

The Puffin

FREE community magazine • published quarterly

Number 43 • February 2023

Serving...

- Llangloed
- Glanrafon
- Penmon
- Beaumaris
- Llanfaes
- Llanddona
- Llandegfan
- Llansadwrn

...and on-line

SPRING IS SPRINGING!

John Briggs

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! Happy New Year! Here's hoping that 2023 is less surreal a year than 2022 was.

It's astonishing to think that this is the first spring this decade without the presence of formal COVID restrictions to affect our lives. For what seems like ages it hasn't been easy to enjoy travelling to be with our families over the festive period, to enjoy joyous events like Christmas carol services, or simply to be able to welcome family and friends into our homes.

Worries about high energy costs and rising inflation have had an impact on our lives in recent weeks, though, as have the waves of strikes, from driving examiners to railway staff, from nurses to postal staff. We've also seen the resurgence of flu and other infections now that people are mixing again, and COVID seems to be an ever-present feature of life now, even if it is more in the background.

To cap it all, the Menai suspension bridge, one of Anglesey's only two connections with the mainland, has been closed for many weeks because of the need for emergency structural repairs. This has caused problems, with queues at peak times to get on and off the island via the Britannia bridge, with its single carriageways.

Despite all the worries that we might have, it is useful to put our own situation in a wider context and realise that we have many positive things going for us as well. Being able to travel away, and then come back, can be a really good way to appreciate this. We saw this in our sense of community and the help that we gave each other in times of need during COVID. I think most of us will remember those difficult times for the rest of our lives. Many of us will have gained a sense of peace and awe from the beautiful and dramatic coastal landscape that surrounds us. Some kind members of our community have offered shelter and peace to refugees from the war in Ukraine, and now that spring is approaching, we have longer and milder days to look forward to, to uplift our spirits once again.

It might be milder now, and very wet and windy, but it was unusually cold for a while in the run up to Christmas, with some gloriously sunny, still weather, Snowdonia sparkling with an icing-sugar coating of snow.

Much of the news and articles in **The Puffin** illustrates the kind of things that support and sustain our community and our place, Bro Seiriol. We hope that you enjoy reading them, and maybe participating in community life where you can and wish to do so, for Bro Seiriol is whatever you want to make it!



Beaumaris, Ontario: Government pier with the Beaumaris hotel and Beaumaris Yacht Club in the background, c.1910, from a postcard produced by Valentine & Son's Publishing Co (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beaumaris,_Ontario)

To finish off, you might have seen in previous numbers of **The Puffin** that there's a Beaumaris in Australia, but did you know that there's a Beaumaris in Ontario, Canada as well?



OUR FRONT COVER

Andrew Perrott

A couple of weeks ago I was listening to the pock-pock-pock of heavy rain on the windowsill as I worked on setting the text for **The Puffin** 43, and remembered the lovely snowfall over Christmas and the New Year of 2010/2011. 'I must set ArtForgeries'r'us[®] to work on a seasonal front cover,' I thought.

The deed followed the thought, and the cover is certainly seasonal, but I time-travelled a few years forward, and bypassed the forgery bit as well because the photo looked better just as a photo.

It dates back to 2 November 2015, and features a still and chilly evening with a low carpet of mist appearing over the fields behind my home in Llanddona, looking in the direction of Llangefni. I'd stepped down into a dip, and happened to see the misty sun through an almost tailor-made hole in the small trees in the hedgerow.

The result was a lovely photo of a really atmospheric sunset.



WHAT'S HAPPENING WHERE?

What's happening where? continues to grow. Inevitably, though, it doesn't cover everything that's on, so if you think that an event is missing and should be mentioned, do make sure that you let us know in good time. Our 'submissions by' dates are always given in *Editorial information and other 'useful to know' stuff* on the back page:

- 1 January for February
- 1 April for May
- 1 July for August
- 1 October for November

We want to support you, but we can't do so if you don't support us by feeding information to us...support us to support your community!

Keep an eye on local advertising and social media, Facebook and the like, because changes can affect events either way, some happening suddenly or cancelled just as suddenly.

- Check beforehand to make sure that an event is happening.
- Remember to take a mask with you.

Attention, voluntary groups! If your organisation has opportunities to fill, think about placing an advertisement with us.

Once again, our contact details are always on the back page.

Beaumaris

- **Clwb Bowlio Beaumaris Bowling Club:** Clwb Bowlio Beaumaris Bowling Club would like to welcome people of any age or gender to come along and have a go.

The Club is at Happy Valley, by the beautiful Beaumaris Castle.

The Club has eight teams playing in five different Leagues, two of the teams being the over-55s, playing in Gwynedd Veterans League Divisions 1 and 2.

For more information and/or a taster session please contact Dave Mathias.

✉ davemathias49@gmail.com

☎ 01248 490222, 07712 121147

☎ Mike Ormond 01248 810073

- **Clwb Rhwyfo Beaumaris Rowing Club:** there's a long history of competitive rowing on the Menai Strait.

The Club runs taster events during April and September for people to learn about, and have a go at, rowing a Celtic Longboat. It doesn't matter if you've never rowed before; we'll show you the ropes.

Please contact Rachael Robins, Recruitment Officer, if you are interested.

✉ robins.rach@gmail.com

See also page 26.

- **Beaumaris Rotary:** the second Beaumaris Autumn Arts event will be taking place on 5-8 October.

You'll be able to read more about it in **The Puffin** later this year.

To keep up-to-date with what's happening follow social media, such as the *Friends of Beaumaris* Facebook page.

☑ Friends of Beaumaris
www.facebook.com/groups/521368261344315/

- **H'Artworks:** Anne Snaith is 'Artist in Residence' at the Bulkeley Hotel, Castle Street, Beaumaris.

Go to page 4 to read about the workshops that Anne runs.

- **Beaumaris Film Night:** put the first Thursday of every month in your diary!

2 February: *Phantom of the Open*, true comedy, with Mark Rylance as the world's worst golfer blagging his way into the British Open.



2 March: *Summerland*, with Gemma Arterton as a reclusive writer who takes in a child evacuee in a wider story of love and self-expression.



6 April: *Mrs Harris goes to Paris*, a biographical drama of a fashion-obsessed cleaning lady finding her way into the Dior fashion house.



Tickets are available in advance from reception, or telephone to book.

☎ 01248 811200

Volunteers are always welcome; please contact Stephen Marsden to find out more.

☎ 07774 699685

- **Beaumaris Over 50's Club:** Club meetings take place at 2.00pm on the last Monday of the month at the Iorwerth Rowlands Centre, Steeple Lane, Beaumaris, Anglesey LL58 8AE.

We extend a warm welcome to new and old members.

The club held a very successful end-of-season meeting on 28 November, when we were entertained by the Beaumaris 'Singing for Pleasure' group, who sang special Christmas

items and carols. There were also community carols that we could all join in. This was followed by tea and mince pies. Thanks to all who participated in any way.

There will be a guest speaker at our meeting on Monday 27 February.

For more details and bookings, please contact Mike Davies (Chair).

☎ 01248 812157
 07483827069

☒ dmikedmail@gmail.com

- **Canolfan Hamdden Beaumaris Leisure Centre:** There's so much happening at Canolfan Beaumaris!

Go to our centre-spread on pages 14-15 to see what's going on, and keep up-to-date via social media.

☑ Canolfan Hamdden
 Beaumaris Leisure Centre
 Rating Row
 Beaumaris
 Anglesey
 LL58 8AL

☎ 01248 811200

☒ enquiries@canolfanbeaumaris.org.uk

☑ Canolfan Beaumaris
www.canolfanbeaumaris.org.uk/

☑ Canolfan Beaumaris
www.facebook.com/canolfan.beaumaris.71

- **Seiriol Alliance:** if you live in the Seiriol Ward area (Beaumaris, Llandegfan, Llanddona, Llanfaes, Llangoed, Llansadwrn and Penmon) the Seiriol Good Turn Scheme may be able to help you.

The services offered by the Scheme are delivered by volunteers and offer help to any person living in the Seiriol Ward who, due to illness, incapacity or some other need, may benefit from the help available.

If you feel that the Scheme could be helpful for you please telephone us and we will arrange a home visit to discuss your needs.

☎ 01248 305014
 Monday-Friday
 9.00am-5.00pm

- **Beaumaris Makers Market:** Castle Square, Beaumaris LL58 8AL, (in front of the Castle Court Hotel, and adjacent to the castle).

Information on-line at 16 January was sketchy, so keep an eye on the Market's Facebook page for information.

☑ Beaumaris Makers Market
www.facebook.com/beaumarismakersmarket

- **Beaumaris Artisan Market:** Rating

THE MASTER OF SUSPENSE

Anita Sumner, Llanddona Writing Group

The plot thickens with murderous torment
 On finding the killer, the detective's intent

Embezzlement and blackmail on a silver screen

Excitement and terror building scene by scene

There's mystery, theft, melodrama too

Somewhere here there is a clue

Wide-eyed heroines, blonde and tense

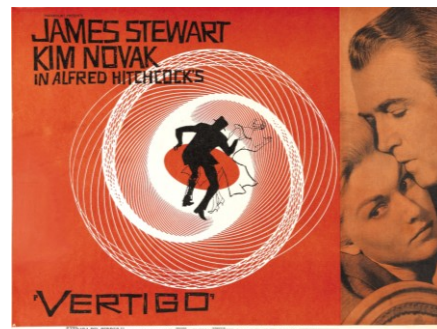
And here is Hitchcock, the master of suspense



Viewing Bette Davies in black and white
 Baby Jane is such a fright

Tales of jealousy, theft, and murder

Joan Crawford's screaming – no one heard her



Frame by frame the horror is mounting
 Two thousand blackbirds, but who's counting?

Then there's that shower scene, it's so dramatic

And Psycho's mother, still in the attic!



Rear Window, Notorious and Vertigo, thrillers all

Film noir depicting each villain's downfall

Here the art of suspense can be found
 At Hitch's direction, we are all, Spellbound

Hello...I'm Anne Snaith; I'm 'Artist in Residence' at the Bulkeley Hotel, Castle Street, Beaumaris, where I run a variety of workshops and much more besides.

There are lots of exciting new things planned for 2023. These include winter and spring special offers on group bookings. I will also be running short residential courses with the Bulkeley Hotel, with accommodation and food at a discounted rate.

Tuesdays
4.30pm-5.30pm

Children's Art Club for ages 7-12: the cost is £15.00 per head, and includes professional tuition in a wide variety of media. Running now; contact me for more details.

Wednesdays
1.00pm-3.00pm

Watercolours for beginners: it's fun and friendly, and a block of ten sessions costs £150.

Each session is 'standalone', so people can join later and create a picture each session.

If you are late joining the course, fees will be adjusted accordingly.

Places are still available.

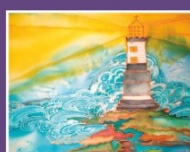


H'Artworks
Gallery & Workshops

RESIDENT AT THE BULKELEY HOTEL

THE ART STUDIO

Available all year round for
Workshops, Classes, Clubs and more



BOOK A WORKSHOP/REGISTER FOR A CLASS
VIEW PAINTINGS/BUY MATERIALS

for more information please contact Anne on
01248 810631 or 07531 384434, or e-mail
hartworks@btinternet.com

Available all year round, except Sundays

Thursdays
1.00pm-3.00pm

Watercolours for intermediates: it's fun and friendly, and a block of ten ten sessions costs £150. Each session is 'stand alone', so people can join later and create a picture each session.

If you are late joining the course, fees will be adjusted

accordingly. Places are still available.

Thursdays
4.30pm-5.30pm

Young People's Art Group for ages 12-18: The cost is £15.00 per head, and includes professional tuition in a wide variety of media.

Materials are included.

Restarted and currently running with some places still available.

Fridays
1.00pm onwards

One-to-ones: spaces are available for one-to-one private tuition in 1- or 2-hour blocks to suit.

There will be updates on the Facebook page, with more details nearer the time

For more information...

Look out for information on social media, such as Facebook and Instagram.

For more information or to book a place please contact me, Anne Snaith:

☎ 01248 810631
☎ 07531 384434

✉ hartworks@btinternet.com

📄 www.facebook.com/anne.snaith.1

Row, Beaumaris LL58 8AP (in front of the David Hughes Community Centre).

Information on-line at 16 January was sketchy, so keep an eye on the Market's Facebook page for information.

✉ beaumariswelshartisanmarket@outlook.com

📄 [Beaumaris Artisan Market](http://www.beaumarisartisanmarket.blogspot.com)
www.beaumarisartisanmarket.blogspot.com

Llanddona

- **Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall:** our group of Committee Members and volunteers is small, and we'd would like to welcome more people on board!

Please contact us if you would like to become involved in one way or another, if you would like more information about Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall, or if you would like to make a booking.

✉ secretary@neuaddbentrefllanddona.co.uk

☎ 07733 176004 or 07768 018370

📄 Neuadd Bentref Llanddona
Village Hall
Llanddona
Anglesey
LL58 8TS

📄 Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall
www.facebook.com/llanddona_villagehall/

📄 Cymuned Llanddona Community
www.facebook.com/groups/llanddona/

- **Llanddona Warm Hub:** everybody is aware of the alarming increase of the cost of living over the past year, from basic necessities like food and heating to the cost of travel and running a car.

In **The Puffin** 40 (page 26) readers might have seen the article *Warm spaces in the community*. It covered

'warm banks', or warm spaces, which are places where vulnerable people and those hit hard by the cost of living can spend time.

Space is limited here, so turn to page 26 to read more about it.

- **Caffi Ni:** Caffi Ni is open every Friday, 11.45am-2.00pm, offering light lunches/refreshments.
- **Village Knit Club:** the Village Knit Club meets every Monday at the Owain Glyndŵr, Llanddona, at about 7.15pm-8.45pm.



Looking forward to seeing you all!

For more information contact Meg Marsden.

☎ 07913 223435

- **Llanddona Table Tennis Group:** meets every Monday at Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon.

www.seiriolalliance.co.uk/newsletters/

Please contact Kirsty Simpson if you're interested.

