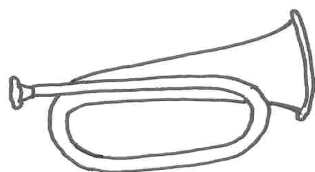


September 2009

Helgorn Taf Bugle

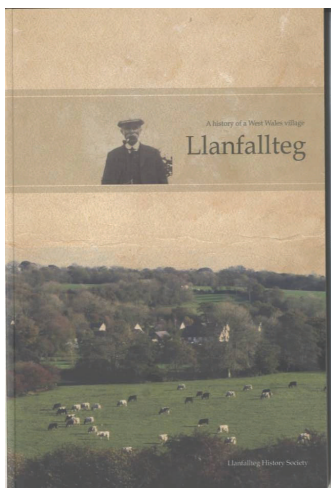


This edition of Helgorn Taf Bugle has been sponsored by The Llanfallteg History Society.

Back in the spring the Society published it's first book — "A history of a West Wales village — Llanfallteg"

Sales are going well. Copies are available from Heather Bearman 01437 563342, The Plash Inn, Dave King at Taf House and many local outlets at £10 each.

Struggling for Christmas present ideas—why not buy one for your friends or relatives.



The newsletter for the communities of Llanfallteg, Henllan Amgoed, Cwmfelin Boeth, Hiraeth, Llangan and Rhydymrach.
Web site <http://www.llanfallteg.org/>
Produced by Henllanfallteg Community Association.

Future Events

Put these in your Diaries NOW!

**Duck Race on Saturday
11th October at 4pm.**

**Llanfallteg History
Society AGM 15th Oct at
19.30 in the Millennium
Hall.**

**Non members and new
members welcome
For further information con-
tact any member or Heather
Tel 01437 563342**

**Quiz night Millennium Hall
Saturday October 17th at
19.00. Cash prizes.**

**Xmas Willow Decorations
afternoon of November
29th (see page 2)**

**Boxing Day walk, start from
Millennium Hall at 10.00**

**Wednesday 20th January
2010 - another slide show on
trains from the past.
Millennium Hall at 19.00**

**Next edition will be
published at the end
of January 2010.
Last date for sub-
mission for inclusion
is Sat 16th.**

CLUB PAGE

If you have a local club or group or team with news of interest, please pass this to the editors in good time for the next edition.

DARTS

Plash Darts restarts in October. See Shirley or Steve on a Friday

BOWLS

The Club will be meeting every Monday 7.30 to 9.30 from now until April. Two new members have just joined but there's room for more. Beginners welcome. Bowls provided.

CRAFT GROUP

The Llanfallteg Craft Group meet in the Millennium Hall on Wednesday afternoons between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Extra members would be welcomed no matter of chosen craft or ability. Why not come to a session and give it a try".

HEB ENW

The Morris Dance group meets on a Tuesday evening in the Millennium Hall is going from strength to strength.

FRIDAY CLUB

Every Friday. Games Night will be holding a "Children in Need" evening on Friday 20th November. The children will be organising different stalls and we will be serving tea/coffee and biscuits from 7.30pm. Please come and support us and help us to raise some money for such a worthy cause.

TRANSITION

There are many "transition groups" being set up all over the country. Basically members are preparing for the time not too far distant when the world runs out of oil. The local group at Narberth are holding meetings in Llanfallteg Millennium Hall on the first Sunday of each month from 2PM onwards.

The first Sunday in September saw a Community Swap Shop with people bringing everything from cucumbers to rosehip syrup, and wallpaper to the "Karma Sutra" (non-illustrated!). Why not come along, have a coffee and find out more? Different each month, so look for details. However, due to the success of the Swap Shop we will have a "swapping table" each time, so don't throw stuff away, someone else might be looking for just the thing. See you on 4th October, 1st November, 6th December and so on...

COURTNEY

Courtney Bowman is one of the Wales Under 16 Basketball squad. This summer he had the chance to go to a special training camp in Morocco. The camp and the travelling was going to cost a lot of money and residents in Llanfallteg made a contribution to help him. He has written to the newsletter to send a message of thanks. (Courtney of course was the person who came up with the idea of calling the newsletter The Bugle).

