

Llandyssil Community News

Newyddion Cymunedol Llandyssil

For residents of Llandyssil, Cwminkin, Cefn y Coed and Green Lane

August 2018 Issue 50

www.llandyssil.com

To book Llandyssil Old School Hall, contact Dave Hamer 668303 or Tim Halford 668180

Dragonfest 2018

Saturday 15th September from 12:30

Free Parking & Free Entry



Village Lottery

I would like to thank everyone who is a member of the lottery. Over the last two years we have raised over £1,500, with prizes given out amounting to over £700.

The lottery is always drawn at one of the coffee mornings and prizes are then delivered to anyone who was not there.

Draws are made four times a year and it's easy to join. Reminders are sent out with the newsletter in January along with a renewal and new members sheet.

The cost is £10 for four draws across the year, starting with the April coffee morning.

The winning numbers in the July Llandyssil Lottery draw are:

1 st	14	Belinda Jones	£47.60
2 nd	81	Gerald Jones	£29.75
3 rd	115	John Billington	£11.90

Next Coffee Morning - Saturday 27th October

From 10:15 in the Old School Hall, including a Llandyssil Lottery draw

Forms to join Llandyssil Lottery and forms to renew are available to download from the village website - www.llandyssil.com. Once downloaded, you can print and send it to me.

Maralyn Parry: Treasurer

Coffee Morning - 28th July

Thanks to everyone who came along. The total raised was £115.00. Coffee mornings are held from 10:15 to 11:30 on the last Saturday of every 3rd month, to coincide with the 200 Club draws: The coffee mornings for the remainder of this year will be on 27th October and 1st December, to coincide with the Christmas Fair.

The coffee mornings are a real community event and raise much needed funds for the Hall - **the last 2 years have raised over £2,000**. If you, or someone you know is able to spare two hours one Saturday morning (9:30 - 11:30) a year to help, do let us know. Each coffee morning needs only a handful of people to open up, put out the tables and serve tea, coffee and biscuits, help get raffle prizes and tidy up afterwards. If you are happy to be called upon if help is needed, please let Tim know on 01686 668180 or at timhalford@yahoo.com - with a phone number and email address if possible.

Hall AGM 24th May

Statement from Nigel Thomas, Chairman

'The past year has been another good one for the Llandyssil Old School Hall. Unlike many village halls, our Hall is well used and our finances are sound.

It is ten years since we signed the 25 year lease with the Church in Wales. At that time it was not clear that we could raise the £150,000 needed to renovate the Hall and build the library extension or if, once built, we would be able to generate the £7,000 a year needed to cover the annual running costs. What no-one envisaged, as you will hear later from the Treasurer, was that after 10 years we would have over £20,000 in the bank and that the Hall would be put to as much good use as is now the case.

It is a tribute to everyone involved from the earliest days that Llandyssil has such a delightful and successful village hall.

Times have changed since the Llandyssil Community Charitable Trust was established ten years ago. The Trust's role is to ensure the terms of the 25 year lease are adhered to, the Hall's governing documents meet best practice and the finances and any funds raised are properly managed. In future, the Trustees will meet every six months to ensure they are fulfilling their roles and responsibilities.

The Constitution and governing documents have been revised to meet both current regulations and new Charity Commission guidelines. The drafts of these documents, along with an adjusted Hiring Agreement, were sent out with the Agenda a month ago. One or two minor changes have been made following suggestions received. If approved later in the meeting it is then suggested that these documents only be reviewed every five years – unless there are changes in regulation which necessitate change.

The only completely new policy concerns the guidelines for the investment of any funds we may hold. Once approved, the Trustees will then be responsible for ensuring the terms of the policy are adhered to. Their prime responsibility is to protect the Trust's funds, keeping any risks to a minimum. They also have a responsibility to try to obtain a return greater than inflation so the value of funds does not reduce. At the last meeting it was agreed that up to £15,000 should be invested if suitable investments could be found as we have an obligation to build a fund to cover the cost of any repairs or refurbishment needed at the end of the lease. However, in view of continuing economic uncertainties, it is felt it would be prudent not to make any decision for the time being and to review the position later again in the year.