✉ kirstyalisonsimpson@hotmail.com

- **Caffi Cofio:** Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall, the first and third Wednesdays of the month, 2.00pm-4.00pm.
Caffi Cofio is provided by Carers Trust North Wales Crossroads Care Services. It's a friendly service for anybody who needs support; carers are welcome as well. It's a service for anybody who needs support, practical and emotional, and various activities in which to participate.
Transport to and from the group can be arranged; it's organised by the Seiriol Good Turn Scheme, with a small fee.
Please telephone for more information or to book a place.
☎ 01492 542212
- **Llanddona Writers Group:** thinking of a family memoir, or short story, or just the chance to do a little writing alongside friends?
The Group meets every three weeks on a Tuesday afternoon at 3.00pm. We enjoy hearing from and encouraging each other, and maybe having a try at something new.
Why not come along and see...
If you'd like to know more, please contact Stephen Marsden.
☎ 07774 699685.
See also pages 4 and 23.
- **The Owain Glyndŵr:** there's always a lot happening at the Owain Glyndŵr. Contact us for information about what's on:
☎ 01248 810710
📠 The Owain Glyndŵr
Llanddona
Anglesey
LL58 8UF
✉ contact@ogdllanddona.co.uk
📠 Cymuned Llanddona Community
www.facebook.com/groups/llanddona/
Turn to page 23 to read about the Owain Glyndŵr's spectacular mural and the legend of the Llanddona Witches.
- **Spring Fun Dog Show:** the Fun Dog Show was scheduled to take place last summer but the amazing summer weather was simply too hot for dogs.
The Fun Dog Show will take place 'some time in the spring' at Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall, so be sure to keep your eyes open for information and updates!

Llangoed

- **Llangoed Village Hall:** Llangoed Village Hall is available for parties, functions and weddings.
Please contact us for more information or to make a booking.
✉ llangoedvillagehall@gmail.com
Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details.
📠 www.facebook.com/llangoed.villagehall
- **Llangoed Flower and Vegetable Show:** here's a reminder! It's set for 8 July 2023, Llangoed Village Hall, and we have a website!
📠 Sioe Flodau Llangoed Flower Show
www.llangoedflowershow.com
✉ julie@plasbodfa.com
📠 Plas Bodfa
Llangoed
Anglesey
LL58 8ND
📠 Sioe Flodau Llangoed Flower Show
www.facebook.com/groups/sioeflodaullandgoed
See also our two-page spread on pages 16-17.
- **Llangoed Knitting Club:** we meet at the Pont y Brenin Hub on the third Monday of the month, 2.00pm-4.00pm. We have ten members at the moment. Please contact Elizabeth Roberts, Bodwyn, Llangoed LL58 8NP if you'd like to join us.
See also page 21.
- **Llangoed WI:** we meet on the first Wednesday of the month in Llangoed Village Hall; meetings begin at 2.00pm.
We're a lively group of mixed ages, so, ladies, do feel welcome to join us.
- **Seiriol Men's Shed:** we meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.00am-1.00pm, in our workshop adjacent to Haulfre Residential Home, Llangoed.
To find us from the direction of Beaumaris:
 - Go through Llangoed, past Morrisons Daily on the right, and down the hill
 - Go over the little bridge at the bottom and up the hill for about 200 yards
 - Turn right at the *Gerddi Haulfre Gardens* sign into the Haulfre Residential Home car park
 - Park and walk down the slope (a right-hand course if you're facing Haulfre) towards the gardens

- Our premises are very close; our large workshop is on the left, and our other premises are on the right.

PS: it's men only!...and please park thoughtfully; the car park is used by others as well.

For more information please contact:

☎ Mike Thomas 07941 103386

☎ Steve Jones 07368 219048

See also page 19.

- **Llangoed WI:** we meet on the first Wednesday of the month in Llangoed Village Hall; meetings begin at 2.00pm.

We're a lively group of mixed ages, so, ladies, do feel welcome to join us.

Menai Bridge

- **Gŵyl Ysgrifennu Môn/ Anglesey Writing Festival:** the Festival will bring the best of locally- and nationally-renowned authors to your doorstep, with a day dedicated to inspiring writing.
Workshops will include crime writing, memoir, fantasy, eco-poetry, mindful writing; there's a session for everyone to enjoy. Learn how to write crime thrillers from a best-selling author (Conrad Jones), how to work in genre-writing (Dr DeAnn Bell), how to write poems about landscape or explore eco-poetic themes.
There will be:
 - Two Welsh-focused workshops, including a poetry class suitable for beginner Welsh-speakers (Ness Owen).
 - 12 workshops for you to try out...so come and flex those writing muscles and discover a whole new path on your writing journey!
 - Ask-the-author sessions, one-to-one feedback, questions and answers for any writing question you've always wanted answered. Chat over lunch with other writers or enjoy browsing the stalls between workshops.The festival will take place on Saturday 29 April at Ysgol David Hughes, Pentraeth Road, Menai Bridge, Anglesey LL59 5SS.
There will be plenty of on-site parking.
Here's the list of sessions and presenters:
10.00am sessions:
 - Connecting Character & Place: Dr Emma Venables

Across

- 7 Block or stop (6)
- 8 Result of an action (6)
- 9 Gunge up (4)
- 10 Comic hero (8)
- 11 Happily (7)
- 13 Doubter or faultfinder (5)
- 15 Group event or motor race (5)
- 17 US government term (7)
- 20 Canned fish (8)
- 21 Extinct bird (4)
- 23 Moral rules (6)
- 24 Bring round (6)

- o Love Songs of the Sea:
Ness Owen:
Cymraeg/English
- o The Rhyme word has to be
the right word:
Phil Bowen
- o Perspective & Pace in
Fiction: Karen Ankers
- o Writing a Memoir:
Joy Mawby
- o Everyone's a Writer:
Pauline Kenyon

1.30pm sessions:

- o Writing Crime Thrillers:
Conrad Jones
- o Vampires that Don't Bite:
Dr DeAnn Bell
- o Mindful & Intuitive
Approaches: Kat Kingsley-
Hughes
- o Poetry workshop:
Glyn Edwards
- o Writing a Bio/Autobiography:
Gillian Monks
- o Welsh prose: TBC

This was correct as **The Puffin** went to press, but check the Festival's website for the latest information.

📅 Gŵyl Anglesey Writing Festival
<https://gwylangleseyfestival.uk/2022-workshops/>

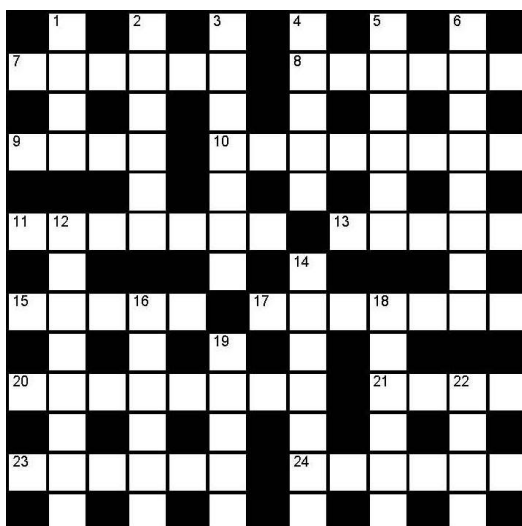
📅 Eventbrite: ticket booking
www.eventbrite.com/e/anglesey-writing-festival-gwyl-ysgrifennu-mon-tickets-373897376117

CHess: CAPTAIN WILLIAM DAVIES EVANS

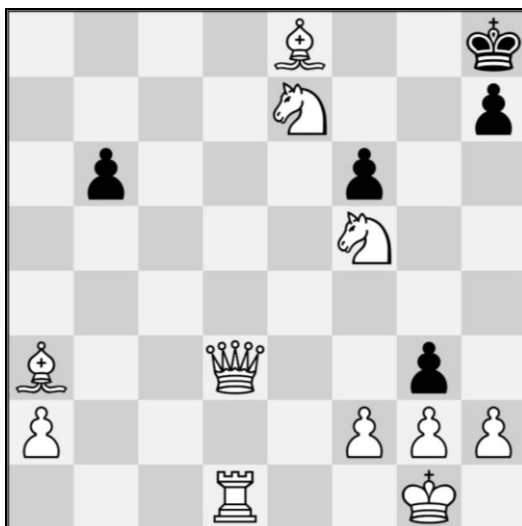
Fianchetto 66

Budding chess players often spend considerable amounts of time learning sequences of moves called *openings*, designed to secure an early positional advantage. Over time these have been named after famous pieces (the Queen's Gambit), famous places (the Sicilian Defence), and famous players (the Morphy Attack). One of my favourites is the Evans Gambit, named after a Welsh sea captain called William Davies Evans.

THE GOVERNOR'S QUICK CROSSWORD NO 11



FIANCHETTO 66'S CHESS NO 2



Solutions You'll find the solutions on page 26.



Captain William Davies Evans (27-i-1790 03-viii-1872) (British Chess News, <https://britishchessnews.com/>)

Down

- 1 Measure of alcohol (4)
- 2 Shifty type of person (6)
- 3 Dreadful (7)
- 4 Entice (5)
- 5 Fight (6)
- 6 Pain (8)
- 12 Make thin (8)
- 14 Green foliage (7)
- 16 Milky (6)
- 18 Herb with serrated leaves (6)
- 19 Small flowers (5)
- 22 Female opera star (4)

Born in 1790, by the early 19th century, Evans had secured the command of a Post Office steamship that spent most its time travelling back and forth across St George's Channel between Milford Haven and the Irish harbour of Waterford.

The routine nature of this journey gave Evans time to hone his skills on the chess board as well as create the eponymous Evans Gambit, a clever series of moves for the white pieces that involves a pawn sacrifice to deflect the black bishop and gain control of the centre of the board.

Clearly a man with an active mind, Captain Evans also invented a tri-coloured lighting system designed to prevent night time naval collisions. For this the Tsar of Russia presented him with a gold chronometer, and the British Government awarded him £1,500 (equivalent to around £200,000 today).

For this quarter's chess column, we have the culmination of a game that commenced with the Evans Gambit, resulting in a significant material advantage for white.

It is white to play and checkmate in two moves.

- 📄 William Davies Evans
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Davies_Evans
- 📄 Remembering Captain William Davies Evans
<https://britishchessnews.com/2020/08/03/remembering-captain-william-davies-evans-27-i-1790-03-viii-1872/>

Good Luck...Fianchetto 66

ANCESTRY HELP, OS

GWELWCH YN DDA: RHAN 2

Stuart Haywood, Cymdeithas Gymreig Stoke-on-Trent a'r Cylch

Yn rhan gyntaf yr eorthygl hon (**The Puffin 42**) rhoddais fanylion y teuluoedd oedd yn byw yn Nhŷ Philip, Llaniestyn, gyda gobaith y byddai unrhyw un sydd wedi ymchwilio i'w hachau yn adnabod

Drama Association) for 60 years' continuous service to musical theatre.

The weekend kicked off with a fantastic pop/folk/jazz concert in Canolfan Beaumaris, performed by our local legends Kev, Miv and Dave, with the talented Magee Brothers from Holyhead as guests. They all ensured that a great atmosphere was and enjoyed by an appreciative audience.

Castle Players delighted a capacity Town Hall audience with a miscellany of playlets and excerpts from *Under Milk Wood* on the Saturday afternoon of the weekend; there was much local talent on display throughout!

'Autumn Arts' will be presented by Beaumaris Rotary annually in October, featuring and showcasing a wide selection of visual and performing arts, by and for the community.

RNLI cheque presentation On 1 December I was delighted to present a cheque for £1,000 to RNLI Beaumaris, on behalf of Beaumaris Rotary, as a result of the first 'Autumn Arts' event.

I was joined by Rotarian Mike Davies and RNLI volunteers, with their Chairman Paul Flower and Tim Bailey, station Operations Manager, who received the cheque. Following the presentation, we witnessed the launch of the lifeboat on one of the regular training sessions.

In recognition and appreciation of the work of the RNLI, Beaumaris Rotary has decided to make the organisation the main beneficiary of future 'Autumn Arts' events, the next of which is scheduled for 5-8 October 2023.

To keep up-to-date with what's happening, follow us on social media, such as Facebook, and keep an eye on **The Puffin** for future announcements!

Friends of Beaumaris
www.facebook.com/groups/521368261344315/



NATURE NOTES: THE THRUSH FAMILY

Roz Hattey

It's the winter solstice again as I write. Out in the gloom of a grey dawn several small dark figures are moving around in the rough, tawny grass.

Two pairs of blackbirds, *Turdus merula*, are up early, the males chasing each other around, then running rapidly across the ground quite close together. They stand upright again as they size each other up and prepare for competition in



L-R: Ellen Williams, Kevin Sivyver, Virginia Crosbie MP (Philip Henry)



L-R: Richard Bulkeley, President, RNLI Beaumaris, Ellen Williams, Kevin Sivyver, Virginia Crosbie MP, Stuart Wallace, RNLI Lifesaving Manager (Philip Henry)



L-R: the cheque presentation: Tim Bailey, station Operations Manager, Chairman Paul Flower, Kevin Sivyver, Rotarian Mike Davies

winter feeding and later for breeding territories. Sometimes their 'dance' reminds me of the parallel walking of red deer stags as they assess each other during the rut. As with the hinds, the female blackbirds pause in their feeding as they watch the display.

During the fortnight in early December when temperatures were very low even blackbirds were keen to come for sunflower seed, unable to probe for earthworms in the hard frozen ground. They were also still turning over piles of dead

leaves and finding some invertebrates there. In the town, my friend's 'tame' female blackbird came into the kitchen more often for her currants. We all look forward to spring and hearing once again the melodious song of our most familiar member of the thrush family.

Another of our favourite songsters, the song thrush, *Turdus philomelos*, is much shyer than the blackbird, yet in spring and early summer its striking song of short, repeated musical phrases rings out with a bell-like clarity across gardens, churchyards, hedgerows and woodlands from dawn to dusk.

I'm always thrilled when I hear the thrush singing for the first time in the New Year. Individual birds have distinctive song patterns and have a repertoire of about 100 phrases! Outside the breeding season, the song thrush occasionally sings in mild winter weather. In dry weather it specialises in feeding on snails, opening them by striking them on stones as their 'anvils'. It's encouraging to see little piles of snail shells in your garden!

Song thrushes declined by more than 50% between 1970 and 2021 with agricultural intensification and the species is Amber-listed as a bird of serious conservation concern.

During farm 'improvement' schemes hedges and wet ditches were often removed causing a loss of good nesting habitats and food sources. Increased land drainage and cultivation reduced earthworms and other invertebrate prey, especially on arable land. Changes in management of permanent pasture, especially for cattle, have led to a reduction of food sources for song thrushes. Changes in woodland management and the use of toxic garden pesticides, such as the standard slug pellets, also contributed to the decline in numbers. There has been some recovery during the last decade, and further recovery would be encouraged by more farmers being offered, and taking up, financial incentives to undertake conservation measures such as establishing tall, thick hedges, planting new woodland and wild bird seed mixtures, including leafy cover.

