

# THE BRIDGE



**Bluebell**

***Hyacinthoides non-scriptus***



The sight and scent of a bluebell wood in May is one of the joys of a British spring. The distinctive British bluebell is in fact native only to those parts of Europe fringing the Atlantic, and the carpets of woodland blue are very dependant on our basically damp and mild climate.

A member of the lily family, the bluebell has flowers that vary in intensity from a very deep blue to paler hues and occasionally white or pink, to be found on one side of a flower spike that curves over, unlike the larger, more erect and usually paler flowering spike of its garden relative, the Spanish bluebell.

The strap-like leaves are vulnerable to trampling by unwary sightseers - please keep to the footpaths when admiring bluebell woods. The flowers are followed by fruit capsules which split when ripe to release black seeds.

The harebell or Scottish bluebell is a quite unrelated plant, of the campanula family.

**MAY 2008**

**No. 293**

# DIARY OF EVENTS - MAY & JUNE 2008

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	Llandysilio Mothers' Union coach outing 'From Canaan to the 60's'
Fri 9th May	'From Canaan to the 60's' AGM of 'Duchess Countess' Trust, Llanymynech
Sat 10th May	Penrhos Church Coffee Morning 'From Canaan to the 60's'
Sun 11th May	Whit Sunday - Christian Aid Week begins County Service of Remembrance at Montgomery Car Boot Sale at Llandrinio Village Hall Choir Concert at Tabernacle, Arddleen
Tue 13th May	Llanymynech Gardeners' Association plant auction Llandrinio Branch, the Royal British Legion
Fri 16th May	Grand Quiz Night for Christian Aid, Llandrinio Village Hall
Sat 17th May	Launch of 'Monty08' at Llanymynech
Fri 23rd May	Bridge Drive in aid of RNLI, Llandrinio Village Hall
Sat 31st May	Old Cat People Open Day, Argae, Haimwood
Sun 1st Jun	Canon Bill Rowell's last service at Llandysilio, 10.30 am Canon Bill Rowell's induction, St Mary's Welshpool, 2.30 pm
Tue 3rd Jun	Diocesan Mothers' Union Festival, Wrexham, 7 pm
Thur 5th Jun	Bingo Evening for Criggion Church, Criggion Village Hall Llandrinio Village Hall Committee, 7.30 pm
Sat 7th Jun	Coffee Morning for Criggion Church
Tue 10th Jun	Evergreens outing to the Conwy Valley
Thur 12th Jun	Canon Clive Southerton at Llandysilio Mothers' Union
Fri 13th Jun	Llandrinio Church Coffee Evening at Haim House, 7 pm
Tue 17th Jun	Llandrinio Mothers' Union summer outing

## 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 in mth*

*Thursdays:*

*Playgroup 10 am*

*Walking Group 1.30 pm*

*Bowls 7.30 pm*

*Saturdays:*

*Whist Drive (1st in each month)*

# Thanks and Good Wishes

- Congratulations to Matt and Debbie on the birth of Bethan Louise on February 29th, sister to Tegan and Keenya. Lots of love - Grandma Moira xxx
- Thank you to Joan and the many helpers at Age Concern. You all look after us so well, and we have a grand time being waited on! *Joyce Burgoyne*
- A warm thank-you to the Halfway House and Orthopaedic Hospital Choirs who together gave such a lovely concert at the Village Hall. Thanks also to those who helped at the door and behind the scenes to ensure an enjoyable and profitable evening. *[Combined from several correspondents]*
- Congratulations to Rémi Marcel Davies Turner, baptized at Llandrinio Church on Easter Sunday.

## ROUNDABOUT

The little town of **Caersws** can trace its history back to Roman times, when two forts were constructed here in the Severn valley. Modern excavation has revealed the ruins of some interesting stone buildings, including the bath house and the granary. After Roman times this area was often somewhat lawless and turbulent. The Normans subdued the border lands, and granted Caersws borough status (which it no longer has), but it took until Tudor times for stability to be established. 19th century Caersws was a mining town, with 1000 or more employed in the Fan Mines, served by a rail branch from the town. Caersws is still accessible by rail, and the present road bridge into the town was built in 1821. Caersws has long been a centre for the game of quoits (the annual quoits international was held here last year), and its football team has played in the Welsh Premier since that league was inaugurated (though alas finishing the current season in the relegation places); trotting races have also been held here since the 1870's. The local scenery and wildlife is of interest. Two smaller rivers (Afon Trannon and Afon Carno) join the Severn by Caersws, and nearby lakes include Llyn Mawr, a good spot for bird-watching, and Llyn Du and Llyn Tarw for trout fishing.