Many Trustees have done sterling service to the village over the years and now feel the time has come for them to step down. I would particularly like to pay tribute to Gaynor Williams who served as Treasurer, Andrew Lloyd who was Vice Chair and Maz Ralph who has been a Trustee from the very beginning and was a driving force in much of the early establishment of the Hall as a viable and well managed entity. They all deserve a round of applause – thank you. The current Trustees are myself, Alan Burch, Tim Halford, Brian Turner and Lee Waite. If anyone would like to become a Trustee, please let me know. Although the Trustees are solely concerned with the Hall, the Management Committee is made up of all those who attend these meetings and there are a large number of people to thank both

connected with the Trust and Hall and in the wider village – who all help make this village so special.

First of all, a big thank you to those who use the Hall, hold and attend classes and events, come to coffee mornings, and join us at village meetings such as this. Your continued support is much appreciated. Thanks also go to those who organise, help and loan equipment for Dragonfest and other events, to those who open the church and let us have use of the Church field for parking, to those who help at coffee mornings, to those who help at the annual spring clean, cut the grass and keep the planters looking so good, to those who write, produce and deliver the newsletter - special thanks go to Mike Mentry who has printed the newsletter for 12 years, to editor Brian and to Tim and Lee for arranging for the newsletter in future to be printed at The Milford Collection in Newtown, to those who arrange and lead walks, to those who support and manage the village Lottery and the entry for the 2018 Montgomeryshire Village of the Year competition, to Nigel Hughes who audits our accounts every year, to the Church wardens and the Community Council for their continued support, and of course to the Trustees, to Maralyn our treasurer, Tim our secretary and Disco Dave our wonderful caretaker.

It's impossible to mention everyone's name – but we all know who you are. Thank you. We have a winning team.

The officers of the Management Committee do not need to be Trustees so if anyone here would like to help with any of the Hall administration please let me know. It is not onerous and you will be greatly welcomed and appreciated.

The Hall annual rent is due for review every five years and will be going up in line with the Retail Price Index from £3,118 to £3,528 in June. It's proposed that the Hall hire rate remains the same at £7 per hour during the day and £8 per hour after 6 pm and at weekends.

On 15th September, we have the annual Llandyssil Dragonfest and really hope that everyone here will join us. It will be a good day.

Ten years ago the future of the Hall was pretty bleak. Today it looks bright - a fact for which we can all take credit. Thank you.'

Treasurer's Report

The Trust's finances are in a very good state at present with over £21,000 held in the current account and the business saver account. The Trustees like to hold one year's costs to provide a safety net and will need funds to cover on-going maintenance and repairs at the end of the lease. It costs around £7,000 a year to run the Hall and this will increase as energy and insurance costs rise and to cover the increase in Hall rent by £410 to £3,528.

Hall / Village Matters

Internet: It was agreed that for the Hall to have Wifi would be of benefit to Hall users, but, in view of expected limited usage, high installation or monthly costs could not be justified. Paul Creed to make further enquiries.

More solar panels: It was agreed that the financial return on installing additional panels would not justify the investment.

Christmas tree: There was wide support for the idea of a Christmas Tree on the village Green and Gwyneth Jones indicated that the idea might be supported by the Community Council. To be progressed at next meeting.

Shed/Quoits pitch on Dragonfield: More information is needed if any of these ideas are to be submitted to the Community Council - especially as the field is licensed as a Playing Field.

The Village Lottery has been a great success and will contribute around £800 this year to the Hall Trust funds. It currently has 119 members and their support is greatly appreciated. New members are always welcome - at £5.00 per number for the remainder of this financial year.

Dragonfest 2018: Arrangements are in hand - the license has been obtained, raffle tickets printed, music arranged. owls, toilets, ice cream etc are all booked. Nigel may call a meeting to discuss any theme and final arrangements. Most day helpers have confirmed their support. Tim now has raffle tickets to sell. Please contact him if you would like any. 300 tickets were given out at the AGM for sale – thank you.

Best Village in Montgomeryshire Competition: The submission has now been made to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales in Welshpool. Thanks are due to everyone who has provided information, including the Church, the Upper House, and to those who sent in photographs or suggested the names of the village's many unsung heroes. And special thanks to Katie Price and Imogen Parry for

producing the splendid map. Maralyn will be contacted if Llandyssil gets through to the next stage, at which point the judges may wish to talk to some people who live here. The result is due in September.

Llandyssil Walking Group: The walks, led by John Billington or Mike Membery, are really well attended and enjoyed. See 'walks' notice board on Village Green for details. There are now leaflets in the telephone box. It was asked that thanks to John and Mike were recorded.