In February a few years ago I heard the loud, persistent song of a mistle thrush, *Turdus viscivorus*, coming from a tall tree at the top of Wexham Street in Beaumaris, on the edge of a strip of woodland. At first I thought it was a rather strange blackbird but the song phrases were repeated over and over again, with

pauses in between; rather monotonous! Although I could never spot this bird, I knew that the mistle thrush is larger and more upright than the song thrush, with longer wings and tail. The spots on its breast are larger and bolder. Its behaviour too is more extrovert and often aggressive.

I remember watching a pair of mistle thrushes one winter in Essex defending for several days a holly tree laden with berries as they ate their fill. Outside the breeding season, mistle thrushes are often seen in small groups which may travel some distance in winter.

Similar to the song of the mistle thrush is that of the ring ouzel, *Turdus torquatus*. Although it is also in the thrush family this is a bird of very different haunts and habits. It is a rare and declining summer migrant to the UK and breeds in remote upland areas, including in North Wales, where it is known as mwyalchen y mynydd (mountain blackbird).

The ring ouzel selects gullies on moorland and mountain, also around hill farms, old quarries and edges of forestry plantations. It often nests near water. The only time I was lucky enough to see ring ouzels was in Nant-y-Benglog, east of Llyn Ogwen, above the A5, along a stream-side on the lower slopes of the Glyderau.

The male is black with a smart white crescent on its breast. The female is brown with a less distinct crescent. We spotted them with binoculars but kept our distance as they are easily startled and put to flight. This species over-winters around the Mediterranean, returning to breed here in April. Sadly, the British population has been declining since the early twentieth century and here it is Red-listed as a species of high conservation concern. Between 1970 and 1990 the geographic range of the ring ouzel in Britain also shrank by nearly 30%, so it breeds in fewer places now. The species is faring worse here than in mainland Europe for reasons not yet understood. British and continental ouzels over-winter in similar areas of Spain and north-west Africa but breeding populations on the continent seem to be relatively stable. The international Ring Ouzel Study Group carries out vital research and monitoring and meets annually in Cumbria to share information and promote conservation action for the species.

The fifth and sixth members of the thrush family to be seen in the UK
puffinpages@gmail.com



Adult male blackbird (*Turdus merula merula*, the nominate subspecies), found throughout most of Europe (Andreas Trepte, www.avi-fauna.info, via Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_blackbird)



Song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), Western Springs Lakeside Park, Auckland, New Zealand it's an introduced species in New Zealand (J J Harrison, www.jjharrison.com.au/, via https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Song_thrush)



Mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) (British Trust for Ornithology www.bto.org)



Ring ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*) (British Trust for Ornithology www.bto.org)



Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) (Ivan Sjögren, <https://ebird.org/>)

are both largely winter migrants from northern Europe.

The fieldfare, *Turdus pilaris*, is a large, plump thrush with a grey head and rump, chestnut back and wings, long black tail and a densely spotted orangey-yellow breast. These birds are usually seen in small, noisy flocks which travel widely searching for food along hedgerows, for insects and berries, and in orchards for fallen fruit. During the cold spell in early December a friend in Llangoed was delighted to watch, for over an hour, a flock of around thirty fieldfares in her small orchard. She had scattered some excess Brambleys on the ground hoping to attract thrushes. The fieldfares were 'chacker, chac, chacking' and squabbling as they devoured the apples with relish. When dusk falls in winter large roosts of fieldfares will gather in thick hedges and other dense vegetation.

The equally beautiful redwing, *Turdus iliacus*, is our other winter migrant. This species is smaller and slighter than the song-thrush. It is a dark brown bird with rusty-red flanks and underwings, white stripe over its eyes and below the cheeks. The yellow-buff breast is well spotted and streaked. The strongly patterned face is the easiest means of identifying the redwing. Flocks arrive from northern Europe and roam widely across the UK between October and March searching for food, especially wild berries like hawthorn and windfall apples. Birds from Iceland tend to over-winter in Scotland and Ireland, but those from Scandinavia settle in southern Britain and as far south as the Mediterranean and North Africa.

Redwings often feed and roost with other thrushes, especially fieldfares. Several years ago I happened to be looking out of my kitchen window in Llanddona when a small flock of redwings swept in, landing on the cotoneaster and holly bushes to eat the berries. They stayed only a matter of minutes, then they were off again to find more food and a safe roost site before the sun went down. This month my shrubs were stripped of berries during the freezing fortnight, so I expect redwings came again to join the blackbirds feeding on the fruit; I hope so.

Walking in autumn and winter can often bring exciting views of large flocks of birds of different species.

In late October more than 70 curlew were feeding on the wet lower fields along Henllys Lane above the castle

(higher numbers have been recorded in previous years). In early November I counted more than 100 greylag geese feeding in fields along Henllys Lane, in two large groups; I am sometimes surprised that people walking along the lane don't seem to notice these large, striking birds even when they are very close to the road, some of them honking!

One day there were 11 little egrets in the same fields, feeding amongst the geese and cattle. A flock of over 100 lapwings was seen in late December in a field near Penmon, a lovely sight. They may well be coming over from the RSPB Conwy Reserve where there are regularly good numbers of them.

When the sun shone briefly on Boxing Day, it lit up the white underparts and wing-bars of a large flock of over-wintering dunlin as the tiny waders flew at break-neck speed along the Strait just beyond the Prom in Beaumaris, twisting and turning as they went (between two- and three hundred have been counted here).

Large flocks of starlings have again been sweeping over hedges on the road up to Llanddona and landing on fields grazed by cattle where they must be finding a plentiful supply of invertebrates.

Starlings are also coming in large numbers to bird-feeders, especially during the freezing weather. They are untidy and rather frantic-looking visitors, not always welcomed by their hosts as they tend to push away smaller birds like goldfinches and tits. They do eventually move on so we must give them a welcome too as their numbers have also been in decline in recent years.

These sightings are great but it is difficult not to think about the widespread and devastating impact of avian flu this year. Last winter geese and other wildfowl were reported to be dying in thousands on the Solway Firth. Since then, the virus has spread to many other parts of the country. Swans on the Norfolk Broads were dying and being removed by wardens to try and reduce infection; large numbers of breeding gannets on Bass Rock were found dead; and other breeding sea-bird colonies as remote as Shetland and St Kilda have been badly affected as well.

I must apologise for ending on a gloomy note: people are being encouraged to look out for sick birds, not to touch them or go near them but to report them to local RSPB or Wildlife Trust offices.



Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)
(Andreas Trepte, www.avi-fauna.info, via Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redwing>)



Dadorchuddiwyd y gofeb i W E Williams ar 22 Mawrth 1996
The memorial to W E Williams was unveiled on 22 March 1996
(Gareth Ffowc Roberts)



Y 'Bamboo Bird' ar Draeth Llanddona ym 1911
The Bamboo Bird on Llanddona Beach in 1911
(by permission of Archives and Special Collections, Bangor University)



William Ellis Williams
(by permission of Archives and Special Collections, Bangor University)

Let's hope the spread of this terrible virus will slow down next year, just as we hope for a better year for human populations with the COVID virus.

- 📄 RSPB
www.rspb.org.uk
- 📄 Bird flu update November 2021
<https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/b/birdflu/posts/bird-flu-update-november-2021>
- 📄 Avian influenza
www.gov.wales/avian-influenza
- 📄 Guidance: Report and dispose of dead birds
www.gov.wales/report-and-dispose-dead-birds
- 📄 North Wales Wildlife Trust
www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk

CYFRINACH TRAEH LLANDDONA

Gareth Ffowc Roberts & Alwyn R Owens

Y tro nesaf y byddwch ar draeth Llanddona mentrwyd trwy'r giât yng nghanol y gwrych ar hyd cefn y maes parcio. Yno fe welwch y gofeb hon a godwyd gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Ynys Môn.

Dadorchuddiwyd y gofeb ar 22 Mawrth 1996 ac mae cofnodion Cyngor Cymuned Llanddona yn adrodd y darparwyd lluniaeth yn Neuadd y Pentref i ddathlu'r achlysur. Roedd y cynghorwyr Sir a'r cynghorwyr Cymuned yn amlwg yn cydnabod gwaith William Ellis Williams yn hanes hedfan. Gresyn nad yw'r gofeb yn fwy amlwg erbyn hyn ond mae ei neges yn parhau a grym y neges honno yn cael mwy o sylw ar lefel genedlaethol a rhyngwladol.

Pwy felly oedd William Ellis Williams (a adnabyddwyd fel 'WE' i bawb) a beth oedd ei gyfraniad?

Ganed WE yn 1881 yn Llanllechid, yn fab i William ac Elizabeth Williams, y tad yn chwarelwr yn y Penrhyn. John Gerlan Williams oedd ei frawd, ychydig yn hŷn na WE, a raddiodd mewn mathemateg a ffiseg ym Mangor cyn astudio diwinyddiaeth a gweithio fel cenhadrwr yn yr India a Llydaw. Hyfforddwyd chwaer WE, Ellen, i fod yn athrawes a bu'n bennaeth ar ysgolion cynradd yn y cylch. Roedd cefndir y teulu yn y traddodiad Anghydfurfiol, ac yn manteisio ar yr addysg uwch a oedd ar gael ar stepen y drws ym Mangor o ganlyniad i ymdrechion chwarelwr ac eraill i gefnogi sefydlu Coleg Prifysgol Gogledd Cymru (CPGC) yn 1884.

Fel ei frawd a'i chwaer, cafodd WE ei addysg uwchradd yn y 'County School' ym Methesda. Mewn tysteb i WE yn 1897, nododd prifathro'r ysgol, D J Williams, a oedd wedi graddio gyda dosbarth cyntaf mewn mathemateg yn Rhydychen, 'his conduct and industry have been most exemplary'. Mae'n bosibl mai'r prifathro ddylanwadodd ar WE i astudio mathemateg a ffiseg ym Mangor.

Yno, daeth WE dan ddylanwad yr Albanwr, Andrew Gray, Pennaeth Ffiseg, a'r Sais egsentrig, George Hartley Bryan, Pennaeth Mathemateg. Dan arweiniad y ddau, dangosodd WE ei ddisgleirdeb gan ennill nifer o wobrau ac ysgoloriaethau a ganiataodd iddo barhau ei astudiaethau ar ôl graddio, gan dreulio amser ym Mangor, Glasgow a München. Dychwelodd i Fangor am weddill ei yrfa a pharhau i weithio gyda Bryan cyn mynd ymlaen i fod yn bennaeth ar Adran Drydanol CPGC hyd at ei ymddeoliad yn 1947.

Er bod eu cefndiroedd mor wahanol, cydweithiodd Bryan a WE yn dda. Fel plentyn, addysgwyd Bryan adre yng Nghaergrawnt gan ei fam a'i nain, gan barhau i fyw adre pan fu'n astudio mathemateg yng Ngholeg Peterhouse. Ar un olwg roedd cefndir Anghydfuriol WE ar blaned arall ond roedd y ddau yn parchu sgiliau'i gilydd: Bryan yn arbenigwr o'r radd flaenaf mewn mathemateg a WE wedi datblygu sgiliau ymarferol i ddyfeisio arbrofion cwbl arbennig a blaenllaw.

Erbyn dechrau'r 20^{fed} ganrif roedd nifer o unigolion wedi ceisio adeiladu awyrennau diogel, rhai nad oeddynt yn debygol o droi tin dros ben yn yr awyr. Roedd y brodyr Wright wedi meistrolï'r grefft ond dim ond wrth symud eu penolau i'r chwith neu i'r dde os oedd pethau'n dechrau simsanu.

Camp Bryan oedd datblygu mathemateg newydd i ddisgrifio natur hedfan ac i ragweld beth oedd ei angen wrth ddyfynio awyren a fyddai'n gallu hedfan yn ddiogel. Camp WE, ar y llaw arall, oedd dyfeisio arbrofion blaengar i roi damcaniaethau Bryan ar brawf. I wneud hynny roedd WE a Bryan yn glir eu gweledigaeth wrth fynnu bod angen adeiladu awyren go iawn. Nid oeddynt yn bwriadu hedfan yn uchel na theithio ymhell. Y syniad oedd creu 'labordy' ar ffurf awyren a fyddai'n gallu hel data wrth hedfan yn isel.

Erbyn 1909 roedd WE wedi dechrau mynd i'r afael â'r her. Y cynllun oedd i adeiladu awyren ysgafn gyda fframwaith bambŵ (enwyd yr awyren y 'Bamboo Bird'). Cwblhawyd llawer o'r gwaith paratoi mewn labordy yn adeilad gwreiddiol CPGC, y Penrhyn Arms, gyda'i olygfa dros Fae Penrhyn. Cludwyd yr offer oddi yno mewn cwch i draeth Llanddona a chadwyd y cyfan

mewn sied fawr a godwyd gan WE wrth myl y traeth gyda chydweithrediad parod Syr Harry Verney, y tîrfeidiannwr a oedd yn byw ym Mhlas Rhianfa ar lôn Biwmares. Cwblhawyd y gwaith gan WE ei hun yn bennaf gan wneud llawer ohono yn ystod gwyliau'r coleg dros yr haf. Cyfeiriad swyddogol WE dros y gwyliau oedd 'The Aeroplane Shed, Llanddona, Anglesey'.

Noddwyd gwaith WE gan gwmnïau ac unigolion, gan gynnwys Henry Rees Davies, Treborth, un o gyfoethogion yr ardal, ei deulu wedi sefydlu'r cwmni llongau ym Mhorthaethwy. Roedd Davies yn gobeithio y byddai'n cael cyfle i hedfan y 'Bamboo Bird' ei hun, ar yr amod ei fod yn 'safe machine'. Nid oes tystiolaeth iddo wireddu ei ddymuniaid ond, diolch i'w gyfeillgarwch gyda WE, roedd yn hael ei gyfraniad i hybu'r fenter.

Roedd arbrofion WE wedi methu ar y cychwyn ond mae cofnodion y coleg yn tystio iddo lwyddo yn ystod gwyliau'r haf 1911 i hedfan 'Bamboo Bird' yn yr awyr uwchben traeth Llanddona ac i gynnal arbrofion llwyddiannus ar yr awyren yr un pryd. Roedd llwyddiant WE yn seiliedig ar ei feistrolaeth ar fathemateg a'i allu i gydweithio ag eraill, yn arbennig Bryan. Yn bwysicach na dim oedd ei ddawn fel peiriannydd i ddyfeisio arbrofion cwbl newydd. Rhwng Bryan a WE gosodwyd sylfaen i greu awyrennau sy'n gallu hedfan yn ddiogel, rhywbeth sydd bellach yn cael ei gymryd yn ganiataol.

Ac ie, ar draeth eang Llanddona y gwireddwyd y cyfan, diolch i ymroddiad a dycnwch William Ellis Williams.

♦ ♦ ♦

THE SECRET OF LLANDDONA BEACH

Gareth Ffowc Roberts & Alwyn R Owens

Next time you are on Llanddona beach, venture through the gate in the middle of the hedge along the back of the car park. There you will find this memorial erected by Isle of Anglesey County Council; see the previous page.