**Family** AT ST TYSILIO'S, LLANDYSILIO  
**Worship** SUNDAY 4TH MAY, 11.15 AM  
 THEME: "CROWNS OF GLORY"

*A Spring Poem from Joyce Burgoyne*

*Spring has come, trees and buds showing green,  
 Flowers appearing, great to be seen.  
 We till the soil and sow the seed  
 Ready for all our winter need.  
 Lambs are gambolling all around,  
 Cattle lowing, what a lovely sound.  
 Birds looking after fledgelings too,  
 Singing so sweetly for me and you.*

## **Severn Valley Strollers**

In Llandrinio  
 It's fun and it's free



**We meet each Thursday -  
 Join us for a gentle walk  
 of up to one hour**

Trained walk leaders will help you to discover the benefits of regular exercise, and the enjoyment of being outdoors in good company

Meet us in the Village Hall car park in Llandrinio at 1.30 pm. No special equipment needed, just sensible shoes  
 Just turn up, or call 01686 623707 to find out more

**ORGANIST NEEDED**

St Tysilio's Parish Church, Llandysilio, is looking for an organist to play for main Sunday services on a regular basis, and also for weddings, funerals etc through the year. The church is fortunate in having a beautiful organ which is in good order and well maintained. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Mrs Carol Davies, PCC Secretary, on 01691 831008.

**ART EXHIBITION AT COFFEE MORNING**

Penrhos Parish Church hold their annual Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th May at Penrhos Old School. This year there will be an exhibition of art from the Art Group that meets regularly in the Old School, alongside the other usual stalls - cakes, plants, books, bric-a-brac. Coffee will be served between 10 am and 12 noon.

**COUNTRYSIDE CODE - RESPECT, PROTECT AND ENJOY**

The improved accessibility of the footpaths linking the Garage and Shop in Llandrinio to Rhos Common has been very much appreciated, and the paths are well used by many people. Please remember, however, that dogs must be kept under close control when using any Public Footpath, and that if there are any animals in the field a dog should be kept on a short lead. Any dog mess should also be cleaned up and disposed of responsibly.

Llandrinio Community Council is currently working with Powys County Council to improve other Public Footpaths in the area. Any queries should be directed to Mrs Carol Davies, The Crest, Four Crosses (01691 831008).

**EISTEDDFOD NEWS FROM LLANDYSILIO C-IN-W SCHOOL**

We would like to share with you all our recent successes at the Eisteddfodau. We took part in the Urdd Eisteddfod for the second year running and are pleased to announce that we have got through to the National Finals this year. Our creative dance, which was based upon an eco-theme won at Llanfyllin and then Newtown. The dancers (approximately 20 pupils in total) will be representing the North Powys area at Penrhyn Bay during the Whit half term holiday.

Congratulations also go to Luke Grainger, whose collage has gone through to the National finals along with a group of puppets made by Jack Foulkes, Sol Swaine, Jack Griffiths and Oliver Pritchard.

We are also really pleased with our poetry results from the Minsterley Eisteddfod. Jack Young's poem came first and Oliver Pritchard's gained third place. On top of this Billy Hardy received an award for a poem that showed the most promise.

All three poems are printed on the opposite page.

*Alison Ellis, Head Teacher*

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**Royal British Legion branch meeting - Golden Lion Hotel - Tues 13th May, 7.45 pm**

POEMS FROM THE MINSTERLEY EISTEDDFOD**WINTER DAYS BY JACK YOUNG****(FIRST PRIZE)**

When school days are over and the wind is blowing wild,  
 Everyone is warm inside, mother, father and child.  
 On the twenty-fourth of December, children snug in bed,  
 Waiting for Santa Claus to arrive with his sled.

Spring. New grass is growing and newborn chicks are eating,  
 The sun is shining brighter now, lambs are busy bleating.  
 Baby rabbits jumping in the light of the sunshine,  
 Daffodils are growing up and standing in a line.

**JUNGLE BY OLIVER PRITCHARD****(THIRD PRIZE)**

If you're strolling in the jungle  
     Hear the tiger creeping,  
 Searching for prey to pounce upon  
     While the jungle's sleeping.

If you're strolling in the jungle  
     Hear the lion roaring,  
 Reminding others he's the boss  
     While the jungle's snoring.

If you're strolling in the jungle  
     Hear the parrot squawking,  
 Calling loudly for some new friends  
     While the jungle's talking!

**THE SLIMY SNAKE BY BILLY HARDY****(HAROLD BISHTON PRIZE)**

There's a slimy snake high in the tree,  
 His eyes glow red when the sunlight shines,  
 His scales as green as the Summertime grass,  
 His camouflage great, no-one can see!

He strikes like tigers killing their prey,  
 Motion in his eyes following scents,  
     A tongue so red that's hissing at me,  
     He sheds his coat where ancestors lay

*Congratulations not only to these three, but  
 to all the children who entered!*

***BORDER BRIDGES  
 CHURCHES & CHAPELS*****WINE, CHEESE &  
 SAVOURIES EVENING****FRIDAY 11TH JULY****WITH ENTERTAINMENT  
 BY****PORTHYWAEN YOUTH  
 AND TRAINING BAND  
 PLUS LOCAL ARTISTES**

**by kind invitation of Four  
 Crosses Young Farmers Club  
 in their Marquee at  
 Llandrinio**

**7 for 7.30 pm****Admission by  
 Ticket only, £10**

**(Available from Church  
 members at Llandysilio,  
 Llandrinio, Penrhos &  
 Criggion, and Chapel members  
 at Llandrinio and Arddleen)**