Renovations: The Library 'French doors' have been renovated to open and close better. The emergency door can now be opened from the outside so that that there can be direct access to the Library and main Hall users need not be disturbed. The panes of glass in the main Hall window with signs of condensation are to be replaced.

(Note: Minutes of meetings and all policies can be found in the Hall Book and on the website - www.llandyssil.com)

Next meeting: Thursday 23rd August 2018 at 7:30 pm

Dragonfest 2018

Dragonfest will be held on Saturday 15th September and will follow roughly the same format as previous years. The owls will return. The band **Undercover** has been booked and schools advised of the date.

Line Dancing

Contact **Dave Hamer:** 668303. Monday nights at 7:30 pm. All are welcome. Please come along - even if only to watch. If you join, in it costs £2.50 but only £1 if you want to just watch the fun and have a cup of tea.

Llandyssil Ladies Club

Meets in the Old School Hall at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

August No meeting

18th Sept. An evening with Deborah Alma 'The Emergency Poet'

16th Oct. Newtown By Pass - the ups & downs during the construction to date with Gail Jones & Nick Cleary - Project Manager

20th Nov. Physiotherapy through Flowers with Jan Lawrence

4th Dec. Our Christmas Lunch in the Hall.

Everyone is welcome at our very informal evenings. Annual subscription is £15.00 or visitors can pay £2.00 per meet. For more information please phone **Marilyn** 668523 or **Lynne** 668990 or see posters on village notice boards prior to each meeting.

Creative Yoga Motion Classes

During the summer, classes of Creative Yoga Motion will be held in Llandyssil Old School £5.00 for a taster session £30.00 for 5 consecutive weeks. £7.00 drop-in.

Monday 10:30-11:30 am 'Young at Hearts' chair based Gentle Somatic Yoga suitable for 50-90 year olds.

Tuesday 10:00-11:00 am & **Wednesday** 7:00-8:00 pm an hour of Gentle Somatic Yoga suitable for every 'Body' followed by inspired relaxation.

Yoga Day at the White House, Moel-Y-Garth near Welshpool Sunday 5th August 10:00-4:00 inc lunch £65.00.

Maria Zervas Creator and Founder of Creative Yoga Motion, who lives in Llandyssil, is an internationally qualified advanced yoga teacher and Somatic Practitioner.

For further information Tel. 01686 669868 / 07795 999760 Email creativeyogamotion@gmail.com

St. Tyssil's Church in Wales (Anglican)

Rector: Rev. Dr. Alexis Smith: Tel. 01938 554045.

Email: smith.sparrowssong@gmail.com

Warden: Gwyneth Jones: Tel. 01686 668216

Website: <http://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/a196/churches-en/>

Facebook: Montgomery Group Churches

We are pleased to announce the Bishop's choice of replacement for Rev. Toni Bennett who has retired to live in Malvern. We wish Toni all the best for the future. Rev. Dr. Alexis Smith has been chosen to replace Toni and will be ordained in Montgomery in October. Alexis is well known to many people in Llandyssil as she has already been helping out in this parish. There are however to be big changes in the way the parishes are run. Alexis will be in charge of the parishes of Montgomery, Forden, Llandyssil, Berriew, Pantyffridd and the Fron. We wish Alexis all the best and hope it will not provide her with too many challenges.

Alexis's induction will be on Sunday 14th October at 11:00 am at St. Nicholas Church in Montgomery. All are welcome. At that time, Alexis will be the Priest-in-Charge for the Southern part of the Pool Mission Area which includes Llandyssil, Montgomery, Forden and Berriew, Fron, and Pantyffridd.

Services in St. Tyssil's Church are held at 9:30 am every Sunday (except where there is a 5th Sunday in the month).

Alexis's contact details for people having questions about weddings, baptisms, funerals, or anything else church related are: Rev. Dr. Alexis Smith - smith.sparrowssong@gmail.com 01938 554045. For information on other Anglican church services in the area go to <http://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/a196/churches-en> or visit Facebook - Montgomery Group Churches.

The coffee morning held in May raised approximately £700 which includes some generous donations. Many thanks to all who contributed with help, donations, attendance or in any other way. This sum of money will now be allocated towards the new boiler fund.

The Church will again be open this year for Dragonfest. We intend to include an exhibition of old photographs relating to the village. If anyone has any photos they are willing to lend us or lend to copy in advance, we would be very grateful. It is hoped to be able to open again on the following Monday afternoon for a couple of hours and also in the evening to accommodate the people who will have been occupied with Dragonfest on the Saturday.