The memorial was unveiled on 22 March 1996, the minutes of the Llanddona Community Council recording that refreshments were provided at the Village Hall to celebrate the occasion. The County and Community councillors had clearly recognised the importance of William Ellis Williams's contribution to the history of aviation. It's regrettable that, by now, the memorial is not more prominent but the power of its message is gaining more attention nationally and internationally.

Who, then, was William Ellis Williams (commonly known as 'WE'), and what was his contribution?

WE was born in 1881 in Llanllechid, the son of William and Elizabeth Williams,

his father a quarryman at Penrhyn. His brother was John Gerlan Williams, slightly older than WE, who graduated in mathematics and physics at Bangor before studying theology and working as a missionary in India and Brittany. WE's sister, Ellen, was trained to be a teacher and was head teacher at some local primary schools. The family was firmly Nonconformist and took advantage of the higher education available on Bangor's doorstep as a result of the efforts of quarrymen and others to support the establishment of the University College of North Wales (UCNW) in 1884.

Like his siblings, WE received his secondary education at the County School in Bethesda. In a testimonial to WE in 1897, the school's headmaster, D J Williams, who had graduated with a first in mathematics at Oxford, noted that 'his conduct and industry have been most exemplary'. It is possible that Williams influenced WE to study mathematics and physics at Bangor.

There, WE came under the influence of the Scotsman, Andrew Gray, Head of Physics, and the somewhat eccentric Englishman, George Hartley Bryan, Head of Mathematics. Under the guidance of both, WE showed his brilliance, winning numerous awards and scholarships that allowed him to continue his studies after graduating, spending time in Bangor, Glasgow and Munich. He returned to Bangor for the rest of his career and continued to work with Bryan before going on to become head of UCNW's Electrical Department until his retirement in 1947.

Although their backgrounds were very different, Bryan and WE worked well together. As a child, Bryan was educated at home in Cambridge by his mother and grandmother, continuing to live at home when he studied mathematics at Peterhouse. Although WE's Nonconformist background was on another planet, the two respected each other's skills: Bryan was a world-class expert in mathematics and WE developed practical skills that enabled him to devise innovative experiments.

By the early 20th century a number of individuals had tried to build safe aircraft that were unlikely to flip over in the air. The Wright brothers had mastered the art, but only by shifting their buttocks to the left or right if their plane started to wobble.

Bryan's feat was to develop new mathematics to describe the essence of aviation and to deduce what was needed when designing an aircraft capable of flying safely. WE's feat, on the other hand, was to devise cutting-edge experiments to put Bryan's theories to the test. WE and Bryan were clear that a real aircraft needed to be

built. They did not intend to fly high or to travel far and their idea was to create an aircraft 'laboratory' that would be able to collect data while flying low.

By 1909 WE had begun to take up the challenge. The plan was to build a light aircraft with a bamboo framework (the aircraft was named 'Bamboo Bird'). Much of the preparation was completed in a laboratory in the original UCNW building, the Penrhyn Arms, with its view over Penrhyn Bay. The equipment was transported from there by boat to Llanddona beach and kept in a large shed erected by WE near the beach with the willing co-operation of Sir Harry Verney, the landowner who lived at Plas Rhianfa on the road to Beaumaris. The work was mostly undertaken by WE himself during the college summer holidays. WE's official address when at work was 'The Aeroplane Shed, Llanddona, Anglesey'.

WE's work was sponsored by companies and individuals, including the wealthy Henry Rees Davies of Treborth, his family having founded the shipping company in Menai Bridge. Davies hoped he would get a chance to fly the 'Bamboo Bird' himself, provided it was a 'safe machine'. There is no evidence that his wish was fulfilled but, thanks to his close friendship with WE, Davies was generous to a fault in his contributions to further the initiative.

WE's experiments failed at first but college records testify that, during the summer holidays of 1911, he managed to fly 'Bamboo Bird' above Llanddona beach and to carry out successful experiments on the aircraft at the same time. WE's success was based on his mastery of Bryan's mathematics and his ability to collaborate with others. Most importantly was his talent as an engineer to devise entirely new experiments. Between Bryan and WE a foundation was laid to create aircraft capable of flying safely, something that is now taken completely for granted. And yes, it was on the extensive beach at Llanddona that it all happened, thanks to the dedication and tenacity of William Ellis Williams.

Darllen pellach/further reading

Alwyn R Owens: *William Ellis Williams, Pioneer of Electrical Engineering at Bangor*, Transactions of the Caernarvonshire Historical Society, volume 69, 2008, pp. 61–80.

Gareth Ffowc Roberts: *For the Record* (Cardiff, 2022), chapter 6

Roy Sloan (Brynsiencyn), *Early Aviation in North Wales* (Llanrwst, 1989)

GWEN WILLIAMS: IN FOND MEMORY

Pamela Smith and Jenny Dunstall

Some readers of **The Puffin** will

remember our mother, Gwen Williams, who lived in Llangoed from 1982 to 2012.

Sadly, Mum died on 6th November 2022, aged 91. She moved to Llangoed with her second husband Tom. They lived at Cae Person Uchaf for 17 years, then moved to Gorrdding Crescent.



Gwen in Beaumaris in 1983 (Pamela Smith)

Mum loved living in Llangoed and was very involved in village life. She was an active member of Llangoed WI throughout her time in the village, and also the Penmon Society. She kept hens and ducks, and enjoyed growing flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Always good at cookery, baking, sewing, art and crafts, every year Mum made chutney, pickle and lemon curd from her own produce. She took part in WI markets and musical evenings. Most years she entered many of the classes in the Llangoed show and often won prizes.

Tom Williams died in 2006, and Mum left Anglesey in 2012 to be near her daughter Jenny in Northamptonshire.

She is survived by daughters Pamela and Jenny, grandsons Timothy and Piers and great-grandson Jack; her stepson John died in 2009.

◆ ◆ ◆
Gwendolyn Mary Williams 1931-2022
Gorffwys mewn Hedd

LLANDEGFAN: A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Maureen Jones

I was most interested in the article in **The Puffin** 42 relating to the discovery of the gravestones of Llandegfan families, particularly that of Frederick Salis Schwabe. I'm writing now to tell of the long connection between the Hughes and Schwabe families.

My grandparents were Robert and Margaret Hughes. Margaret came from Llwyn Farm, Llansannan, about 8 miles

south of Abergele, from where she came to Ynys Môn to be married, and lived at Garth y Don cottages, Llandegfan. From there she and Robert moved to Tan y Fron, Rhianfa, where my father, also called Robert, was born on 27 January 1901.

Grandfather Robert was a sailor on the Garth ferry, which ran a return trip from Bangor to Beaumaris, calling at Menai Bridge, Portdinorwic and Caernarfon twice daily.

In those days you could travel from Bangor Pier to Beaumaris for 2d (1p = 2.4d). The ferry was called the *Lady Magdalene* and had a red funnel and twin propellers. Other Bangor Pier steamers of the time were the *Torbay*, *Cynfal* and *Mona*.

The dumpy *Sarah* and *Mary Ann* were ferry sailing boats which sailed from the Gazelle to Bangor Pier. Robert also piloted the *Lady Magdalene*, and for many years crewed on the sailing schooner *William Frederick*. He was discharged in London in 1887 by John Jones, master of the schooner, who described him as an honest, obedient and sober seaman.

My father Robert went to Llandegfan primary school until he was 12 years old. Holidays saw him working as cabin boy on Mrs Langton's ocean-going yachts, the *Hoshie*, *Kentra* and *Almeda*.

Mr Langton lived at Min y Don, near the Gazelle, and at the end of each season he rewarded my father with the princely sum of 2 guineas (£2.10). Mr Langton was captain of *HMS Clio*, sister ship to *HMS Conway*, and moored opposite Bangor Pier. The *Clio* was a reformatory, and was known as the 'bogey' ship for naughty boys. Mr Langton had two daughters who were scout mistresses for Llandegfan Boy Scouts. When anybody died, the ship's gun carriage was brought ashore to transport the coffin to Llandegfan church.

There was one big grave in the cemetery where a few of the boys were buried. The band played all the way to the church.

My father, Robert junior, followed in his father's footsteps in his love of the sea, and as a very young lad he rescued three men in difficulties by the *Gazelle*, one of whom was the Editor of the *Liverpool Weekly Post*. He was awarded the Liverpool Daily Post Merit Award on 14 April 1908 – a gold Merit Medal and three gold sovereigns – and was kitted out with a complete suit. In 1917, Robert went to work for Mrs F S Schwabe at Garth y Don and remained with her for 20 years. From now on he would be known as Bob Schwabe. It was Mrs Schwabe who had the marble cross erected halfway up Bryn Mel hill, Llandegfan, a memorial to those who died in the First World War; Robert was

responsible for keeping it clean. Mrs Schwabe's son's name, Lieutenant Frederick Schwabe, was engraved on it. The cross has now been moved to Llandegfan Parish Hall. The Schwabe family had a cotton printing works at Rhodes, Middleton, Manchester; they made their own blue dye from cow droppings.

Before commencing work as chauffeur to Mrs Schwabe, Robert had to go to Vallance in Bangor to be measured up for his livery. The trousers were fine blue corduroy, and Mrs Schwabe would refer to them as his 'whistle breeches'. The waistcoat and jacket were a dark navy cloth and the overcoat a heavy navy cloth, all fastening with silver buttons. He wore cream chamois leather gloves, and over the livery a cream lightweight dustcoat. His driving cap was navy with a white top. Mrs Schwabe's crest was the 'Monarch of the Glen' and this was engraved on all of his buttons.

Robert chauffeured Mrs Schwabe all over the country. She loved to go to bridge parties and antiquarian meetings, visiting most of the gentry on the island. Robert became friendly with other chauffeurs at the meetings: Nat Bloss was chauffeur to the Chadwicks, who owned Haulfre in Llangoed; Sonny Shuttleworth to the Massey sisters of Cornelyn; Stan Aird to Sir Richard Bulkeley; Mr Jones was Sir Harry Verney's (Rhianfa) chauffeur; and George Lightfoot to Sir Dwyer Hampton of Cartrefle.

The first car Robert drove for Mrs Schwabe was a Humber; others were a Chevrolet, a Siddeley Deasy and an Arrol Johnson. The latter was a tourer, with the spare wheel and handbrake on the outside. Petrol was 9d (7.5p) a gallon, mostly bought from Coulthard's garage, now the Anglesey Arms. Robert's wages were paid in advance: 3 gold sovereigns, 10 shillings and a crown (5 shillings), and 5 sovereigns to maintain the car.

The death of Mrs Schwabe in 1939 was a sad occasion for Bob after such a long and varied career chauffeuring such a kind and grand lady. Both families – the Schwabes and my grandparents Robert and Margaret Hughes – are buried in Llandegfan churchyard.

My wish would be to visit their respective graves one day.

THE CITIZEN'S VOICE

Adrian Drake-Lee

Where is the end of the queue? There has been much coverage in the media about the problems with the NHS: ambulances queueing outside hospitals, patients in the emergency departments waiting on trolleys for a bed, long waiting lists for surgery, and difficulties



My grandfather, Robert Hughes (Maureen Jones)



My father, Robert junior, 1901-1996; he was nicknamed 'Bob Schwabe' (Maureen Jones)



Mrs Schwabe and her chauffeur, my father Robert (Maureen Jones)



The buttons (Maureen Jones)

discharging patients from hospital. These predate the recent COVID pandemic.

There is overlap between what happens in healthcare, and community support of those who need long-term help. For the elderly and those who are very vulnerable, residential care is needed. Unfortunately, the number of beds for both has decreased over the years. Many of the social facilities are provided by the private sector, unlike the NHS.

It is easy to see why there are difficulties in discharging such patients from hospital as there is nowhere for them to go. The problems with health care are complex, and to name a few: primary care has ceased to function as a gatekeeper, and so patients bypass it to go to the emergency departments. Added to this, people live longer, there is a problem with conditions related to obesity in younger people, treatments and investigations are more complex and done in greater numbers.

The King's Fund has shown that there has been a 44% loss of NHS beds over the last 40 years in England. England has fewer critical care beds per population than most other European countries. In many ways the NHS in Wales lags well that of England in both provision and technology. If ill patient needs a lower limb vascular bypass and there is no critical care bed, the operating theatre remains empty. If there is a medical case in an orthopaedic bed forget having a hip replacement...

Patients, carers, family, and friends

People need to be heard. I wrote an article in **The Puffin** 42 (February 2021, page 6) about the Community Health Council (CHC), the patients' voice. This is a statutory body that represents medical interests to the six routine health boards in Wales.

The North Wales CHC is based mainly in Bangor but has a smaller office in Wrexham. It has a paid staff and seventy-two volunteers; twelve volunteers come from each of the six counties in North Wales. Various organisations, including local councils, the Welsh Government and the Third Sector provide the volunteers, and there are co-opted members as well.

I joined about seven years ago, and although I represent Gwynedd, I live near Beaumaris. One of our statutory rights was to visit patients in all the NHS settings to get opinions, and to see the service that they received. Some visiting has started again after the recent pandemic.

In early December, I went to Cefni Hospital in Llangefnï. Referrals come from the Hergest Unit in Bangor and Home Treatment Teams for those with

(continued on page 18)



Canolfan Biwmares

MWY NA CHANOLFAN HAMDDEN YN UNIG

CERDDORIAETH FYW

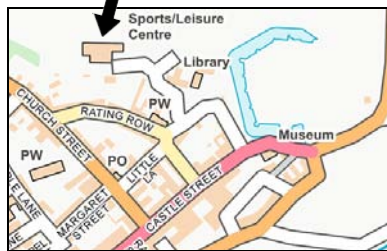


• Gŵyl Biwmares •

Dydd Mercher 24 Mai/ Dydd Mercher 31 Mai

• Seindorf Biwmares Cyngerdd Haf •
l'w gyhaoeddi

RYDYM YMA!



Canolfan Biwmares, Rating Row,
Biwmares, Ynys Môn LL58 8AL
Mwynhewch eich ymweliad!

MARCHNAD RAD DAN DÔ/ ARWERTHIANT CIST CAR



Dydd Sul 12 Mawrth
11.00yb-3.00yp

Amrywiaeth o stondinau a chaffi

NOSON FFILM



Dydd Iau cyntaf o bob mis
Gweler y dudalen 3
7.00yp, £5.00 y pen



Ystafell ffitrwydd, chwaraeon, dosbarthiadau
ffitrwydd, campfa merched yn unig,
arddangosfa gelf, llogi beiciau, nosweithiau
ffilm, adloniant, cerddoriaeth fyw, partïon
plant, llafnrolïo, marchnad rad, ffair hen
bethau, digwyddiadau, dawnsio a llawer mwy!