Further information:  
 01691 831226 or 830628



## A Recent Email to our Webmaster Malcolm, from Mr Hugh Jones

Dear Malcolm,

My father was the Rev. Hugh I.K. Jones at Llandrinio from about 1936 (I was one year old) to 1949 (I was at Ellesmere). My memories are a bit sketchy but I wouldn't be surprised if you have heard from my sister Kathleen Green who has an encyclopaedic memory of the past. We were there during the floods of the late 40's when the rectory was inundated for the first time in living memory when the Argae broke somewhere upstream. I recall mother being in a panic on the first occasion, as Pa was away somewhere and she had no idea how high it would rise. In the event it was probably less than 18 inches but in the dark it looked very sinister. We kids of course found it exciting as we moved upstairs. I seem to remember that in those days this was an 'act of God' so not covered by any insurance and we were left to dry out as best we could (no luxury caravans then)!

Odd things come to mind, like riding up the lane next to the rectory on Mr Wyn Jones's rattly hay carts pulled by his splendid horses; the Avro Anson aircraft that made a forced landing in a field and finished up across the road by the turning to Gwern-y-go (as far as I can see from the map) in the middle of the village (such as it was then); and of course we watched them building the Criggion pylons. My Dad was in the TA and I've attached a copy of his Army Identity Card; the war had very little impact on us but I do remember some soldiers coming and building a 'firing platform' beside the high brick wall separating the rectory garden from the lane, part of the defences for the Criggion radio station I presume. I also remember planes dropping 'chaff', strips of silvered paper intended to confuse enemy radar equipment, presumably as an experiment. All in all they were happy days - and living in Victorian style with no mains anything and no phone was an experience to be cherished.

I'm sad that the pylons have gone and even sadder at the devastating effect quarrying is now having on the Breidden.

best wishes,

Hugh Jones

Army Form 9.2201	
MILITARY IDENTITY CARD No. M 094285	
Surname	JONES
Surname at Birth	JONES
Other Names (and rank or designation)	HUGH IORWERTH KIRKIN C/O/WRM
Unit or occupation	1st BATTALIMENT CASUALTY Coy ROYAL WELCH Fusiliers
Address	LLANDRINIO RECTORY BLANNYMYNECH
Nationality	BRITISH
Nationality at Birth	BRITISH
Second Nationality, if any	Nil
Place of Birth	WHITLAND, CARM.
Year of Birth	1898
Issued by	RESERVE UNIT AND MONTGOMERESHIRE
At	11 NEWARK ROAD, LLEWELLYN
Date	28/7/1943
Signature of Enrollee	<i>Hugh Jones</i>
Place Distinguishing mark	
Photo	

**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death

**Please support  
Christian Aid Week  
2008  
11th May  
to  
18th May**

## **LLANDYSILIO MOTHERS' UNION**

Branch Leader Margaret Barlow welcomed members to the April meeting. The short service was conducted by the Rector, and Mrs Rowell played to accompany the hymn. We began with our speaker, Mrs Margaret Jandrell, who had travelled down from Mochdre, leaving her husband in charge of the lambing. She was welcomed and introduced by Mrs Barlow, but is already well known in the deanery. Her talk entitled 'Relationships' focused on a theme for the year, and included many quotes from prayerful and spiritual writings, giving us plenty of food for thought. She was thanked by Barbara Coleman, and the refreshments that followed were supplied by Barbara Coleman and Flo Jones.

The business meeting then followed, with apologies recorded from Jean Rhodes and Connie Allison. Glenys Lloyd was able to give us further information regarding our outing on our outing on May 8th. We shall be visiting the churches at Middleton-in-Chirbury and Fitz, following in the footsteps of the Revd Waldegrave Brewster, whose wood carvings in both places are admired by many visitors. At the time they caused some consternation, as some were regarded as unsuitable for a place of Christian worship! Mr Brewster was at one time Rector of Llandysilio, and is buried in the churchyard. The coach will leave the Golden Lion, Four Crosses at 1.15 pm, and we shall return there for afternoon tea at the end of our tour.

Mrs Barlow thanked Canon and Mrs Rowell on behalf of the Branch for the support they had given during their time here, and wished them both well on their forthcoming move to Welshpool. The Branch decided to enter the Christian Aid Week Quiz at Llandrinio on 16th May. The Lady Day service at Penrhos had been a lovely occasion, and the choir (which included three members of the Branch) was congratulated.