From the first week of October, the Church will be open on a Friday afternoon from 2 pm till 3:30 pm as a drop-in for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. This is open to anyone of any religion or no religion at all. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible for a friendly get together.

Over the first weekend of December we will be holding a Xmas Tree Festival again. As it has been very successful in the past we are very much looking forward to it. Any organisation or individual who would like to decorate a tree please contact Gwen Cooper on 668104 or Gwyneth Jones on 668216. Xmas trees are supplied.

Soul Care – Taming the Tiger of Worry

“Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, it only saps today of its joy”.
~Leo Buscaglia

Worry... we all do it. Where does it come from and why do we do it?

Worry causes our bodies to go into a high operational mode, called ‘The Stress Response’. When working properly, your stress response helps you stay focused, energetic and alert. In emergency situations, it can give you extra strength and help you respond quickly. If you are being chased by a tiger, you might appreciate the extra energy the response gives you.

However, long-term worry can take its toll on your body and soul. As we worry, we bring much suffering into our lives - more than what the feared outcome may bring. And, what we worry about rarely comes to pass. There are many passages in the Bible, where we are told not to fear or worry. This is because fear keeps us from responding with faith. It is also wise advice - keeping us from wearing out our bodies and souls. Worry accomplishes little but burns up much energy.

How do we tame this tiger? We can learn to focus our attention on something else. Social scientists say that it is possible for us to change how we respond to situations even when we can’t change the situation. However, we can’t just say we won’t worry anymore. We need to find something else to do. Acknowledge your worry but give it to God. Then go for a walk, pray, meditate, or focus your attention on something else. A practice of gratitude can be helpful for this also. There are so many better things to focus our thoughts on than fears of what ‘might happen’. Enjoy the day instead and send the tiger back to its den.

Rev. Alexis Smith

Mobile Library

The times for the mobile library have changed. The mobile library now visits Llandyssil on the 2nd Tuesday of each month:

14th August, 11th September, 9th October.

Telephone Kiosk at 1:10 - 1:30 pm and Brooklyn at 1:35 - 1:50 pm

Further details at <https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/3567/North-Powys-Mobile-Routes-from-1st-June-2018>

Cefn y Coed

Cefn-y-Coed Community Group (CyCCG) has been established by residents on 'The Hill' to help protect local biodiversity, highways and byways, and in response to the threat to our Private Water Supplies by the recent and on-going very dry period. All the properties on or near 'The Hill' are on springs, wells and / or boreholes for all our water and we are keen to hear from all the people in the community at large who share our common problem of Water Security.

We have now put up a notice board at the entrance to Camp Farm (SY15 6LU) by kind permission of Gordon Davies and Jane Knill, which will contain details of how to contact CyCCG. We will also display any current information about courses and talks on wildlife and the environment, local planning applications and news of CyCCG meetings. We are planning to have a Community BBQ towards the end of August, details of which will also be on the notice board. Please feel free to join us in our endeavours to help protect our beautiful Mid-Wales countryside. For further information contact Martin Aymes, Chair of CyCCG, on 01686 670161 / martinaymes@googlemail.com.

Village darts team makes its mark

The Upper House darts team which re-formed last season after a long absence finished the Welshpool league in 3rd place – no mean achievement for the new kids on the block. Landlord Simon commented 'With players like Nigel Hughes (Flag) the Magnificent Adrian Hughes, Martin Hughes, Andrew Lloyd (Wig), Matt, Phil (Sponge) and Dafto we could not fail to make our mark. The new season which starts in September beckons brightly'.

The pool team, playing in the Newtown league, after a bad start found its form at the end of the season. With young players like Trick Shot Dave, Nathan, Liam and Aarran and the redoubtable Simon, they face the new season with optimism – and may play in both the Newtown and Welshpool leagues.

And Dominoes may be back.

Upper House opening hours: Thursdays & Fridays 7 pm – 11 pm, Saturdays 5 pm – 11 pm, Sundays 12 noon – 10 pm. Food – eat in/take out - is available at all times when the pub is open. 01686 669642.

Farms of Llandyssil Parish

Part 4

This deals with the estates ranked sixth, seventh and eighth in size in Llandyssil parish at the time of the tithe award.