FFAIR HEN BETHAU



Trydydd Sul y mis

ARDDANGOSFA GELF

Ar agor i'r cyhoedd



Arlunydd newydd bob mis
Yn rhad ac am ddim

CANOLFAN LLES SEIRIOL

gan gynnwys

- Dosbarthiadau ffitrwydd •
 - Tai chi •
 - Aciwbigo •
 - Podiatrig •
- Therapïau holistaidd •
- Ymwybyddiaeth ofalgar •

• • • • •



• • • • •
**Cysylltu â ni
os hoffech
mwy o wybodaeth**

**Ein manylion
yn cael eu rhoi isod**

LLOGI BEICIAU

Beiciau pedal neu drydan i oedolion a
phlant ar gael i'w llogi am ddiwrnod
llawn neu hanner diwrnod



• mae prysiau'n amrywio •

GWEITHGAREDDAU CYMUNEDOL

gan gynnwys

Dosbarthiadau cyfrifiadurol • Clwb bridge
Grwp clytwaith • Grwp celf



MANNAU CYNNES

Gweithgareddau bob dydd Gwener
11:30am-3:30pm

NEWYDD!

ar gyfer 2023

Pecynnau aelodaeth newydd

• Badminton •

**mwy o sesiynau, gan
gynnwys**

• Cylchdeithiau capfa •

• Yoga •

• Warriors Martial Arts •

☎ 01248 811200

✉ enquiries@canolfanbeaumaris.org.uk

🌐 www.canolfanbeaumaris.org.uk/

🌐 www.facebook.com/canolfan.beaumaris.7/



Canolfan Beaumaris

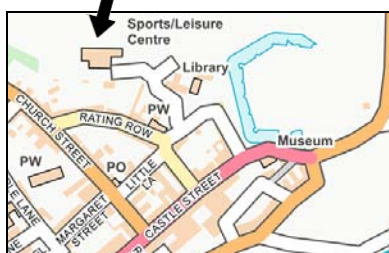
MORE THAN JUST A LEISURE CENTRE

LIVE SHOWS



- **Beaumaris Festival** •
Wednesday 24 May/Wednesday 31 May
- **Seindorf Beaumaris Band
Summer Concert** •
to be announced

WE ARE HERE!



Canolfan Beaumaris, Rating Row,
Beaumaris, Anglesey LL58 8AL

Enjoy your visit!

TABLE TOP SALE



Sunday 12 March
11.00am-3.00pm
A variety of stalls and a café

BEAUMARIS FILM NIGHT



The first Thursday of the month
at 7.00pm, £5.00 per person
See the listing on page 3



Fitness suite, sports, fitness classes, ladies-only gym, art exhibitions, bike hire, film nights, entertainment, live music, kids' parties, rollerblading, flea market, antiques fair, events, dancing and much more!

ANTIQUES FAIR



The third Sunday of the month

ART EXHIBITION

Open to the public



New artist each month
Free of charge

CANOLFAN SEIRIOL WELLNESS CENTRE

including

- Exercise classes •
- Tai chi •
- Acupuncture •
- Podiatry •
- Holistic therapies •
- Mindfulness •
-



•
**Contact us
if you'd like
more information**

**Our details
are given below**

BIKE HIRE

Adults' and children's bikes, pedal or electric, available for full-day or half-day hire



• prices vary •

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

including

- Computer classes • Bridge club
- Patchwork group • Arts group



WARM SPACE

Activities every Friday 11:30am-3:30pm

NEW!

for 2023

New membership packages

- Badminton •
- plus more sessions,
including**
- Gym circuits •
- Yoga •
- Warriors Martial Arts •

☎ 01248 811200

✉ enquiries@canolfanbeaumaris.org.uk

🌐 www.canolfanbeaumaris.org.uk/

🌐 www.facebook.com/canolfan.beaumaris.7/

dathlu'r blodau, llysiau, coginio,
celf a chrefft creu gan ddinasyddion o bob oed



celebrating the flowers, vegetables, cookery, arts and crafts
created by makers of all ages

Neuadd Bentref Llangoed
Dydd Sadwrn, 8 Gorffennaf, 2023
2:00 - 5:00 yp



Llangoed Village Hall
Saturday, 8 July, 2023
2:00 - 5:00 pm

Join in the Show | Ymunwch yn y Sioe

www.llangoedflowershow.com

The fun, the drama, the awards, the celebration! Nothing is quite like a village show, and here in Llangoed we are lucky enough to have hosted one at our very own Village Hall for over 80 years. We are so excited to share with you the categories, plans and awards for the 2023 show.

A copy of the info brochure is included in this fine publication, also available at Morrisons Llangoed and Beaumaris Library.

Full information also on the show website : www.llangoedflowershow.com.



Would you like to sponsor a category? For £10 you support the prize monies and rosettes for a show category of your choice. Details on our website.

Join our facebook group and sign up to our newsletter to keep up with the latest news.

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/llangoedflowershow/

Newsletter:

www.llangoedflowershow.com/subscribe

We can't wait to welcome all the makers and growers of the Seiriol ward to the Llangoed Flower Show!



Yr hwyl, y ddrama, y gwobrau, y dathlu! Does dim byd tebyg i sioe bentref, ac yma yn Llangoed rydym yn ddigon ffodus i fod wedi cynnal un yn ein Neuadd Bentref ein hunain ers dros 80 mlynedd. Rydym mor gyffrous i rannu'r categorïau, y cynlluniau a'r gwobrau ar gyfer sioe 2023 gyda chi.

Mae copi o'r llyfryn gwybodaeth wedi'i gynnwys yn y cyhoeddiad gwyh hwn, sydd hefyd ar gael yn Morrisons Llangoed a Llyfrgell Biwmares.

Gwybodaeth lawn hefyd ar wefan y sioe : www.llangoedflowershow.com.

Hoffech chi noddi categori? Am £10 rydych chi'n cefnogi'r gwobrau ariannol a'r rhosedi ar gyfer categori sioe o'ch dewis. Manylion ar ein gwefan.



Ymunwch â'n grwp facebook a chofrestrwch i dderbyn ein cylchlythyr i gael y newyddion di-weddaraf.

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/llangoedflowershow/

Cylchlythyr:

www.llangoedflowershow.com/subscribe

Edrychwn ymlaen at groesawu holl gynhyrchwyr a thyfyrwyr ward Seiriol i Sioe Flodau Llangoed!



(from page 13)

severe dementia. Patients live in Gwynedd, Anglesey, and West Conwy. This presents problems for relatives and those visiting the unit as travel may be long and difficult.

There continue to be difficulties recruiting staff, so agency staff often look after patients. There are ongoing problems discharging patients to appropriate places. Visiting is an essential way to understand patient, carers, and family needs.

The Welsh Government has decided to replace the Community Health Councils with a new body that includes social care. This new organisation will start on 1 April 2023. While there is overlap for some patients, social and education needs often lie outside health care. Unlike health care that is provided by a single board in each area, social care is much more fragmented. The way that this proposed service has been rolled out has disheartened many of the CHC volunteers, and they feel as if they no longer have a voice.

Digital voice When the Act for the new body was first passed in 2020, it was envisaged as living in a virtual world. Such a proposal appeared out of touch with local needs. Until recently, broadband was a problem where I lived and mobile phone coverage is very variable. Unlike in Cardiff and South Wales, both are widespread issues for rural Wales. Public transport is often absent or scanty, too. 20% of the population has either poor or absent literary skills. Such people are often more vulnerable.

Different languages are spoken throughout the UK. Polish is as common as Welsh, for example. A nuanced approach is needed. Face-to-face contact should be a statutory right for those volunteering for this type of work.

Alice in Wonderland 'There's more evidence to come yet, please, your Majesty,' said the White Rabbit, jumping up in a great hurry, 'this paper has just been picked up.' This week (December 2022) I have received four documents about the new body. These contain issues that should have been sorted in its planning. The first document had three headings that include the word, draft. One of them is the Code of Practice to enter premises. This came about because of lobbying rather than strategy.

Rather than social care, I have been involved with many healthcare changes over the years, including

the closure of hospitals, relocation of services and the provision and quality assessment of medical education. A few were done well and a few done badly. This change is firmly in the latter category.

Unfortunately, I do not see a smooth transition, and it has certainly not come about through 2020 vision!

 The King's Fund
www.kingsfund.org.uk

CWLWM SEIRIOL: DIWEDDARIAD Y GAEAF

Delyth Phillipps, Swyddog Ymgysylltu â'r Gymuned

Yn ôl yr arfer, mae llawer iawn o bethau wedi bod yn digwydd, ac roeddwn yn awyddus i gael rhannu rhai o'r uchafbwyntiau a gadael i chi wybod am ein cynlluniau ar gyfer 2023.



Nyth llygoden yr yd a ddarganfuwyd yn Rhos Llaniestyn, Llanddona

A harvest mouse nest found at Rhos Llaniestyn, Llanddona (Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gogledd Cymru/North Wales Wildlife Trust)



Grwpiau teuluol yn chwilio am ffyngau yn Llangoed
Family groups searching for fungi in Llangoed (Menter Môn)



Gwirfoddolwyr yn cael egwyl a phaned yn Cyttir Mawr, Llandegfan
Volunteers having a break and a paned at Cyttir Mawr, Llandegfan (Menter Môn)

Cynhaliom helpa ffwng i'r teulu yn Llangoed ym mis Hydref, ac roedd hi'n wych gweld cymaint o deuluoedd lleol yn cymryd rhan. Yn ystod y digwyddiad ffyngau capiau cwyr yn Llanddona ym mis Tachwedd, cafodd mwy o rywogaethau eu hychwanegu at y rhestr a grëwyd y llynedd. Yn ogystal, llwyddodd arolwg Llygod yr Yd a gynhaliwyd yn Rhos Llaniestyn, Llanddona, ar 19 Tachwedd i ddod o hyd i nythod.

Fis Rhagfyr, bu i gontractwyr arbenigol wneud gwaith coed hanfodol ger maes parcio Pont y Rhyd yn Llangoed, a oedd yn cynnwys torri coed ynn wedi'u heintio a thocio coed helyg. Gwnaed y gwaith dan y prosiect Cwlwm Seiriol ar ran Cyngor Cymuned Llangoed a Phenmon. Mae cynlluniau ar y gweill i blannu coed afalau yn yr ardal hon, ac i'w rheoli fel perllan gymunedol.

Mae llawer o bobl wedi bod yn dod i'r sesiynau gwirfoddoli ar ddyddiau Mawrth, ac mae llawer o dasgau rheoli hanfodol wedi'u cwblhau o fewn tri o warchodfeydd natur Ward Seiriol. Mae'r gwirfoddolwyr wedi bod yn dysgu llawer o sgiliau newydd ac yn rhannu'r hyn y maent wedi'i ddysgu gyda gwirfoddolwyr newydd. Rydym eisiau i'r gwirfoddolwyr elwa o'r profiad, ac eleni rydym wedi cynnig hyfforddiant mewn gwehyddu basgedi helyg, sgiliau gwaith coed a chymorth cyntaf awyr agored. Bydd hyfforddiant ar Osod Cerrig a sgiliau cynnal a chadw llwybrau cerdded eraill ar gael ar 21 a 22 Chwefror, ac eto ar 7 ac 8 Mawrth. Mae gosod cerrig wedi bod ar waith ers cyfnod y Rhufeiniaid, ac mae'n aml yn cael ei ddefnyddio i daclo erydiad llwybrau cerdded. Caiff cerrig unigol eu gosod am i fyny yn y ddaear, a'u pacio'n dynn â cherrig llai a phridd. Mae prosiect Cwlwm Seiriol wedi defnyddio'r dechneg hon o'r blaen yng nghoetir Aberlleiniog, ac roedd yn llwyddiannus iawn o ran gwyrto'r dŵr glaw oddi wrth y llwybr cerdded, gan leihau erydiad. Byddwn yn defnyddio'r dechneg hon mewn rhai ardaloedd gwlyb eraill.

Bydd taith gerdded gylchol newydd yn cael ei hagar yn Llangedfan ym mis Mehefin, ac i baratoi ar ei chyfer, rydym yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth â Chyngor Cymuned Cwm Cadnant i gasglu straeon gan bobl leol am y pentref a'r ardal leol. Os oes gennych unrhyw beth yr hoffech ei rannu, cysylltwch â ni. Mae'r llwybr cerdded newydd wedi cael ei alw'n 'Cylch Cyttir' a bydd yn cysylltu ardaloedd preswyl Llangedfan â gwarchodfa natur lleol

SEIRIOL MEN'S SHED

Steve Jones

We've had a busy few months with the various repairs and refurbishment of items that have come into our workshop; we've also fabricated a sturdy bespoke woodstore for the neighbour of one of our members.

The gardens Work in the gardens has now come to an end after a fruitful season; in spite of the dry summer we produced a bumper crop of tomatoes and cucumbers from the greenhouse, and a good crop of potatoes, cabbages, leeks and courgettes from the garden.

The polytunnel will be ready for next year, and we are now looking at what we need to be planting up to make the best use of the facility for the coming season.

The equestrian museum As regular readers of **The Puffin** will know, we have been invited to help with the promotion and re-opening of the equestrian museum at Haulfre, and are hoping that it can be opened to the public in 2023. This will provide an excellent opportunity to promote the Haulfre Estate and its history.

We would be very grateful for any information, photos, etc., from local residents that may be of use for this project. We've visited the archive at Llangefni to try and find any information available regarding the Chadwick family but, unfortunately there was not a great deal of material available. Local knowledge is invaluable! If you have anything that might be of use in this project please get in touch with us.

Llangoed Village Hall Llangoed Village Hall has applied for grants to improve the garden area of the grounds, and has invited Seiriol Men's Shed to assist with the manufacture and installation of planters, etc., to enhance the gardens. This would be a wonderful project to

start in the new year. and would be a real opportunity to improve the grounds of the hall.

Our Christmas lunch The Liverpool Arms in Beaumaris was the chosen venue for the Seiriol Men's Shed Christmas lunch this year, and we would like to thank all the staff for providing a great lunch with first class service with a smile. Thank you!



This'n'that We're a sociable bunch, and we do things!

- We're continuing our work with the Rotary Club; we provide a collection point for the Tools for Africa project, so would be very grateful for any donations of unwanted tools.
- We have a well-equipped workshop, and are looking now to acquire a wood-turning lathe. If any readers of **The Puffin** know of a machine that may be available to purchase locally we would appreciate a call.