The Deanery Festival is due to take place at Welshpool Parish Church on July 15th at 7 pm, and we shall look forward to seeing and hearing Canon Rowell in his new position as Vicar of Welshpool. *GJ*

## **LLANDRINIO MOTHERS' UNION**

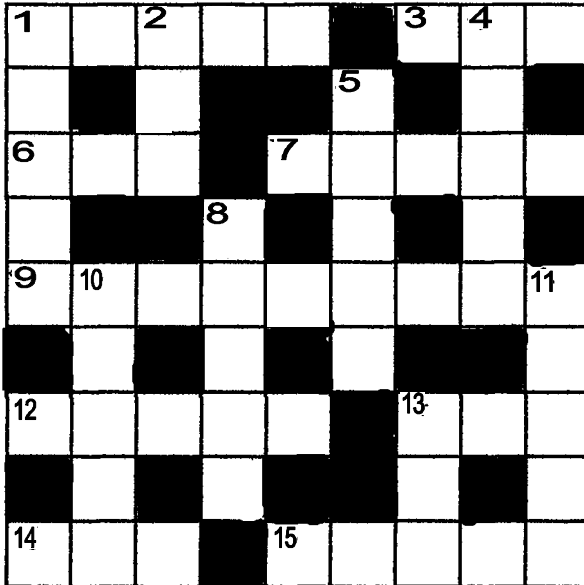
Members gathered at Grantley Court, Llandrinio for the meeting on Monday 7th April which commenced with a short service led by our Rector Reverend Canon Bill Rowell.

There was the usual business to deal with during which Mrs. Hillier thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the Coffee Morning on 23rd February. Final arrangements were made for the visit to the Severn Hospice on 6th May and brief reports were given of the 'quiet day' in Berriew and the Lady Day Service at Penrhos by those members who had attended the events. Members noted that the Deanery Festival will be held in St. Mary's Church, Welshpool on 15th July.

*Continued on page 11 (Web page 13)*

# General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS:



- 1 - Middle East country, capital Damascus (5)  
 3 - Nigerian tribe (3)  
 6 - Johnson, early female aviator (3)  
 7 - Spanish port city (5)  
 9 - Bird found in fields (and fruit trees?) (9)  
 12 - Leaf of a fern (5)  
 13 - c.g.s. unit of work or energy (3)  
 14 - Social insect (3)  
 15 - Means of pedestrian access from field to field (5)

**Answers on page 16**  
**(Web - page 18)**

- DOWN: 1 - Species of duck (5)                      2 - Flatfish related to sharks (3)  
 4 - Flashy gold jewellery etc (modern slang) (5)  
 5 - Classical language (5)  
 8 - Town midway between Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent (5)  
 10 - Brother and colleague of Moses; first Jewish high priest (5)  
 11 - Bird of prey, Latin name Aquila (5)  
 13 - Old Testament high priest (3)

## 50/50 SHOP

As we have as yet been unable to obtain grant funding for a new 50/50 shop the Village Hall Committee had decided to sell the remaining articles, kept in store since the old 50/50 shop was closed. The money raised will be given to the Village Hall funds. If anyone would like to reclaim their article/s before the sale, please get in touch with Mrs M Weston on 01691 830134, with their name and the number that will be on the article/s.

*M. Weston*

## APRIL WHIST DRIVE - 13½ TABLES :: M/C D. LEWIS

Ladies: 1= Sandra Wood & Jane Jones; 3= Martin Evans & Rose Williams

Gents: 1 Marion Downes; 2 Doreen Pilsbury; 3 Margaret Evans

Knockout: 1 Margaret Williams and Ian Roberts

2 Mrs Barnes and Mr Andrews

**HANDY HINTS FOR LIFE - No 1: Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.**

### **LLANSANTFFRAID BOWLING CLUB**

The outdoor season starts in May, and we are always looking for new members. Bowling is an ideal family game, the only sport where young and old, male and female can compete on equal terms. Ours is a friendly club catering for the competitive player and those who just wish to play socially. Bowls are available - all you need is a pair of flat-soled shoes. Taster sessions can be arranged to suit, followed by coaching from qualified coaches. Why not find out more about it - by phoning ***Terry Hillier 01691 831484***

***Ann Morris 01691 828331***

***Peter Lloyd 01691 828322***

### **FOUR CROSSES EVERGREEN CLUB**

What an enjoyable afternoon we had at our April meeting! Once again there was nearly a full house. Jean Foulkes, our leader, welcomed all the members and accepted apologies from those who were unable to attend.

Pryce Southerton gave details of the outings planned for the summer. On June 10th we shall be going by coach over the Horseshoe Pass en route for Llandudno Junction where we shall board the train for the Conwy Valley Line to Blaenau Ffestiniog. We shall finally have an evening meal at Llangynog.

On August 12th we are going to visit the National Arboretum Memorial at Alrewas, and will hopefully also be able to pay a visit to Trentham Gardens. Contact 830266, 839039 or 831629 if you would like to join us, provided there are seats available.

Between these dates we shall be holding a "Summer Fun Fundraiser" at The Acorns, Domgay Road, Four Crosses at 6.30 pm on July 16th. There will be various stalls, sideshows, games and teas with scones and cream. Come and join us - the more the merrier!

Jean Foulkes gave a special welcome to our speaker, Mrs Liz Thompson, from Llanfyllin. She had been booked at very short notice and had, on that morning, returned from Turkey. Her talk was entitled "So Near Yet So Far", and she told us of her experiences at the TV studios, when she hoped to compete on the "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" show. She was beaten to the button by 0.09 second!

