begins on May 11th, and we'd like to do more locally this year than we have in the past. A grand charity **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ NIGHT** is to be held at Llandrinio Village Hall on Friday 16th May at 7.30 pm - why not give this your support? A meeting to help plan this, the envelope collection and other events and activities is to be held at St Agatha's, Llanymynech, on Wednesday 9th April at 7.30 pm.

LENT GROUPS

This year we used the ecumenical Lent course 'Pathways in Prayer', meeting jointly with our friends from Arddleen Tabernacle, and found it quite a stimulating series of sessions. We hope that this will lead to further joint meetings for study and prayer, that others too may be welcomed into.

RECTOR'S MOVE TO WELSHPOOL

It's been confirmed that Canon Bill Rowell will formally begin work as the Vicar of Welshpool on Sunday 1st June, when he will be instituted and inducted at St Mary's Church at 2.30 pm. Bill's farewell service will also be on Sunday 1st June at 10.30 am, at Llandysilio Church (more details in the May 'Bridge').

SERVICES AT THE OTHER CHURCHES [* = Holy Communion]

	Llandysilio	Penrhos	Criggion
6th	11.15	11.15	10.00 *
13th	9.00 *	11.15 *	10.00 *
20th	11.15	9.00 *	10.00 *
27th	9.00 *	10.00 *	7.00 pm

FEATHER REPORT ¹⁴ Musings from the Rectory Garden

Well now - I had an interesting question directed my way the other day: do birds have kidneys? That set me thinking. I was pretty sure that birds did possess kidneys, but I was also aware that birds don't actually *er - pee* in the way that human beings and other mammals need to.

On holiday in Newquay a few years ago, I had a perfectly good pair of trousers ruined because, as I walked down the street, I found myself in the line of fire of a particularly incontinent seagull. "Thank your lucky stars cows don't fly!" someone said to me in an attempt to lighten the atmosphere. Amen to that, of course - but what that herring gull plastered over me was the avian equivalent not of a cowpat but the other stuff, that warm gushing stream of . . . well, you get the picture, I imagine.

Now bird mess can be brown or white, but that isn't an either/or - they produce both, and it's the white stuff that's the product of their kidneys. Without dwelling greatly on the subject, birds have a single back passage, the cloaca, that has to suffice for all necessary purposes. As do reptiles - which, as birds are really the living descendants of the dinosaurs, shouldn't surprise us greatly.

Both birds and reptiles have very efficient kidneys which convert toxic waste into uric acid, which they pass out of the body as a semi-solid paste. In contrast, the kidneys of mammals like us produce urea, excreted as (in our case) a fairly dilute solution in water (urine). Although some other species of mammal are able to produce more concentrated (and pongy) urine than we do, all mammals need quite a lot of water to remove toxins in this way, while birds and reptiles don't.

This is why snakes and other reptiles are much more able than we are to survive in hot dry places like deserts. Birds do need some intake of water on a regular basis, so it's kind to provide some in the garden (and, of course, they need to wash and preen and keep their plumage in good shape); but they don't need to drink anything like as much liquid as we do.

Where birds congregate in huge numbers - for example, seabird colonies on offshore islands - they produce such tremendous quantities of droppings that seabird islands can seem to glow white from a distance (and they're distinctly nifty closer to!). We call this deposit guano, of which uric acid is a major component. This can be harvested as a rich source of nitrogen and phosphorus, for use in fertilizers, explosives etc. Chile in particular has a thriving chemical industry based on guano - its Pacific Ocean waters, cooled by the Humboldt Current, are a rich fishery and therefore also rich in seabird numbers.

Closer to home, and despite the Easter snow, summer visitors to our gardens and countryside are beginning to arrive. I have a spruce in my back garden that is often visited by goldcrests, and one was there the other day, prospecting through the needles for overwintering insects. I thought the other bird with it was a second goldcrest till I realised it was just a little larger - and browner: a chiffchaff, my first of the year! Yes - spring has arrived (I think)!

TABERNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARDDLEEN

Sunday services for April:

6th	11.00 am	Mr G. Wilde
13th	11.00 am	Rev. Peter Rees
20th	11.00 am	Dr Peter Ashton
27th	10.30 am	Joint Communion Service

'Come and Worship' is held on the first and third Sunday of each month in the schoolroom at 7.00 pm. Through Lent we have enjoyed a series of weekly discussions with our Anglican friends, studying 'Pathways to Prayer.'