- Looking ahead to spring 2023, readers may be interested to know that we are able to manufacture planters, etc., which we can build to your individual requirements. All of the timber that we use is treated and the planters are lined to ensure they won't rot. Let us know what size and shape you'd like!
- We can also repair and sharpen garden tools, shears, loppers, etc. Please give us a call with any enquiries, or visit us at the workshop.
- We're able to offer a repair/refurbish service for items of furniture, tables, chairs, garden furniture, etc. All that we ask is for a small donation to Seiriol Men's Shed to help with our running costs plus the cost of any materials that we have to buy: wood, paint, varnish, and so on.

What are we? We are a small friendly group of men motivated by serving our Seiriol Community and enjoying the company that our group provides.

If you'd like to find out more about us please give us a call or visit our well-equipped workshop at Haulfre:

- Seiriol Men's Shed is for men aged 18-108.
- Currently we meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.00am-1.00pm.
- Times and days will expand to suit membership.

You'll find directions to Seiriol Men's Shed in *What's happening where?* on page 5.

Visit us, have a cuppa and a biscuit with us and ask us any questions you like!

For more information please contact:

☎ Mike Thomas 07941 103386

☎ Steve Jones 07368 219048

Cyttir Mawr. Os ydych wedi ymweld â'r warchodfa yn ddiweddar, mae'n siŵr y byddwch wedi sylwi bod cilfan i geir wedi'i chreu ger y briffordd, sy'n addas ar gyfer nifer fach o geir.

Ymhlith y gweithgareddau eraill ar y gweill mae gweithdai adeiladu blychau nythod yn Neuadd Gymunedol Llandegfan ar 24 Chwefror. Bydd hyn yn ystod wythnos hanner tymor ac mae'n addas ar gyfer teuluoedd. Fis Mawrth, byddwn yn cynnal nifer o weithdai sgiliau traddodiadol mewn partneriaeth â thîm AOHNE Ynys Môn, a bydd Gŵyl Grefftau Prysgoedio yn cael ei chynnal yn Llangoed ddechrau mis Ebrill.

Os hoffech gymryd rhan, cysylltwch â ni drwy e-bostio neu anfonwch neges e-bost atom ar Facebook.

☎ 07815 709240

Llanddona: www.facebook.com/groups/llanddona/

✉ cwlwmseiriol@mentermon.com
delyth@mentermon.com

📱 Cwlwm Seiriol
www.facebook.com/CwlwmSeiriol/

CWLWM SEIRIOL: WINTER UPDATE

Delyth Phillips, Community Engagement Officer

There has been lots happening as usual, and I wanted to share some of the highlights with you as well as letting you know about some of our plans for 2023.

We held a family fungal foray in Llangoed in October, and it was lovely to have so many local families take part. During the waxcap fungi event in Llanddona in November more species were added to the list created last year, and a harvest mouse survey carried out at Rhos Llaniestyn, Llanddona, on 19

November was successful in discovering nests.

In December, specialist contractors carried out essential tree work near the Pont y Rhyd car park in Llangoed, which involved the felling of diseased ash trees and pollarding of willow trees. The work was carried out under the Cwlwm Seiriol project on behalf of Llangoed & Penmon Community Council. There are plans to plant apple trees in this area and to manage it as a community orchard.

The Tuesday volunteering sessions have been well attended, and lots of essential management tasks have been completed within the Seiriol Ward's three local nature reserves. The volunteers have been learning lots of new skills and sharing what they have learned with new volunteers. We want the volunteers to gain from the

experience, and this year training has been offered in willow basket weaving, woodworking skills and outdoor first aid. Training in Stone Pitching and other footpath maintenance skills will be available on 21 and 22 February and again on 7 and 8 March. Stone pitching has been in use since Roman times and is often utilised to combat footpath erosion. Individual stones are placed upright in the ground and stabilised by being packed tightly with smaller stones and soil. The Cwlwm Seiriol project has used this technique previously in the Aberlleiniog woodland, and it proved very successfully in channelling rainwater away from the footpath, thereby reducing erosion. There are a couple of other wet sections where we are going to employ this technique.

A new circular walking route will be opened in Llandegfan in June, and in preparation for this we are working in partnership with Cwm Cadnant Community Council to collect stories from local people about the village and local area. If you have any that you would like to share, please get in touch. The new walking route has been called 'Cylch Cytir', and it will link the residential areas of Llandegfan with the Cytir Mawr reserve. If you have visited the Cytir Mawr local nature reserve recently, you will no doubt have noticed that a pull-in area has been created just off the main road that can accommodate a small number of cars.

Other events planned include nestbox-building workshops at Llandegfan Parish Hall on Friday 24 February. This will be during the half term week and is suitable for families. In March we shall be running a number of traditional skills workshops in partnership with the Anglesey AONB Team, and there will be a Coppice Crafts Festival in Llangoed at the beginning of April.

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch by e-mail or message us at Facebook.

☎ 07815 709240

✉ cwlwmseiriol@mentermon.com
delyth@mentermon.com

🌐 Cwlwm Seiriol
www.facebook.com/CwlwmSeiriol/



BANGOR ROTARY NEWS

Pauline Kenyon, Bangor Rotary Service Team Leader

Bangor Rotary Club was delighted to join in December's stunning Beaumaris Christmas Tree Festival, held in Beaumaris's beautiful Church of St Mary and Nicholas once again. Our tree was laden with tiny decorations made by

Jenny, our newest Rotarian, who made exquisite tiny parcels in Ukrainian coloured wrappings, hand-sewn felt hearts, minute Food Bank shopping



Ian Thompson and Rotary Vice-President, Rotary Service Team Leader, Pauline Kenyon with the Bangor Rotary Christmas at the Beaumaris Christmas Tree Festival (Ian Thompson)



At Glan Cegin Primary School, Bangor: School Council representatives and Pauline Kenyon (extreme left), Menna Gilbert, Bangor Rotary President (middle) and Derek Hainge, Rotarian and School Chair of Governors (wearing the red cap) and Ian Thompson (Ian Thompson)



Enjoying our Christmas Dinner at Baron Hill Golf Club (Ian Thompson)

bags, white doves and beautiful miniature angels, a globe gently floating at the top. The doves and angels were to represent vital activities that we could

do to bring positivity and joy to our rather fractured world. You'll see the tree again on page 25 with many of the other trees in the Christmas Tree Festival.

It was made even more special as we enjoyed meeting so many other organisations that were contributing to the impressive and highly original displays!

Our Club also had a successful day fund raising for local charities in Morrisons, Bangor, thanks to the store and many generous shoppers.

Just before the end of term we delivered around 300 English and Welsh children's books to Glan Cegin primary school, Bangor, for the pupils to take home and keep, or to swap with friends and keep the enjoyment of a huge range of books circulating.

The young members of the School Council eagerly took over the distribution exercise. The books were presented by Rotary President Menna Gilbert and Vice President Ian Thompson.

The year ended with a lovely service at St Mary's Church, Menai Bridge, where representatives of many local charitable organisations and groups, and Eliza, the young President of Our Lady's RC primary school Rotakids, read lessons; members of the William Matthias Music school contributed their amazing musical giftedness as well.

This was followed by the club's Christmas Dinner at Baron Hill Golf Club where, with our guest, Assistant District Governor, John Stopford, we enjoyed an excellent carvery meal prepared by Club Steward, Alan Clark.

GRŴP SGOWTIAID MÔR 1^{AF}

BIWMARES

Dave Johnson, GSL Dros Dro, Sgowtiaid Môr 1^{af} Biwmares

Diolch yn fawr i'n rhieni, arweinwyr, Cybiau, Sgowtiaid ac Afancod am eich rhoddion ar gyfer Raffl Hamper Nadolig a'ch cymorth a chefnogaeth gyda'r stondin ym Marchnad Nadolig Biwmares. Nid yn unig wnaethon ni godi £100 i'r Partion Nadolig a £100 i Fanc Bwyd Ynys Môn efo'n raffl a'n trwyn Rudolph yn hoopla ond hefyd wedi holi am wirfoddoli, ac wedi ychwanegu mwy o bobl ifanc at ein rhestr aros.

Mae Spar ym Miwmares yn garedig iawn wedi ychwanegu taleb am £30 i'r arian a godwyd ar gyfer y Banc Bwyd a byddwn yn gofyn un i dri o bobl ifanc o bob adran i helpu gyda'r siopa ar gyfer y Banc Bwyd.

Os ydych yn teimlo yr hoffech wirfoddoli ac yr hoffech chi ddarganfod sut i ymuno â'n tîm a helpu i ddarparu rhaglen gyffrous i'n pobl ifanc a chael hwyll ar yr un pryd, cysylltwch â david.johnson@scoutsmon.wales.

1ST BEAUMARIS SEA SCOUT GROUP

Dave Johnson, Acting GSL, 1st Beaumaris Sea Scouts

A big thank you to our parents, leaders, Scouts Cubs and Beavers for your donations for the Christmas Hamper Raffle and your help and support with the stall at Beaumaris Christmas Market. We not only raised £100 for the Christmas Parties and £100 for the Anglesey Food Bank with our raffle and hook Rudolf's nose hoopla but also had enquires about volunteering, and have added more young people to our waiting list.

Spar in Beaumaris match-funded the money raised for the Foodbank, so £200-worth of essential items have been sent off for distribution where needed.

If you feel that you would like to volunteer and would like to find out how to join our team and help to provide an exciting programme for our young people and have fun at the same time, please contact me at david.johnson@scoutsmon.wales.



LLANGOED KNITTING CLUB

Elizabeth Roberts

This on from the small Teams4u article in **The Puffin** 42, page 27.

This year at Llangoed Knitting Club we've knitted knee blankets for refugees and the homeless, as well as things for Teams4u. Other organisations have donated articles as well, for which we are very grateful.



(C-D) Carol Johnson, Arweinydd Dros Dro Cwb Sgowt, Sammie Hughes, Francis Murphy (L-R) Carol Johnson, Acting Cub Scout Leader, Sammie Hughes, Francis Murphy (Dave Johnson)



Fi gyda'r Rheolwr a chydweithiwr yn Spar, Biwmares, gyda'r bwyd yn barod i'w anfon i'r Banc Bwyd Me with the Manager and a colleague in Spar, Beaumaris, with the food ready to be sent to the Foodbank (Dave Johnson)

next instalment out of **The Puffin** 42, but we continue now with the period from its foundation in 1824 to the 1850s.

The foundation of the RNLI Sir William Hillary lived in Douglas on the Isle of Man. He saw the treacherous nature of the sea first-hand and witnessed dozens of shipwrecks around the Manx coast; he saved many lives with the help of local people.

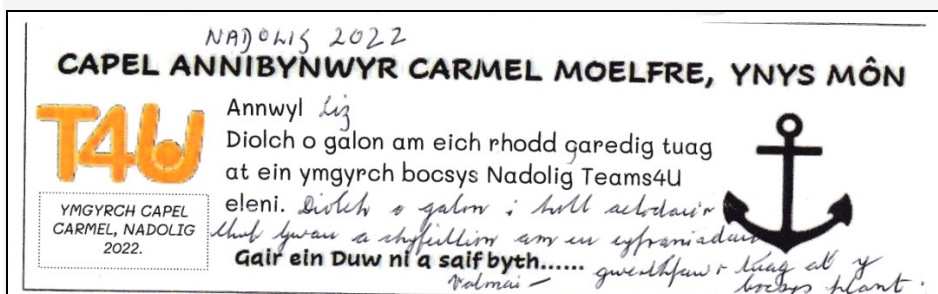
In the early 19th century there was an average of 1,800 shipwrecks a year around our coasts, and the danger of shipwreck was an accepted way of life at sea.

On 28 February 1823, Sir William made an impassioned appeal to the nation. He published a pamphlet detailing his plans for a lifeboat service manned by trained crews for all of the UK and Ireland. He sent the pamphlet to the Royal Navy, ministers and prominent citizens, appealing for the formation of a National Institution for the Preservation of Lives and Property from Shipwreck. At the heart of this institution would be 'a large body of men...in constant readiness to risk their own lives for the preservation of those whom they have never known or seen, perhaps of another nation, merely because they are fellow creatures in extreme peril'.

The priorities of the Institution would be:

- first, the preservation of human life from shipwreck...
- secondly (to provide) assistance to vessels in distress...
- thirdly the preservation of vessels and property...
- fourthly the prevention of plunder and depredations in case of shipwreck...
- fifthly the succour and support of those persons who may be rescued...
- sixthly the bestowing of suitable rewards on those who rescue the lives of others from shipwreck or who assist vessels in distress...

Sadly, Sir William's noble idea fell on deaf ears: the Admiralty refused to help. He did not give up, though, and rebranded his appeal for the more philanthropic members of London society. This time his appeal worked, and the idea caught the eye of Thomas Wilson, the energetic Liberal MP for Southwark, and George Hibbert, a shipping magnate, Whig MP for Seaford and Chairman of the West Indies Merchants. The three men became



The lovely 'thank you' note that we received from Teams4u in November (Elizabeth Roberts)

Llangoed Knitting Club we meet at the Pont y Brenin Hub on the third Monday of the month, 2.00pm-4.00pm.

There are ten of us at the moment. Please contact Elizabeth Roberts, Bodwyn, Llangoed LL58 8NP if you'd like to join us.

Llangoed: www.facebook.com/groups/Llangoed/

THE ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION AND ANGLESEY: PART 2

Andrew Perrott

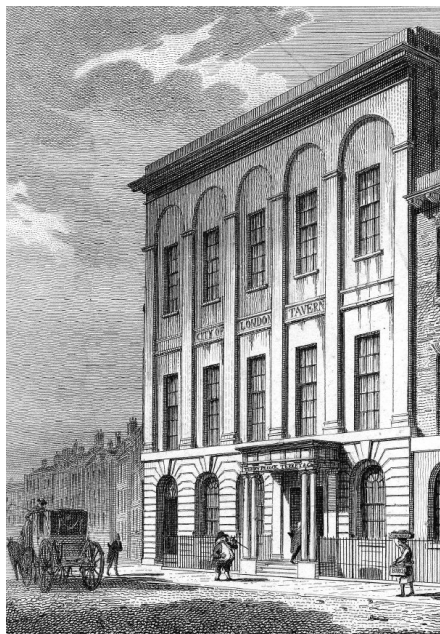
In **The Puffin** 41 we started to tell the story of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), beginning with an account of the first lifeboats.

A lack of space meant that we had to leave the

a formidable force and the campaign rapidly gathered momentum.

An interim committee was appointed while plans were made for a public meeting. More and more benefactors came on board, inspired by the committee's rigorous face-to-face lobbying and advertising of the public meeting. HM King George IV assured royal patronage and the Prime Minister, Robert Jenkinson, 2nd Earl of Liverpool, agreed to be President.