Competitors have to be attired in clothing that is suitable for filming and when she arrived at the Village Hall she looked very smart in a black velvet trouser suit. However, as she told us about the clothing for the show she did a strip tease and removed her suit, only to show another very nice outfit which is the one she had to wear for the show!! A few weeks ago she was on "Egg Heads", and Nat White from Mill Gate was on the quiz team as well. Pryce Southerton thanked Mrs Thompson for her most interesting talk.

Tea was served afterwards by the hostesses, Beryl Thatcher, Rosina Wright,

Barnadette McNicholls and Audrey Sutton, and they were thanked by Jean Foulkes. The draw prize winners were Jean Passant, Rose Davies and Connie Allison.

## ***RECIPE OF THE MONTH*** TUNA PASTA BAKE

**INGREDIENTS** 200g/7 oz pasta shapes  
 295g can of condensed cream of mushroom soup  
 200ml/7 fl oz milk  
 ½ bunch spring onions, chopped  
 200g can of tuna, drained  
 100g/3½ oz Cheddar cheese, grated

**METHOD**

- 1 Cook the pasta according to the packet instructions, and drain.
- 2 Stir in the soup, milk, onions and tuna, and heat through, stirring regularly.
- 3 Transfer to a warmed 1.2 litre/2 pint flameproof dish and top with the grated cheese. Grill till golden.
- 4 Serve with a crisp salad and fresh crusty bread. Serves 4.

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### ***COFFEE MORNINGS FOR LLANDRINIO CHURCH***

At a recent meeting it was decided that members of Llandrinio Parish Church would each open their homes up for a coffee morning on the second Thursday of each month - from 10 am to 12 noon, with a bring & buy table, starting in July. Here are the days and places :-

July 10th 2008 - May Hillier, 4 Sunnymead, Four Crosses  
 August 14th 2008 - Cicely Sanderson, Grantley Court, Llandrinio  
 September 11th 2008 - Mair Wigley, Glenhurst, Llandrinio  
 October 9th 2008 - Lucy Roberts, Rhos Nursery, Rhos Common, Llandrinio  
 November 13th 2008 - Sarah Butler, Pinfold, Llandrinio  
 December 11th 2008 - Carys Bull, Oakfields, Llandrinio  
 January 8th 2009 - Mair Wigley, Glenhurst, Llandrinio  
 February 12th 2009 - Myfanwy Lloyd, Clinton, Llandrinio  
 March 12th 2009 - Glenys Jones, The Meadows, Llandrinio  
 April 9th 2009 - Pat Swain, 5 Melderley View, Crew Green  
 May 14th 2009 - Muriel Jones, 2 Orchard Croft, Llandrinio

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### **LLANMYNECH WHARF VISITOR CENTRE**

The Visitor Centre is housed in the restored stables of the former Sun Inn, where canal horses would probably have been stabled from time to time. The range of displays covering canal and local themes is changed regularly. Hot and cold drinks are available, and there is a picnic area beside the canal. The centre is open on Sundays and Bank Holidays from Easter to the end of September, and on Saturdays in July and August, 2.30-4 pm. The twelve seater trip boat also operates for public trips on most weekends.

**LLANDRINIO  
METHODIST CHAPEL  
RHOS COMMON**

**SERVICES IN MAY**

No service at Llandrinio on 4th or 11th May (see below)

18th May, 11 am: Hilton Holmes

25th May, 11 am: E. Reddington

On Whit Sunday, 11th May, there is to be a Youth Service at Kinnerley at 11 am, to be held at the Village Hall - outside if fine, inside if wet.

The Circuit Service on the evening of the same day will be at Pant at 6.30 pm.

*"Do not insult the alligator until after you have crossed the river"*

*- Haitian proverb*

*"Talent without sense is a torch in folly's hand" - Welsh proverb*

**THE OLD CAT PEOPLE**

Readers may be interested to know that the 'Old Cat People' will be holding an open day at Argae, Haimwood, Llandrinio on Saturday May 31st from 10 am to 4 pm.

As well as having a huge variety of items for sale, it gives the general public a chance to see the cats and what we do regarding cat rescue here. There will also be tombola, teddy raffle, displays and food and drink for sale, all under cover if wet.

For further details contact Mark and Stella on 01691 830539. We have also refurbished our old caravan into a small shop selling books and ornaments etc which have all been donated by generous and kind supporters, so please come along for a browse. We are open almost any time, although it is best to telephone first to make sure we will be about.

**DUCHESS COUNTESS TRUST AGM**

The annual general meeting of the Packet Boat 'Duchess Countess' Trust will be held at the Cross Keys, Llanymynech on Friday 9th May at 7.30 pm. The guest speaker will be Steven Lees, project manager for the Montgomery Canal, British Waterways.

"Monty 08" will be launched on 17th May during the Llanymynech Open Day to be held at Llanymynech Heritage Area and Wharf.

**IN SUPPORT OF CRIGGION CHURCH**

On Thursday 5th June there will be a Bingo Evening at Criggion Village Hall, with proceeds in support of Criggion Church. The Church is also holding a coffee morning on Saturday 7th June, at the home of Mrs Mona Evans, "Breidden", Meverley Road, Crew Green. And tickets will be shortly on sale for the annual Sunday Lunch at Criggion Village Hall, on Sunday 29th June (following the group service at 10.30 am on that day).