"I'd like to say thanks to everyone who contributed towards the cost to go to Morocco. I had a great time and I learnt a lot of new skills which I put into practise in games. I played basketball everyday from 9 till 5. The coaches were top class and I met loads of new people. The weather was 30+ everyday. I'm hoping to go back again one day."

Courtney in Morocco



OPEN GARDENS

Showers cut down the numbers visiting gardens in Llanfallteg on July 5th. Nevertheless £179 was raised for Community Association funds. All the seven gardens looked their best and varied from a small courtyard garden to a three acre spread. The organisers expressed their thanks to the owners who had kindly opened their gardens to the public. A feature of the day was a fantastic variety of scarecrows that had appeared in all kinds of unlikely places.



MILLENNIUM HALL NEWS

The external decoration of the Hall has been completed at last. Replacement windows and frames have been fitted on the east and north ends of the main room.

The softwood timberwork is not wearing well and the trustees are faced with ongoing remedial/replacement works over the next few years.

LLANFALLTEG WELCOMES A MODERN PILGRIM

In ancient times pilgrims were often seen in Llanfallteg. Having spent a night in Whitland Abbey they made their way to St Davids crossing the River Taf using the ford near where the bungalow called Meander now stands.

Recently a modern pilgrim came to Llanfallteg. Glyn Austin was walking from Cowbridge to St Davids over four days raising money for the Parkinson's Society. On his third day he set off from Llansteffan and came to Llanfallteg via St Clears. He spent the night at Meander and then walked on to Spittal and Solva before reaching St Davids after midnight. After taking Holy Communion in the Cathedral and meeting the Dean, Glyn got back to Cowbridge in rapid time. He hitched a lift that took him all the way to Cardiff.

Glyn expects to raise well over £1500 for the Parkinson's Society - some of which was contributed by generous people in Llanfallteg.

Willow Christmas Decorations.

Sunday 29th November 2 – 5.

Llanfallteg Millennium Hall

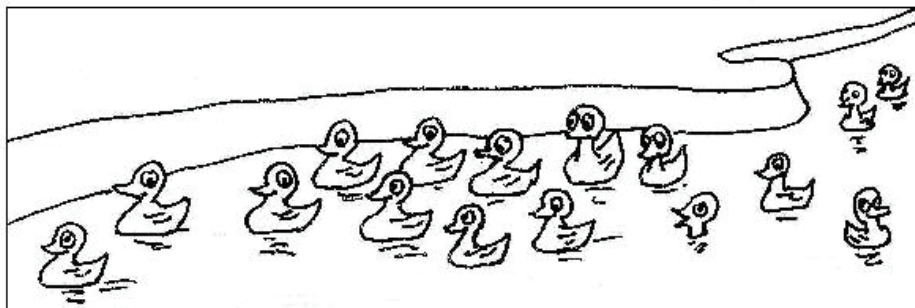
Come and have fun learning how to make your own Christmas decorations using natural materials. Helen Campbell will spend the afternoon guiding you through the skills necessary for you to make decorations to take home.

To book call Josie on 01994 448 324 (for an idea of numbers). £2 each towards cost of materials, please.

FETE and SHOW 2009

THIS YEAR'S FETE

The profit this year on the fete was £2728.46. This is a magnificent figure when you compare it to last year's £1945.08. And this doesn't take into account the monies we are likely to take on the duck race which was postponed due to high river levels. (See next page)



The fete organisers want to thank the public for supporting the fete in such numbers and so generously. They

also want to thank all the many helpers without whom we couldn't have a fete. But this year a special mention must be made of the efforts of Sylvia Powell. Sylvia worked tirelessly in the months before the fete with her Guess the Name of the Clown, How Much Money in the Jar and more particularly in getting adverts for the programme and prizes for the draw, the silent auction and the evening auction. Sylvia's contribution raised over £1500.

This year's programme was the best yet and special thanks go to Eve Edwards. Eve arranged and carried out the printing for us without charge whilst Silvia and Christine collated and stapled them together.

A special Fete meeting will be held in the Millennium Hall on Wednesday October 7th at 7pm to discuss this year's fete, to make plans for next year and to consider about how this year's profits could be spent. Everybody is welcome.