Sir Francis Knowles' estate, the sixth largest in the parish at the start of the Victorian era, comprised a single holding, Llwynmadoc (239 acres). Sources studied to date do not show when and how it passed to his ownership but it may have been in consequence of his family connection with the Winder family of Vaynor, Berriew. Successive census returns show that Llwynmadoc was farmed by Ann Parry (1841), the Meacham family (1851 and 1861), unmarried Martha Thomas (1871) and, divided into two holdings, by John Jones and the Buckley family (1881). Both Arthur Oliver (1891) and Henry Tredwell (1901) were farm bailiffs but it is not clear who employed them. The latter died before the 1911 census was taken when his widow was listed in Llwynmadoc. On coming to Llandyssil parish, the Humphreys family farmed first at New House before moving to Llwynmadoc where, in 2018, they celebrate a century of farming under three generations.

Both the seventh and eighth ranking estates in the parish were part of significant Montgomeryshire estates – namely the Powis and Sudeley estates.

The parish's seventh largest estate, part of Powis estate, comprised one sizeable holding, Pinion, as well as some smaller units. John Corfield, farmer at Pinion in 1841, came from a family that can trace its history back to twelfth century in Shropshire's Corve Valley (see <http://corfield.port5.com/>). Corfield family links with Pinion continued over several generations. His widow was at Pinion in 1851 when his son Simon was in neighbouring Cwmbadarn. Simon moved to Pinion by 1871 and, later, his son, William, farmed Pinion before moving to Cefnllan. Another William Corfield (probably nephew to Simon) took over at Pinion. After the latter William died, his widow married Walter Francis and they were at Pinion when the 1901 census was taken. The birthplaces of his children (as given in 1911 census return) suggest that William Lewis moved his family from Kerry to Pinion 1906-1907. He was still there when the 1939 register was drawn up.

The eighth largest estate, owned by Lord Sudeley, comprised two holdings – Lower Bolbro and Pentre (near Llandyssil village).

At the start of the Victorian era, William Weaver was the farmer at Lower Bolbro. Further research is necessary to establish the identities of the

men with surname Owen listed at Lower Bolbro in the 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881 census returns. Agricultural labourers John Weaver and John Smith headed two separate households at Lower Bolbro in 1891. Farmer David Rowlands, at Lower Bolbro by 1901, died in 1910 and his widow Lydia and son John were there when the 1911 census was taken. Most local people will recall three generations of the Davies family at Lower Bolbro.

For much of the nineteenth century Pentre was two separate holdings, in the hands of Brumwell, Jones (to the 1870s) and Price (from 1870s onwards) families. The Price family probably arrived there before 1877, and, from the turn of the century, was farming it as one unit.

If you have any suggestions for items of specific local history you'd like a mention on, contact m.annieowen@gmail.com

Annie Owen

Makers by Candlelight

It is a gathering, with up to 25 people attending, for those interested in crafts. Bring your own materials for what you like doing and enjoy a chat and get together. You never know, you could find and learn a new craft.

It is once a month for two hours. The fee is £2.00. Next dates are: Tuesday 28th August, Tuesday 25th September and Tuesday 23rd October, all from 1:30 – 3:30 pm. All are welcome at the Old School Hall, Llandyssil. Tea and coffee is served at a small fee of 50p a cup. All money raised goes to charity at the end of the year.

For more information contact Jane on 668368

Montgomery Walking Festival / Oktoberfest

5th ~ 7th October

www.montgomerywalkingfestival.co.uk is open for bookings. There is no charge for any of the walks, but booking is essential – please visit the walking festival website for full details and to book your preferred walks. There are 7 walks from 2½ miles to the 24 mile Challenge Walk.

Everyone is welcome and booking is not required for Friday 5th October. The Walking Festival opens with a gentle 2½ mile walk ending at Monty's OktoberFest, back by popular demand with authentic food, live music, award winning beers, cider etc. Meet at 5:30pm at The Cottage - parking available.

Festival Supper Saturday 6th October. Further information from Jill (669730) - Discover #realmidwales

Vale of Montgomery Footpaths Project:

Walk Leaflets: As well as 4 Montgomery Trail leaflets, there are now 2 Llandyssil walks carefully devised and described by John Billington - a Warlock Trail and a Wild Flower Walk. All leaflets are available from the village information point and are going like hot cakes.

Footpath Volunteers: Volunteers checked over 20 miles of routes in June and cleared much of the long vegetation. Experience has shown we may need to do this a little earlier next year. Please use the routes and help to keep them clear.