**HANDY HINTS FOR LIFE - No 2: Never worry about what people might think. They don't do it very often.**

# A Word to the WISE<sup>12</sup>

How odd that the road surface between Crabtree Corner and the Sarn Wen turn was resurfaced (very quickly and efficiently, I thought), and yet the bend itself by Sarn Wen Cottages, which is in appalling condition with pot holes constantly opening, being filled, and re-opening, wasn't. I'm sure there's a logic to it, and maybe that section's up to be done soon. I hope so. To be honest, it would be far better if the large quantity of heavy traffic that uses this route on a working day could be redirected away from areas of housing - or at least, that part of it that isn't actually travelling to or from Four Crosses itself. The pavement along part of this road is very narrow, and the draught from large vehicles rushing past (was that really 30 mph, sir?) is quite off-putting for the unwary pedestrian.

There are quite a lot of pedestrians who regularly use these routes, including mums with pushchairs and small toddlers on their way to or from Toddler Group of the shops. So it's worth noting that the pavements themselves are in quite poor order here and there. Mind you - it all has to be paid for!

With that in mind, I'm sure that for many people the real level of inflation is far in excess of the officially published figures. Food prices have increased, and fuel prices have of course. I want to put in a plea on behalf of those in our world who are REALLY affected by this. It's hard here to make your budget stretch that bit further; but in some parts of the world the rocketing prices of staples like rice and wheat are the difference between eating and starving. With this in mind, please do think about buying Fair Trade foods, even though they're a bit more expensive than other sorts, and it's tempting to save the pence. Fair Trade on its own isn't the answer to the imbalances in world trade, but it does make a real difference to the lives of real people who are growing and producing the tea, coffee, bananas, sugar etc that bears the Fair Trade label. There's a move to make Wales the world's first Fair Trade Nation. I'm all for it.

And secondly, please do support Christian Aid Week between 11th and 18th May. There will be opportunities to contribute within our communities during the week - and the great thing about Christian Aid is the way it gets help to places unreachable by governmental aid. They don't send expensive western experts into the places where they work, but instead work in close partnership with local people on the ground - churches, schools, farming and industrial co-operatives, social networks etc. Some great things are happening, and for me this is giving that punches well above its weight.

As I write this, the weather here is still gloomy and cold, and it doesn't inspire confidence in anything. The news media is full of the credit crunch, with hints of further shocks ahead. Since life for everyone is set to get a bit harder over the coming months, it's worth my while mentioning that it's still pretty good for most of us, and the weather will warm up I'm sure (probably has by the time you read this). It's tempting to concentrating on what's bad, and to moan about stuff that anyway we can't change. Better to just get on with life!

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

4th - Easter 7	9.00 Holy Communion	Mrs C Sanderson
11th - Pentecost	6.30 Evening Service	Mrs C Sanderson
18th - Trinity	11.15 Family Communion	Mrs D Barnes
25th - Trinity 1	11.15 Holy Communion	Mrs D Barnes

**RECTOR'S LAST SERVICE HERE**

Canon Bill Rowell will be inducted as Vicar of Welshpool on Sunday 1st June at 2.30 pm, in St Mary's Church. His final service in these parishes will also be on that day, at 10.30 am at Llandysilio. This will be a group service and there will be no other services in the group on that day.

The process of finding a new incumbent for the churches here has begun, and it is hoped that a new appointment will be made within six months. Meanwhile local clergy and readers will be taking the regular round of services.

Because the house in Welshpool will not be ready to move into until a little later in the month, Bill and Ann Rowell will continue to live at the Rectory for a short time after Bill's induction at Welshpool.

**LLANDRINIO CHURCH COFFEE EVENING**

The church Coffee Evening will be held at the home of Mr & Mrs E Jones, Haim House, on Friday 13th June, with the usual stalls and activities. More about this in next month's 'Bridge'.

**SERVICES AT THE OTHER CHURCHES** [\* = Holy Communion]

	Llandysilio	Penrhos	Criggion
4th	11.15	11.15	10.00 *
11th	9.00 *	11.15 *	10.00 *
18th	11.15	9.00 *	10.00 *
25th	9.00 *	10.00 *	10.00 *

**LLANDRINIO MOTHERS' UNION REPORT** *(continued from p5 [web p7])*

The invitation from Llandysilio MU to join them on their outing to Middleton Church and Fitz Church on the 8th May was discussed and names were taken of those members wishing to attend.

Our speaker was our Rector and by the end of the evening he had us all in stitches as we listened to his varied collection of comic poetry readings particularly those relating to our garden 'friends' such as slugs and moles!! In thanking him Cicely said she was a little disappointed he had not produced a poem about a rabbit! Who knows, this may happen! Watch this space or should I say 'hat'!!!

The evening concluded with tea, coffee and cakes served by our hostess, Cicely, who was thanked by May.