Details of our meetings can be obtained from our church secretary, Mrs Vena Jones, on 01938 590350.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL. REQUESTS FOR PRAYER ARE INVITED

Border Musicals presents "From Canaan to the 60's"

Let Border Musicals take you and all the family on a journey through time with performances of songs from four of the most loved musicals of all time.

"Les Miserables" "Oliver"

"Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

"Hairspray"

As ever there will be a four night run of performances at Llandrinio Village Hall from 7th-10th May 2008

Tickets will go on sale from the middle of April at a price of just £5.00 each, available from Llandrinio Garage

Please book early to avoid disappointment!

Will and Charlie's Car Cleaners

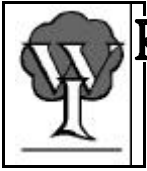
*Are you fed up of cleaning your car?
If so, call Will and Charlie's Car Cleaners on
01691 831178 or 830731.*

If you want your car cleaned you can either come to Portland House or we will come to you. For more information you can ask us over the phone.

Prices may vary depending on the size of your vehicle.

We will do the inside and outside or one or the other.

Prices start at £4 for a full clean.



REPORTS

LLANDRINIO

The March meeting, chaired by our President Maxine, was held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th. There were 22 members present, and a new member, Heather Wilmot, was welcomed, bringing our numbers up to 27. Minutes were received and matters arising discussed. Jenny spoke about the proposed Walking Group which was to have its inaugural meeting on Thursday 27th March, at the Village Hall - walking for an hour with leaders, but with no compulsion about time or distance.

Lynn said that entries for the County Show were now finalised. The Vyrnwy Group meeting is to be held at Arddleen on April 4th. County News was discussed briefly, and the suggestion that the County Badge should be redesigned was given short shrift by the long term members, who saw no reason to change a well-established badge / image. The AGM in Liverpool has our link delegate from Four Crosses, with two observers from Llandrinio and our County Committee member, Maxine, hoping to attend. Bernadette is to go forward to the Scrabble Competition on 5th April, and other volunteers to participate were requested. Glenys was thanked for producing our programme cards. Our village portfolio for the WI of the year will go from the county as the only entrant from Powys Montgomery.

The next WI meeting on 9th April will again be an open meeting, when Caroline Wigley will introduce her 'Spring Collection of Hats' - members meeting at 7.15 pm, guests at 8 pm.

Carys said that the list of members' interests needed updating, and asked for reassessments. Ideas were requested from members for the June meeting which was to be a day out, probably on a Saturday (with a meal!).

Over 30 visitors were welcomed by Maxine, and Jamie Ward was introduced as our speaker for the evening. He fascinated us with the story of his chage-over from traditional mixed farmer to specialist pig breeder and farmer-producer. His venture, starting in 1997 to the present day, has been a progression, helped especially by local Farmers' Markets and 'leaps in the dark' to a sustainable local business. He multi-tasked by cooking, talking and producing his sausages, and encouraged the audience to participate - which some did. His talk was enthusiastically received, and he was thanked by Glenys.

After refreshments the various draw prizes were won by a mixture of ten members and visitors.

FOUR CROSSES

There was a full attendance at the monthly meeting held on March 6th in the Village Centre. Mrs Kathleen Foulkes, President, welcomed all members and

also Mrs Shirley Owen, our speaker for the evening. It was decided that we should listen to Mrs Owen before holding the business meeting, and we all enjoyed her talk "60 Years of Hairdressing" very much. We were reminded of the different hairstyles worn by women sixty years ago, and how the perming procedure has changed over the years. As a young child her photograph was published in several magazines advertising the Eugene perm. She had served a three-year apprenticeship, earning two shillings and six pence a week, and at that time it cost one shilling and sixpence to have your hair cut and two guineas for a perm (there is a well-known hairdresser who charges over £40 for a cut today!). We were able to handle a wig and some hairpieces that Mrs Owen had brought along to show us, and she entertained us with several of her personal anecdotes.