Volunteers also have two days a month with the Powys Footpath Officer replacing worn out stiles. Recent work in the area has included three such operations near Castell-y-Gwynt. They are presently carrying out work on circular walks in the Kerry area and will soon be in Berriew where 4 walk leaflets have been devised and are available from the Lychgate Tearooms.

Rights of Way: Progress is being made in opening up some of our impassable paths thanks to the efforts of landowners and Powys Countryside Services. The path down from the lane below Town Hill to the Kerry road now has gates installed. This means a circular walk including the hill is easier. Work has been done on quite a few paths in the Cefn-y-Coed area making a superb area for walking.

The 'permissive' paths on Lymore have all been way marked, as has the path from Sutton Farm to Court Calmore.

For walks a little further afield, volunteers are also working with Shropshire County Council and are making rapid progress in sorting out paths in the Chirbury and Marton areas. '*Walks in and around Chirbury*' leaflet 4 (available in the Chirbury shop) has been greatly improved and makes a wonderful circular including climbing up to the stone circle on Stapeley Hill.

Country Code: In discussions with landowners, it's very clear that the greatest concerns they have with walkers is when gates are left open

and with dogs worrying stock. Both issues can lead to significant losses and are unacceptable. **Please be a considerate walker.**

Advice: If you would like to know more about the local walks, being a volunteer or the possibility of a simple map reading teach- in, please feel free to phone Brett or Jill on 01686 669730.

Update from your County Councillor

We are continuing to monitor local planning applications, and in particular pressing PCC to enforce conditions which have been placed on certain approved applications, mainly passing places which have not yet been constructed.

The Abermule Business Park planning application is to be decided on 2nd August. Anybody wishing to speak at the meeting needs to register their wish with PCC by 27th July.

An application has been received to close the U 2655 Llandyssil Road 23rd – 25th of October on behalf of Severn Trent to repair a pipe. Access to emergency vehicle and residents will be allowed.

If you have any council matters you need to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cllr Gareth Pugh - 07976 928109

email - cllr.gareth.pugh@powys.gov.uk

Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster of Councils

Abermule & Llandyssil Community Council

Berriew Community Council

Forden Leighton & Trelystan Community Council

Kerry Community Council (Sarn & Dolfor)

Montgomery Town Council

The Cluster has been awarded a small grant from the Welsh Government to fund a part-time community development worker until March 2019. The worker will look at establishing a network for community centres to support operation, co-operation and community

involvement, and carry out a feasibility study into delivering some cross-community services identified by the community.

By the time you read this a Development Worker will have been appointed and will be contacting communities and community centres in September.

We look forward to working with Llandyssil on the project.

For further information please contact the Cluster Clerk: Glenys Smith townclerk@montgomery-wales.uk or speak to your local community council.

Quoits in Llandyssil

Based on recollections of local residents Les and Glyn Owen and a bit of internet research.

The origins of quoits is unknown but it is likely to have evolved from the days when ploughmen used heavy horses to carve the furrows in the fields. It is thought that if a horse lost a shoe, the ploughman would have an upright stick placed in the ground and throw the discarded horseshoe towards the stick so it could be found later. It was inevitable that this would become competitive and developed in various formats, including quoits.

The welsh version involves throwing iron rings (the quoit) to a pin set level and in the centre of a clay square which measures just three feet square. This clay square is called a pit and the pits are set 18 yards apart on the Quoits Bed. Each team consisted of eight members (six in south Wales) and each member has two quoits and competes against one member of the opposing team, so there are no more than four quoits in an 'end'. 'Ends' are played until one team's score reaches 21 and one match often lasted over an hour. The aim is to get your quoit closest to the centre of the pin and not making the pin the bullseye within the quoit. Getting the first throw and laying your quoit over the pin with the front sunk into the clay is the best way to win – too far so the nearest part is on the pin gives the opponent the chance to flick you off. At the end of each game, the pit would be wetted and trampled flat before being used again. To assist the thrower, there would be a team member at the target pit who would provide guidance and instruction, but moving out of harms way before the next throw!

Local villages assembled a team and played neighbours in a similar way to a darts league and in Llandyssil the quoit bed was behind The Upper House public house. When it was first used is not currently known, but in 1921, Major G R D Harrison presented a trophy to the winners of the Montgomeryshire Quoiting League. Llandyssil first won this in 1925 and 16 times in total with dominance from 1980 to 1990 only losing in 1988. The Llandyssil Quoiting Bed was last used in a local match on 21st June 2003.