*M.L.L.*

# FEATHER REPORT <sup>14</sup> Musings from the Rectory Garden

One swallow does not a summer make, as the saying goes. So I'm glad to say that on Monday 14th April, when I saw my first swallow (between Arddleen and Guilsfield), it was immediately followed by another. I suspect that at that point both of them were wondering why on earth they'd bothered coming. But those little migratory bundles of feathers do come, amazing distances many of them. I had a little willow warbler in my garden the other day, a tiny thing no more than a few grams in weight, but he or she will have flown in from Africa, something I find quite amazing.

Many people have been following, on the radio or the internet, the migratory journey of a much larger bird called Logie. Logie is a female osprey that was fitted with a gps radio transmitter last summer, and followed on her migration to Africa and back. Even she has struggled against the cold northerly winds, so what must it be like for tiny birds like willow warblers. But they're back, and back in good numbers - hooray!

I popped along to Llyn Coed y Dinas the other day to see if there were sand martins there yet. And there were, flitting over the water, and investigating the sand martin bank which is right next to the hide. Sand martins are small brown relatives of the swallow, and they do usually get here quite early. They nest in holes in sandy river banks, and can be found in some numbers in several places along the Severn.

Among the sand martins at Llyn Coed y Dinas there were also quite a few swallows, hawking for insects above the pool. The male swallow proves his manliness by the length of his tail feathers - the longer they are, the more desirable a catch he is. The third member of the swallow family to reach our shores is the house martin. I've yet to see them, but I expect that by the time you read this they'll be filling the sky above our house.

Meanwhile, I'm keeping the bird feeders well stocked. At the moment we're having lots of visits from greenfinches and goldfinches. In this cold weather feeding stations like ours are particularly important, helping native birds to make a success out of their first nesting by cutting down the amount of foraging time they need to find enough to eat.

One person I was talking to not long ago was grieving for one of her bird-table regulars that had been snatched by a sparrow hawk. Well, it's distressing to lose a bird you've perhaps begun to think of almost as a pet, but sparrow hawks are part of the normal balance of nature, and take no more than they need. We saw one on our visit to Llyn Coed y Dinas. A very handsome slate-blue male, it shot straight across the front of the hide, and we could follow it all along the side of the pool and through the trees at the far end. I suspect it didn't leave the area at that point, however, since the black-headed gulls that nest on the lake were very spooked. It was several minutes before they returned to their normal business of quarrelling, fighting, mating, and being a generally noisy and disorderly society!

# TABERNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARDDLEEN

## Sunday services for May:

4th	11.00 am	Mrs Jean Davies
11th	11.00 am	Rev. W.K. Jones
18th	10.30 am	Joint Communion Service in <b>Llanymynech</b>
25th	11.00 am	Mrs Brenda Beadles

'Come and Worship' is held on the first and third Sunday of each month in the schoolroom at 7.00 pm. Pastorate Coffee Morning at Welshpool Town Hall on Friday, 2nd May from 10.00 am onwards.

Concert by 'Cantoris' with Rev. Colin Gordon-Farleigh of Runcorn on 11th May at 7.00 pm.

Tickets and 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"**

**Four night run of performances  
at Llandrinio Village Hall from 7th-10th May**

**Tickets now on sale  
at just £5.00 each,  
available from Llandrinio Garage**

## *Will and Charlie's Car Cleaners*

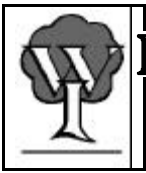
*Are you fed up of cleaning your car?  
If so, call Will and Charlie's Car Cleaners on  
01691 831178 or 830731.*

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 April meeting took place on Wednesday 9th at the Village Hall, when Maxine, the President, welcomed 19 members to an earlier than usual meeting at 7.15 pm. Minutes were approved, and Jenny then talked about 'the walks', and mentioned especially the Llanymynech walk on 7th June, which is a Federation event open to families and friends with refreshments at £2.50 per person, leaving Llanymynech Village Hall at 1.30 pm. NB No dogs [*Personal note - What has become of "man's / woman's best friend"*].

In the County Show at Four Crosses on 10th May it would seem that our Institute has the most entries - 'jolly good'. Members offered to help with teas. Names were taken for various events advertised in the County Newsletter, and the meeting was reminded of the 'members only' coffee morning on 23rd April.

The National Resolutions were passed by the meeting with little discussion. Nothing was resolved concerning the Institute outing in June, except that there is to be an 'Early Bird' meal at the Sweeney Hall Hotel on June 11th. The calendar is to be produced again by Institute artists for 2009, earlier than the present one.

The meeting then proceeded on an open basis with about 20 guests, when Catherine Wigley presented a spring collection of hats, with a light-hearted fashion parade of audience members 'strutting their stuff' (very expensive hats worn by people dressed in jeans - very amusing). The hats can be hired or bought for those special occasions. Supper was provided by members and there was an extensive draw provided as always by the doyenne of the raffle ticket, our own Myfanwy.

## ARDDLEEN

President Christ Hillidge welcomed us to our April meeting, and the minutes were read and matters arising discussed. We welcomed back Linda who has been away unwell, and also Daisy after her fall. Sue Lampshire sent a thank-you card, and hoped to be back with us soon. We were sorry to hear Jackie is to leave us; she finds it a bit far to come as she lives in Gobowen.