Over 30 eminent gentlemen put their names to the fledgling RNLI at the inaugural public meeting. It took place on 4 March 1824 at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate, with its Vice-President and Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Charles Manners-Sutton, presiding. Among the aristocrats, clerics, politicians, naval officers, brokers, bankers, merchants and philanthropists were the anti-slavery campaigner, William Wilberforce, Captain George Manby, an authority on safety at sea. He designed an apparatus for saving life from shipwrecks, and the first modern form of fire-extinguisher.



The City of London Tavern, Bishopsgate, in 1809 (Engraved by Rawle from a drawing by G Shepherd: European Magazine, Volume 55 (public domain))

Those present passed 12 resolutions unanimously, including:

- That an Institution can now be formed...to be supported by donations and annual subscriptions...
- That such immediate assistance be afforded to persons rescued as their necessities may require...
- That the subjects of all nations be equally objects of the Institution, as well in war as in peace [and] that medallions or pecuniary rewards be given to those who rescue lives...

These 12 resolutions would still stand as part of the RNLI's charter almost 200 years later.

Another nine resolutions, mainly recognising the efforts of the key players, were also met with approval.

Inevitably, there were connections with the slave trade: some individuals linked to the slave trade, as well as abolitionists, helped to create the early RNLI. Its founder, Sir William Hillary, had friends on both sides, including the anti-slave trade campaigners William Wilberforce and Samuel Hoare, both instrumental in establishing the RNLI.

First Gold medal for Gallantry In 1824, Charles Fremantle became the first recipient of the Institution's Gold Medal. It was awarded for his bravery when he swam out to a Swedish brig that was stranded off the coast of Christchurch, Dorset.

Fremantle was born in 1800 to a family with a long tradition of naval service; he was the son of Admiral Sir Thomas Francis Fremantle, well-known to Admiral Nelson. The rescue took place on 8 March 1824 while Fremantle was serving on the Lymington Coastguard service. The *Carl Jean*, a Swedish brig, bound from Alicante in Spain to Gefle in Sweden with a precious cargo of wine and salt, became stranded on the shore at Whitepit near Christchurch. Her mast was toppled and she looked to be in danger of breaking up as she was buffeted about by choppy seas.

Attaching a shore line to his body, Fremantle swam through the breaking surf to the ship, where he had all her boats cut clear. These were quickly engulfed by heavy seas, however, rendering them useless for evacuation, and the crew onboard refused to leave the vessel. Charles swam back to shore, where he was said to be 'utterly exhausted and insensible'. The crew of the *Carl Jean* escaped eventually, using the ship's broken mast to get to the safety of land.

Grace Darling Grace Darling became a national heroine after risking her life to save the stranded survivors of the wrecked steamship *Forfarshire* in 1838.



The Rescue of the *SS Forfarshire* by Grace Darling: oil on canvas by F S Lowther, 1886 (RNLI (Thomas Brooks))

On 7 September 1838, she risked her life to rescue the stranded survivors of the wrecked vessel. Her extraordinary act of bravery became widely known, making front page news and even reaching Queen Victoria. Grace and her

father were awarded medals for their bravery.

Sadly, Grace died four years later, aged 26, on 20 October 1842. Her funeral was a grand occasion, with hundreds of people crowding the little village of Bamburgh to say goodbye.

Grace Darling is still remembered for her courageous actions.

Lifejackets Lifejackets were introduced in 1854, the requirements being that they:

- Provide enough buoyancy to support a crew member and another person
- Must not restrict movement or interfere with other protective clothing, in the boat or in the water
- Must be quick and simple to put on
- Must be hard-wearing.

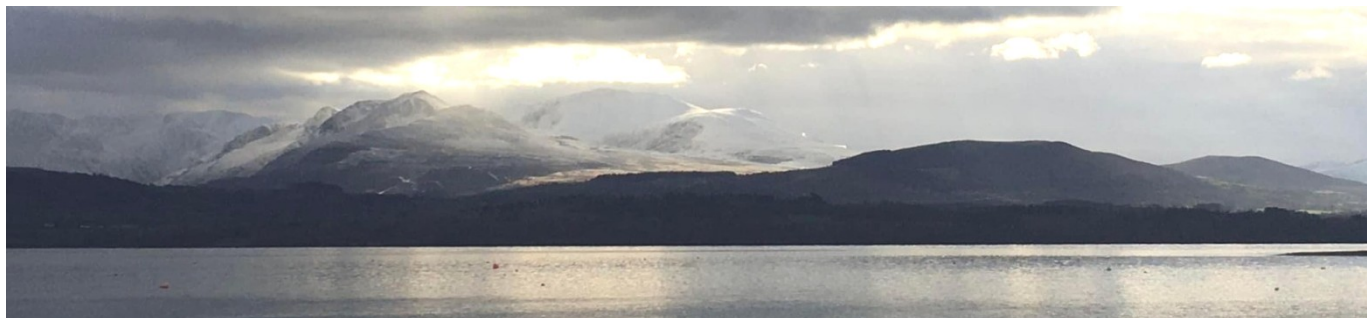
They have evolved steadily as materials improved:

- **Cork:** in 1854 an RNLI inspector, Captain Ward, invented a cork lifejacket. Narrow strips of cork were sewn onto a canvas vest, so that the lifejacket was flexible enough to move with the body. In 1861, when one of Whitby's lifeboats capsized on a service, just one crew member, Henry Freeman, survived; he was the only one wearing a cork lifejacket, and went on to become Coxswain at Whitby.
- **Kapok:** in 1904, the kapok lifejacket was introduced. Kapok is a vegetable fibre that does not absorb water; it is much more buoyant than cork. The first kapok lifejackets proved unpopular because of their bulk, but improvements were made and they became the standard for nearly 70 years.
- **Beaufort:** the Beaufort lifejacket was introduced to the RNLI in 1970, after the development of synthetic foams in the 1960s. Additional buoyancy around the neck ensured that the crew member would float face upwards in the water should he/she be knocked unconscious. One disadvantage was its bulk, which often made it difficult to move around the wheelhouses of the latest classes of lifeboat.
- **Modern lifejackets:** today's RNLI crews wear lifejackets that were developed in 2012 for maximum comfort and safety. There are two styles: one for use on all-weather lifeboats and one for use on inshore lifeboats.

📖 Our history
www.rnli.org/about-us/our-history/

📖 Make a donation
www.rnli.org/support-us/give-money/donate

(to be continued)



Sugared with snow! A gloomy Nant Ffrancon to the left and Bangor out of sight to the far right; Snowdon is roughly central, and out of sight (Meg Marsden)

SUGARED WITH SNOW

Meg Marsden, Llanddona Writing Group

The mountains were sugared and sparkled white
 And the clouds above were a beautiful sight
 Like strips of gold
 Holding up the sky
 As the angels looked down with a heavenly sigh
 I'm saying 'sleep tight' to my garden at dusk
 And it answers me back
 With a fragrance of frost, and late-autumn musk
 It's that magical time
 When elves come to play
 When the reindeer fly by
 On Santa's red sleigh
 Now the frogs are silent in our tiny pond
 Just an echo or two of a bird's distant song
 And the moon now full as it hangs there all knowing
 And winks a sly wink
 'Cos tomorrow it's snowing!

IT WAS LLANGOED V LLANGOED!

Owen Williams

More accurately, it was CPD Llangoed v Llangoed All-Stars; the All-Stars were all former players.

The date was 27 December, a day of dodgy weather.

The score was Llangoed All-Stars 3, CPD Llangoed 2, and the goals were scored by:

- Martin Byast, assisted by Jay Finter, for All-Stars
- Matty Owen, assisted by Arron Evans, for CPD
- Dylan Williams, assisted by Jay Finter, for All-Stars

- Jay Finter, assisted by Dylan Williams, for All-Stars
- Anthony Williams, assisted by Sam Gregson for CPD

The men of the match were:

- Arwel Banks for All-Stars
- David 'Twm' Thomas for CPD

All proceeds from the match will go to Carers Trust Wales.

Carers Trust: our work in Wales
<https://carers.org/around-the-uk-our-work-in-wales/our-work-in-wales>

Thank you to everyone who turned up to play in some atrocious conditions. If you still wish to donate, please do using the Paypal link below:

Paypal
<http://Paypal.me/cpdllangoedfc>

Thank you, Sarah Zalot and Clay Theakston, for organising the Elfs School, to Catherine Unwin, for helping on the day, and to Delyth Jones, for organising the event at Llangoed Village Hall.

Finally: a Happy New Year to our supporters and sponsors!

THE OWAIN GLYNDŴR, ITS LLANDDONA WITCHES MURAL AND THE LEGEND...

Andrew Perrott (adapted from a BBC article)

'If you go up to the pub today, you're in for a big surprise' (with apologies to the teddy bears and their picnic)...

Visit the Owain Glyndŵr in Llanddona and you'll see Emily Owen's impressive mural that features one of the Llanddona Witches of legend. There are a couple of pictures on the next page.

Emily lives locally, and is an artist in her

spare time. She let her Inner Banksy's go to work last year on a wall in the pub's dining room, and the result is something unique.

Even more striking is what happens when one shines an ultraviolet light on the witch's head: her eyes and hair change colour.

Now for the legend..

The legend of the Llanddona Witches might not be the best known of Welsh legends, but it does have a fairly clear origin.

According to the legend, a boatload of men and women, all with Irish accents, was washed up in Red Wharf Bay. The boat had no sail or oars, and was sinking quickly when it finally made shore. The locals were afraid, and tried to drive the survivors back into the sea, but one woman leapt ashore and struck the sand with a stick, whereupon fresh water gushed out from the spot. The locals, simple fishermen and their families, fell back in horror.

Whether through fear, friendship, the expectation of plenty or by apathy, the local people from Llanddona agreed to let the witches – if that was what they were – remain, provided that they settled outside the village. That was a mistake...

The newcomers settled outside Llanddona and lost no time in establishing themselves as a powerful force in the region. They bullied the villagers, lorded it over them and paid for nothing, simply taking what they wanted. They put charms and spells on farms and on animals, and charged to have them removed. The men wore distinctive red neckerchieves, and became known across north Wales as smugglers.

The legend has it that, when the



The two teams on a chilly December day (Owen Williams)

customs officers got too close, the men would release swarms of deadly black flies from their neckties, the forces of authority fleeing to leave the men to continue with their criminal activities.

There are dozens of stories about the Llanddona Witches. Bella Fawr and Siani Bwt (Short Betty) were two of the most infamous; the latter was supposedly less than four feet tall and, with two thumbs on her left hand, she had all the classic hallmarks of a witch.



Emily Owen with her remarkable mural

So much for the legend; the date of the witches' supposed arrival at Llanddona is hard to fix. While some say that it all happened at the beginning of the 17th century, others state that it took place many years before, or after.

Whatever the facts are, visitors from the sea were often unpleasant visitors, and were, for many years, an occupational hazard for all those who lived on the Welsh coast. The Vikings, the Normans and, in particular, the Irish, regularly attacked or invaded from the sea, and fear of Irish attacks remained long after the threat of the Vikings had diminished.

During the Civil War in the 1640s there was the constant threat of an Irish invasion when, in the imaginations of a largely Protestant Welsh and English population, the Catholic masses from across the Irish Sea might land at any moment to massacre and murder everyone in their beds.

King Charles was widely suspected of Catholic beliefs and of plotting to bring back the Catholic religion, and the fear that he would invoke the Irish to help him in his fight was promoted assiduously by Parliament.

If the legend does date from the 17th century, it is clear that fears of an Irish invasion lay behind its creation and its continued popularity.

There is another possibility, though. It was not until 1736 that the English witchcraft statute of 1604 and the Scottish statute of 1563 were repealed by the British Parliament; that led to a situation where people who had

previously turned to the state in cases of supposed witchcraft now took the law into their own hands. What quickly began to happen was nothing new. It had been going on for years.

In the more remote of the kingdom, like the east coast of Anglesey, the forces of law and order were often scattered and ineffective, and it was invariably left to village elders to make judgements or to make decisions about issues that affected the local people.



Shine an ultraviolet light on the witch's head and...

Witches had always been feared and hated; this was a prejudice that continued unabated until well into the 19th century. The powers of darkness were never far away for a superstitious and largely uneducated people. In coastal communities, where the success of the local fishing fleet or the viability of the lobster and crab pots depended as much on luck as on judgement, their power was seen as a threat to the whole community.

One way of dealing with people who were suspected of being witches was to cast them adrift in an open boat without food or water, sails or oars. Arguably, is the basis of the legend of the Llanddona Witches. They might have been real people, suspected of witchcraft, and the legend was simply a retelling of events, with a little bit of embellishment, or the story might have been invented as a warning not to accept witches, or any strangers, into one's tight-knit and vulnerable community.

Whichever version you believe, one thing is clear: the legend of the Llanddona Witches remains one of the great Welsh fables.

📄 The Llanddona Witches
www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/waleshistory/2011/08/the_llanddona_witches.html

SOME USEFUL LOCAL SERVICES

Andrew Perrott

We gave details of local mobile NatWest and Post Office mobile services (vans that go from place to place) a while ago,

but here's a refresher for you.

NatWest NatWest appears to be alone among the main banks in providing a Mobile Branch service.

'A Mobile Branch is a bank which comes to you and allows you to do all your usual everyday banking, like making deposits, withdrawing cash and paying bills.'

A Mobile Branch visits two local towns every week:

- **Beaumaris:**
 Castle Square
 LL58 8DA
 Wednesday 10.30am-11.15am
- **Menai Bridge:**
 Wood Street car park
 LL59 5QW
 Wednesday 3.35pm-3.55pm

📄 A directory for your local banking services
www.natwest.com/banking-with-natwest/other-ways-to-bank-with-natwest/natwest-banking-near-me.html#mb

Post Office The Post Office provides a mobile Post office service across Anglesey, including the following weekly local stops:

- **Llanddona**
 Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall
 LL58 8TS
 Tuesday 2.30pm-3.00pm
 Maes Gwyn
 LL58 8TP
 Tuesday 2.30pm-3.30pm
- **Llandegfan**
 Bro Llewelyn
 LL59 5UP
 Tuesday 3.45pm-4.15pm
 Maes Ffynnon
 LL59 5PS
 Tuesday 4.15pm-4.45pm

All the usual services are available, including:

- Post, including next day/express, home

(continued on page 26)

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2022

Here are some of the many Christmas trees that adorned
Beaumaris's beautiful Church of St Mary and Nicholas in December



By visitors' votes, the winning tree was that of Seiriol Swimmers (bottom left; photo Rev L Rendle)

(from page 24)

- Shopping returns, QR codes, international
- Banking: cash out, cash/cheques in
- Bill payments: utilities, charge keys/ cards, etc.
- Travel: order currency, insurances, etc.