The season started on the 1st May and there would be league matches held every Saturday until the end of September. The Llandyssil quoiting bed was used for International matches against Scotland in 1983 (Scotland won) and 1991 where the home team didn't just win the match, but every game. It was a whitewash 252 to 83!

The weight of the quoits varied according to the thrower's own preference and ability. Made of iron, they had a thinner section which was the handle, and holes in the rear. These holes could be filled with lead to make the quoit heavier up to the maximum weight of seven pounds. There was an advantage in having a heavy quoit – it's harder to dislodge and at the same time is more likely to dislodge an opponent's quoit. The downside is that it took more effort to throw it the eighteen yards. It was not uncommon for them to bounce off each other, so spectators were kept at a safe distance. There was also great skill in knowing when to release it – too early and it would end up between the pits and too late it would go up in the air above your head!

Both Les and Glyn are now in their eighties. The brothers were in a family of seven children, five of which played quoits at one level or another, as did their father Walter. There are pictures of various quoits teams in the entrance to The Upper House; Walter is in the black and white photo. Both Glyn and Les represented Wales in matches against Scotland as did their brother Ellis. Glyn was the Welsh captain for five consecutive years and between them, Glyn and Les represented Wales about 20 times. At least one of the Owens represented Wales every year from 1979 to 1993. Wales won twelve out of those fifteen matches during this period, the closest being an away game when the margin was just three points in 1982.

To be selected to represent Wales, individuals entered an open competition held in Caersws. Your entry had to be in by 12 noon and the best twelve competitors were chosen for the National team – eight players and four reserves. Internet research shows that the Owen brothers were not the only Llandyssil players to represent Wales, there was also Idris Francis and George Mills with three appearances each.

It was common practice for the host team to pay for the visiting team's drinks. Apparently there was one Scottish player who drank 17 pints of beer with 17 whisky chasers in just over an hour! It was common for there to be a coach of 30 to 40 travelling supporters to go to Scotland. The Welsh quoits were painted red, the Scottish ones blue.

Glyn won over one hundred trophies and one year had sufficient prize money to buy himself a 12 bore shotgun. He used to throw his quoits into mini car tyres to practice as that was a smaller target.

Peter Hare

Car Boot Sales 2018

at Abermule Community Centre

Sat 11th Aug - Abermule Women' Institute
Sat 25th Aug - Abermule Community Centre
Sat 8th Sept - Abermule Young Farmers Club

Car boots £6.00. Cars with trailer / vans £11.00

Refreshments available. **No dogs on the field.**

Montgomery Events

16th August - Shakespeare at the Castle: The Merchant of Venice
Contact Mike Mills 01686 668442 mikemills32@btinternet.com

18th August Montgomery Show
Contact Mary Bunner 01686 668308 marybunner@googlemail.com

Montgomery Medical Practice

If you find for whatever reason you can't get to an appointment PLEASE let the surgery know on 01686 668217. It would really help the Medical Practice and everyone who needs an appointment.

Useful Numbers

Defibrillator:

This is located just inside the bakery, next to the Old School Hall to be used to try to restart the human heart when it may have stopped due to heart attack. It's a very simple device, with clear, simple instructions. Further details from **Neil Fisher** 01686 669709.

Dial a Ride:

01686 622566

Doctors' Surgery Montgomery:

01686 668217 - repeat prescription line 668036

Ladywell Surgery:

01686 623791

repeat prescription line 669036

Newtown Police Station:

08453 302000 or dial 999 - Non emergency dial 101

Next Newsletter

The Newsletter is published four times a year. Any content, ideas or suggestions for the November issue or comments on this issue would be greatly welcomed - by mid October 2018 please.

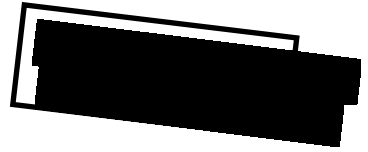
Contact Brian on 669887 or brian@llandyssil.com or Tim on 668180 or timhalford@yahoo.com

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MONTGOMERY
ENERGY
GROUP



Repair Cafe



Saturday 4th August

2:00 – 5:0pm

Montgomery Town Hall

Can we fix it?... We'll certainly try!

Also... Craft Area for Children - Video Clips - Chatter
'Get on your bike' with our free bike and repair scheme

No MEG meeting in August. The next meeting is the third Monday in September (17th) at 7:30 in the Activity Centre.

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