Our speaker for the evening was Mary Turnock, whose talk "From Police to Pulpit" told the story of her life as a policewoman and then a cleric. The month's competition winner was Pauline Dawkins, for the best Easter bonnet. Flower of the month was won by Daisy Jones, and the raffle was won by Irene. Our next meeting is on May 7th at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

## FOUR CROSSES

Mrs Kathleen Foulkes welcomed members to the April meeting, and thanked Isobel Jones for acting as secretary for the evening. Minutes were read and the

monthly County Newsletter was read and discussed. The PMFWI Spring Show is to be held at Four Crosses on Saturday May 10th, and members were asked for their help on that day.

We were delighted to have Mrs Stella Mills as our speaker. She and her friend Shirley had laid out and arranged a wonderful selection of hand made lace for us to look at, and she gave a most interesting talk on the art and history of making lace. She took us back to the years when lace was not just a woman's craft, but men and children worked very hard for very low wages. Those who wished to were able to try their hands at weaving the bobbins on the lace pillow that Shirley was working on. The competition organised by Stella was won by Ann Rowell, who also made the vote of thanks to our speaker.

Refreshments were provided by Ann Rowell and Jean Clare, and the winner of the raffle was Jean Rhodes.

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### **YFC ANNIVERSARY**

Four Crosses and District Young Farmers Club are celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year, and to mark it we are holding a charity weekend from the 11-13th July. On the Friday night the marquee is being taken over by the local churches and they will be holding a wine and cheese evening with entertainment from local performers including Porthywaen Youth and Training Band. The Young Farmers are holding a ball on the Saturday night and are inviting members past and present to help them celebrate this milestone. The weekend will be finished off on the Sunday afternoon with a luncheon and promise auction including a prize draw. All profits raised from the weekend will be split between Wales Air Ambulance, Macmillan Cancer Research and Hope House.

For more information about any of the events please contact Mark Foulkes on 01691 830285

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### **SMART ALECS THIS WAY**

**Question:** What is the smartest way to help people in the world's poorest communities help themselves?

**Answer:** Come and take part in Quizaid and put your brains to the test. It's the biggest and best fundraising quiz in the country!

And it's happening at Llandrinio Village Hall on Friday 16th May as part of this year's Christian Aid Week. Teams of four, £5 per team - come and be part of the biggest quiz in the land! There'll be great prizes for the best team on the night, a lot of fun, a prize draw, refreshments and a chance for everyone taking part to win a year's supply of Divine fairtrade chocolate! The evening begins at 7.30 pm, and you can register your team or find out more about the evening by phoning local Christian Aid supporters on 01691 830488, 830666 or 831374.

*So come along and join in the fun!*  
**Friday 16th May, 7.30 pm, Llandrinio 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 :-

"Westwood", Rhos Common  
Mr & Mrs Jenkin Davies, Four Crosses  
Chris & Harry Hillidge, Arddleen  
Mrs B Wellings, Four Crosses  
Audrey & Jean, Cartref, Llandrinio  
Phyllis Edwards, Four Crosses  
Abigail & Joshua Pollard, Forden  
Shop Sales

A Nonny Mouse  
Marie & Pierre Turner & fam, Quebec  
"The Garden Cleaner"  
Flo & Graeme Robertson, Welshpool  
Richie Edwards, Plumbing  
Llansantffraid Bowling Club  
Punch Bowl, Llandrinio

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*"The fascination of shooting as a sport depends entirely on whether you are on the right or wrong end of the gun." - P.G. Wodehouse*

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A couple of young lads were fishing along a section of the river when suddenly the local fishing bailiff appeared. Immediately, one of the boys threw his rod down and started running like the proverbial bat out of hell. The bailiff took off too in hot pursuit. The lad was a fast runner, and it must have taken the best part of a mile before the bailiff finally overhauled him. "Right, my lad," he gasped. "Let's see your fishing licence!"

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The lad pulled out his wallet, and handed his fishing licence over. The bailiff looked at it in amazement. "What on earth possessed you to run off like that?" he asked. "You've got a valid licence for the year - you've every right to fish along the river back there."

"Yes sir, that's true," the boy replied. "On the other hand, my friend . . ."

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"What's your name, boy?" said the teacher to the new child in his class.

"Six and seven eighths, sir," came the reply.

"How do you come to have a name like that?"

"I believe my parents picked my name out of a hat, sir."

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I once crossed a chicken with a parrot, but I couldn't stand the fowl language . . .

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**Crossword Answers:** AC - 1) Syria; 3) Ibo; 6) Amy; 7) Cadiz; 9) Partridge; 12) Frond; 13) Erg; 14) Ant; 15) Stile. DN - 1) Scaup; 2) Ray; 4) Bling; 5) Latin; 8) Stone; 10) Aaron; 11) Eagle; 13) Eli.

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**Copy for the June 'Bridge' by 15th May, 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](mailto:bridgemag@bilkro.fsnet.co.uk)**

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