Visit Maesgeirchen Mobile Post Office's Facebook page for up-to-date information about the mobile Post Office service.

Maesgeirchen Mobile Post Office
www.facebook.com/people/Maesgeirchen-Mobile-Post-Office/100057490246225/

Library The mobile library visits communities which are more than ¾ mile from one of Anglesey's libraries. It carries a small but comprehensive selection of books and tapes, and also provides a gateway to other library services.

The mobile library visits locally on the 3rd Friday of the month:

- **Llanddona**
 Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall
 11.30am-12.30pm
 Maes Gwyn
 1.10pm-1.45pm
- **Llanfaes**
 The Shop
 9.30am-10.00am
- **Llangoed**
 Pont y Brenin
 10.10am-10.40am
 Aberleiniog car park
 10.45am-11.15am
- **Llansadwrn**
 Tan-y-Ffordd
 2.00pm-2.30pm

01248 752093, 01248 752095

Telephone Llangefni Library if you would like more information about the doorstep delivery service.

01248 752093

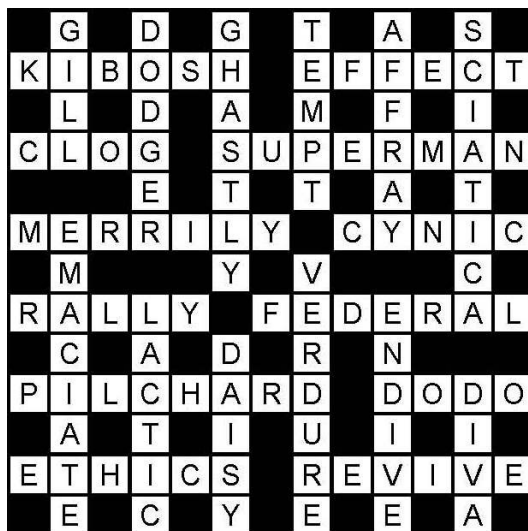
Mobile and Home Library Service
www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Libraries/Mobile-and-Home-Library-Service.aspx

TROPHIES GALORE FOR CLWB RHWYFO BEAUMARIS ROWING CLUB: A SWEEPING FINALE TO THE 2022 SEASON

Carol Hughes

Beaumaris Rowing Club swept the board at the Welsh Sea Rowing Presentation (WSR) Lunch in Aberaeron in November, taking home eleven trophies from a very competitive field. The racing season

THE GOVERNOR'S QUICK CROSSWORD NO 11: SOLUTION



FIANCHETTO 66'S CHESS NO 2: SOLUTION

- Move 1: Qxg3 b5 (or h6)
- Move 2: Qg7#

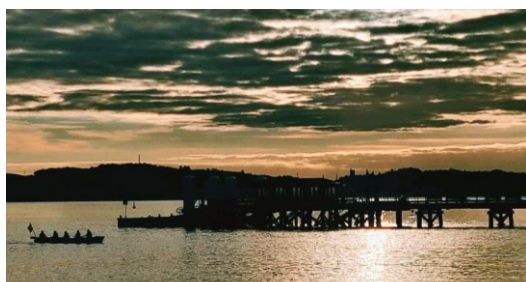
In plain language, the white queen moves three squares to the right, taking one of the black pawns. Black's only alternative is the movement of one of the two remaining unblocked pawns, before the white queen moves four squares forward and (protected by the knight), delivers the inevitable checkmate.



The prizegiving, Aberaeron (photographer not known)



The borrowed two-person fixed-seat sculling boat (Peter Read)



Out on the water enjoying whatever the wintry elements might throw at us (Anita Malhotra)

started last March with Shrewsbury Rowing Club's 'Montford Race' on the River Severn with a further fifteen races hosted by clubs in North and Mid Wales. In September Beaumaris Rowing Club hosted the final WSR Northern League Race for 2022.

The Club acknowledges the significant work undertaken by Ron Kelsall, the Race Captain, without whose commitment and dedication to the Club this historic achievement would not have been possible.

The Club has gone from strength to strength this year with an increase in membership, more social events, more tours and more rowing. The Club is also looking to the future with potential additions to the fleet. To this end the Club has borrowed a two-person fixed-seat sculling boat to test its seaworthiness on the challenging waters of the Strait.

The racing season might have finished, but Club members are still out there on the water enjoying whatever the wintry elements might throw at us, including a new venture into night rowing.

Finally, a great big 'thank you' to all our members for all your contributions throughout the year. See you on the water!

If you are interested in becoming part of the Club and would like to book a taster session, please contact:

✉ Rachael Robins
robins.rach@gmail.com



NEUADD BENTREF LLANDDONA VILLAGE HALL: HWB CYNNES

Andrew Perrott

Gallai trigolion Llanddona fod yn ymwybodol bod Cynghrair Seiriol wedi cael arian i helpu cymunedau lleol ymateb i'r heriau mae trigolion yn eu hwynebu gyda chostau cynyddol gwresogi eu cartrefi.

Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall fod yn rhan o'r fenter yma, ac mae'n awyddus i gael pethau i symud.

Mewn cyfarfod bychan ond llwyddiannus fis diwethaf, penderfynwyd y byddai'r 'sesiwn agored' Hwb Cynnes cyntaf yn cael ei gynnal ar:

- Dydd Mawrth 7 Chwefror
 1.00yp-4.00yp

Bydd yr Hwb cynnes yn dechrau mor 'syml â phosib'...paned a sgwrs, pwrpas yr agoriad cyntaf oedd gweld beth mae defnyddwyr Hwb Cynnes ei eisiau ohono.

Beth bynnag fydd defnyddwyr yn penderfynu, Hwb Cynnes fydd yr hyn y mae'r defnyddwyr am iddo fod... a gyda lwc gallai dyfu'n rhywbeth mwy, rhywbeth y gall pawb ei ddefnyddio drwy gydol y flwyddyn, gyda gweithgareddau eraill mwy tymhorol, efallai, fel clwb garddio, er enghraifft.

Preswylwyr Llanddona: lledaenwch y gair a dod i lawr i Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall ar 7 Chwefror (gyda llaw, dyna pryd mae fan y Swyddfa Bost yn Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall) ac ymunwch â ni am banded a thrafodaeth...

Fe welwch fanylion cyswllt Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall ar dudalen 4.

◆ ◆ ◆

NEUADD BENTREF LLANDDONA VILLAGE HALL: WARM HUB

Andrew Perrott

Residents of Llanddona might be aware that Seiriol Alliance has been awarded funding to help local communities respond to the challenges that residents face with the increasing costs of heating their homes.

Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall would like to be part of this initiative, and is keen to get things moving.

At a small but successful meeting last month, it was decided that the first Warm Hub 'open session' would take place on:

- Tuesday 7 February
1.00pm-4.00pm

The warm Hub will start off as 'simple as possible'...paned a sgwrs/cuppa and a chat, the purpose of the first opening being to see what users of a Warm Hub want of it.

Whatever users decide, a Warm Hub will be what the users want it to be...and with luck it could grow into something bigger, something that everybody can use throughout the year, with other more seasonal activities, perhaps, like a gardening club, for example.

Residents of Llanddona: spread the word and come down to Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall on 7 February (incidentally, that's when the Post office van is at Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall) and join us for a paned and a discussion...

You'll find Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall's contact details on page 4.



This is me in the middle of my pre-Christmas shampoo'n'set... the belt round my middle is to stop me from slumping when I nod off



The Boss and family hit the fizz on Christmas Day and my bezzie Edie joined in...



...while I had fun under the stairs with one of my Christmas prezzies...this is where I've just pulled out the squeaky bit



Edie and I went to visit our friend Daisy on Boxing Day: we were very Posh Dogs!



I was absolutely worn out by the time the New Year arrived, and so was Edie...



TAILPIECE: TWO WEARY WESTIES OVERDID IT AT CHRISTMAS...

Tilly Barker (dogtated to Andrew Perrott)

It's happened again...a Weary Westie never escapes...

The Boss succeeded in collaring me a couple of weeks ago for a bit of dogtation. He's a wily so-and-so and knows just when to pounce, and I had to admit defeat...so here goes.

Well, my goodness me! I was such a busy girl in the run up to Christmas. It started with my quarterly trip to the vet to see how my eyes were doing, and it was good news: the Boss is obviously doing what's needed, and keeping my eyes good and moist.

No sooner than that was over it was a trip to the Westie Parlour for a pre-Christmas shampoo'n'set. I was looking rather shaggy, and one's readers do expect one to keep up appearances, you know. It's mostly fun, but I really *do not like* the bath...it's so noisy...so I whine a bit. I like the clipping and blow-drying bits, though, because they're so soothing. I start to nod off, so I have to have belt under my tum to hold me up...

My bezzie Edie came to stay for Christmas. We had lots of prezzies, like treats and soft toys. I had *two* soft toys. I like disembowelling soft toys. It's such fun, and I managed to destroy one of them in five minutes. *Five minutes!* That must be a record. I think that the Boss timed me; I know that he wasn't very pleased at the mess, but a Westie has to do what a Westie has to do...and he had to clear up the mess afterwards. The other toy's still nearly complete, but bits of stuffing fly out when I shake it about. That's a lot of fun as well.

While I was destroying that new toy, Edie was busy being a Party Pooch, pretending to drink fizz from the bottle. The boss's nephew had wedged a treat in the neck of the bottle and she was trying to pull it out. She succeeded as well; she's a greedy so-and-so, unlike me. I did have a treat as well, even though I really didn't deserve one...

Our social whirl continued on Boxing Day. Edie and I went to visit our friend Daisy. Edie does *bling* big-time, as you can see, and Daisy doesn't do too badly, either, but I decided to do *chic* instead. I think that I looked rather sophisticated...

Anyway, it had to come to an end: Edie and her family went back home, the decorations were taken down and now everything's back to normal.

I was absolutely worn out after New Year arrived, so I've been busy catching up on some much-needed deep thinking; it was sleep, really. When Edie visited in January she needed to do some zedding as well, poor thing. We really need to take it easy...

EDITORIAL INFORMATION AND OTHER 'USEFUL TO KNOW' STUFF

The Editorial Team

Richard Adams Andrew Perrott
John Briggs Owen Williams
John Nunn ✉ puffinpages@gmail.com

Editorial Policy

- **The Puffin** is a community journal. It does not become involved in matters such as politics, local or national, but is intended to be a means of bringing people and communities together, celebrating our 'sense of community' and the beautiful part of the world in which we live, so please be kind, courteous and respectful. 'Hot' topics related to the local context are fine, but we ask that people respect the fact that alternative views may be valid as well.
- We welcome news, letters and interesting articles, in Welsh and in English, as long as they are attributed to an author; please don't send us anything marked 'not for publication'.
- The views expressed in **The Puffin** do not necessarily represent those of the Editorial Team.
- We review all items for material that is obviously libellous or offensive, but we cannot check for factual accuracy because we might not be sufficiently expert on the topic, and because of time constraints.
- If you have strong feelings about what is said, or is not said, in **The Puffin**, don't bottle it up: get in touch with us or join the group of volunteers who form the Editorial Team who enable its production.

General information and publication dates

- We will do our best to reply to your e-mails quickly.
- If you e-mail photographs and other pictures to us for inclusion in **The Puffin**, please send them in .jpg format if possible. If you send photographs or documents to us by post, be sure to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope so that we can return them to you after they've been scanned.
- The word count per column is c.350 (three-column page) and c.520 (two-column page).
- **The Puffin** is published in:
February: submissions by 1 January
May: submissions by 1 April
August: submissions by 1 July
November: submissions by 1 October

Submissions and donations by post

- We are happy to receive submissions – and donations, of course! – by post. Please send them to:
Andrew Perrott
Glangors
Llanddona
Anglesey
LL58 8TU
Mark the envelope **The Puffin** and enclose your address, an e-mail address and/or telephone number so that we can let you have an acknowledgement and a 'thank you'.
- If you would like to make a donation by bank transfer, our details are:
Bank: **NatWest**
Account name: **The Puffin**
Account number: **88609782**
Sort code **54-10-01**

Sponsorship and advertising

- Please contact us by e-mail if you would like to sponsor **The Puffin** or place an advertisement in it.

Where to pick up your copy of **The Puffin**

- **Beumaris**
ABC Service Station, Gallows Point, Beumaris LL58 8YH
Canolfan Beumaris Leisure Centre, Rating Row, Beumaris LL58 8AL
Central Bakery, 22 Margaret Street, Beumaris LL58 8DN
Ena's Newsagents, 24 Castle Street, Beumaris LL58 8AP
Spar, 11 Castle Street, Beumaris LL58 8AB
Town Hall (entrance lobby), Castle Street, Beumaris LL58 8AP
- **Llanddona**
The Owain Glyndŵr, Llanddona LL58 8UF
Wern y Wylan, Llanddona LL58 8TR (at Wern y Wylan Court)
- **Llandegfan**
Siop Llandêg, Lon Ganol, Llandegfan LL59 5UA
- **Llangoed**
Morrisons Daily, China House, Llangoed LL58 8NW
- **Penmon**
The Pilot House Café, Black Point, Penmon LL58 8RR
- **On-line**
www.seiriolalliance.co.uk/newsletters/

Some useful contacts

| | |
|---|---|
| Alcoholics Anonymous | 0800 917 7650 |
| Canolfan Iechyd Beumaris Health Centre | 01248 810818 |
| Canolfan Beumaris Leisure Centre | 01248 811200 |
| Cynllun Tro Da Seiriol Good Turn Scheme | 01248 305014 |
| Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water: | leaks 0800 281 432 |
| | water services and emergencies 0800 052 0130 |
| | sewerage services and emergencies 0800 085 3968 |
| Electricity (SP Energy Networks): | information about power cuts 0800 001 5400 |
| Floodline | 0345 988 1188 |
| Gas: National Gas Emergency Service | 0800 111 999 |
| Isle of Anglesey County Council: | 01248 750057 |
| | Beumaris library 01248 810659 |
| | Children's Services 01248 752722 |
| | missed waste collections 01248 752860 |
| NHS (NHS Direct closed in 2014): | for non-emergency medical help 111 |
| NSPCC: | help for adults concerned about a child 0808 800 5000 |
| | help for children and young people 0800 1111 |
| Police: non-emergency | 101 |
| Police Community Support Officer: | Teleri Jones 07814 646320 |
| Post Office: | customer helpline 0345 611 2970 |
| | Morrisons Daily, Llangoed 01248 490056 |
| | Spar, Beumaris 01248 810326 |
| RSPCA: | daily, 9.00am-6.00pm 07490 642555 |
| Samaritans: | English language 116123 |
| | Welsh language 0808 164 0123 |
| Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital | 01248 384384 |