Refreshments provided by Isobel Jones were taken after Isobel's vote of thanks to the speaker. The general meeting followed, with the reading of minutes, and correspondence. Thanks were expressed to all members who had given books which Isobel Jones had taken to the British Heart Foundation Charity Shop. It is hoped to have a coffee evening held at the home of Barbara Wellings on July 4th, and money raised will be given to MED (Montgomeryshire Emergency Doctors), which is a voluntary organisation whose members provide skilled medical help at the scene of an accident, medical emergency or during transport to hospital. The winner of the raffle prize was Jean Clare. The speaker at the April 3rd meeting will be Mrs Stella Mills who will talk on 'Lacemaking History and Exhibits'.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

At the March meeting of the Llandrinio Branch, chaired by Mr Bryan Foulkes, it was reported that once again the Poppy Appeal, both locally and nationally, had exceeded expectations and represented a healthy increase on the previous year. Several generous donations had been received, including one from Mrs Joyce Burgoyne - thanks were expressed for these. It was noted that the Legion's expenditure on providing for war veterans and their families far outstripped the amounts raised in the annual appeal, and the Poppy Appeal was therefore as important today as at any time. The annual county service of Remembrance and Prayer for World Peace will be held at Montgomery Parish Church on Sunday 11th May, and all are encouraged to attend. The next meeting of the Llandrinio Branch will be two days later, on Tuesday 13th May, at the Golden Lion, Four Crosses, beginning at 7.45 pm.

LLANDRINIO MOTHERS' UNION

At the meeting in February Mrs. May Hillier congratulated our Rector Bill Rowell on his appointment as a curial canon of St. Asaph Cathedral and although saddened that he would be leaving later in the year to become Vicar of Welshpool nevertheless expressed good wishes to him and Ann for the future.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th April at Grantley Court, Llandrinio commencing at 2 pm when the speaker will be Revd. Pam Powell of Llansantffraid. New members very welcome. The visit to Severn Hospice will be on Tuesday 6th May to arrive there by 2 pm.

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 :-

Betty & Gwyn Jones - Four Crosses
Margaret Barlow - Four Crosses
Chris Backshall - Carreghofa
Trevor Astley - Four Crosses
Luke Barker Plumbing
Border Bridges 200 Club

Connie Allison - Four Crosses
Joy & Steve Jary - Four Crosses
Mr N Gibbon - Llandysilio
Joe & Irene Price - Llandrinio
May Hillier - Four Crosses
Shop Sales

From Someone Else's Magazine . . .

"Grand jumble sale at the Village Hall - a great chance to get rid of some of those old things that aren't worth keeping about the house! Ladies - why not bring your husbands along?"

"The difference between a bagpipe and an onion is that nobody cries when you chop up a bagpipe." (Henry Quelp)

The
Back Page

Having driven for several miles down a narrow country lane, a townie driver was disconcerted to find the bridge over a small river was closed for repairs. It looked as though he was going to have to go all the way back, then find a different route. But an old boy from the village was sat on the parapet of the bridge, so the driver hailed him and called him over. "Tell me," he asked, "is the river here shallow enough for me to drive across?" "Yes, I reckon you could do that, sir," replied the countryman. "Are you sure, now?" the driver asked. "Yes, you'll have no problem there, sir," the local assured him. Reassured, the driver drove into the river, and almost immediately his car sank in deep water. He only just managed to scramble out himself and make it to the bank. "What the hell did you mean by that?" he ranted at the old boy, "Telling me the water was shallow enough to cross. That's got to be at least ten feet deep!" "I'm sorry, sir, I can't understand it," the local replied, "that water only comes halfway up them there ducks!"

A policeman stopped a driver in town one Friday night. "I'm sorry sir, but would you mind blowing into this bag?" he asked. "Why do you want me to do that?" the driver asked him. "My chips are far too hot," the policeman replied.

Then there was the farmer who fed his chickens whisky in the hope that they would lay Scotch eggs . . .

Crossword Answers: AC - 1) Robin; 3) Art; 6) Moa; 7) Mimic; 9) Aberdovey; 12) Scree; 13) Tea; 14) Una; 15) Cabot. DN - 1) Rumba; 2) Baa; 4) Rhine; 5) Simon; 8) Creed; 10) Bacon; 11) Yeast; 13) Tab.

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