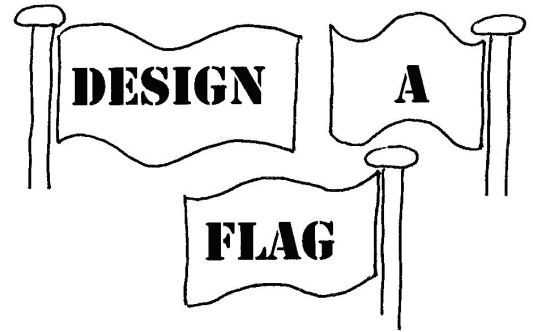
LLANFALLTEG SHOW

No less than eight judges were needed this year to judge the hundreds of entries in the craft and horticultural sections of the show. Standards improve every year and the judges had a hard job deciding the winners. They awarded the Jim Slater Memorial Cup for Best in Show to Pat Reynolds for her Needlework entry. The best children's entry came from Sian Jones for her painted stone and she also won the Tim Husband Cup. Christine Young was winner in the Nellie Lewis Cookery Cup for her Bara Brith.

Four new cups made their appearance this year - Richard Argyle won the Photography Cup; Fiona Davies the Craft Cup for Decoupage; Chris Lawrence the Fruit & Vegetable Cup; and Hazel Waters the Flowers Cup.

DESIGN A FLAG COMPETITION

Following the very generous gift of a flagpole to the community, the Community Association has decided we need our own "Community" flag to fly on special occasions. You are therefore invited to design a flag that has some significance for Llanfallteg and the surrounding area. You may like to think of our position in the Taf valley or of our civil parish of Henllanfallteg, or an idea from nature. Designs should be submitted by Christmas and can either be posted through the Millennium Hall letterbox or given to the chairman Myrddin Pynn or the secretary Dave King. There will be a prize of £10 for the winning design. The association is looking for the best idea which may be expressed in the form of a sketch or maybe just a description in words. The winner will be announced in the January edition of this newsletter.



The inspiration for this competition came after we flew the flag on Armed Forces Day. The flag was raised on Monday at 10.00 with a gathering of many locals. Mike Powell lowered and raised it every sunset and sunrise right through to Saturday. At 21.00 the flag was lowered to "The Last Post" with a detachment of the Whitland ATS in full uniform along with a gathering of some 30 others. It was a very poignant moment..

Henllanfallteg Community Council News

The Community Council has temporarily lost it's chairman to VSO in a wet and not so sunny Cameroon. Undaunted, the Council has soldiered on under the leadership of Clive Mortlock. The sewerage scheme report is due anytime now following the consultants survey and site meeting with some of your council members back in July.

The Fire Brigade responded to our queries on performance to tell us they could not meet the required target to a fire in our community but we are considered to be low risk and low likelihood - not a lot of comfort when the flames are licking up the stairs mind!

Two of our street lights both in Llanfallteg West have been converted to "silent hours off" . They go off at about 00.30 and come back on about 05.00. Residents down there seem well pleased with this arrangement, so the one in Henllan is next to be changed.

The County Council have circulated details of a new grant scheme to assist in the conversion costs of redundant building into usable business units. This is for non residential conversions only. Details on CCC web site or from their offices.

The National Assembly have been consulting us on devolving more power and action to community councils away from County level. Our Community Council spent considerable time and effort on this and has responded with their views. This consultation is part of "The legislative Competence Order 2009" and you will no doubt hear more about this in the coming months.

A survey of the highways within the community was carried out by members and a report submitted to CCC highways. Most of the defects identified have now been cleared, and most noticeably the "ARAF" signs have re-appeared.

In response to a number of complaints, a meeting was held at St Malltegs churchyard with the Rural Dean, a number of local residents and community council and CC members over the state of the graveyard. The Bishop at Abergwilli has arranged for tree surgeons to come and cut back the trees on the boundaries later in the year. Once this has been done, the CC will be looking to clear back the remaining undergrowth within the churchyard using our volunteer group as a one off exercise.

Community Website

The community website has been re-located onto a different server, which should cost slightly less and give better performance. Jamie has struggled for sometime to keep the site current, so during this coming month a team of "contributors" will be set up with access to the site.

The first move will be to bring it up to date, then add in some of the archive that's missing, and from there on keep it current. The address will remain unaltered <http://www.llanfallteg.org/>

DUCK RACE

As you know we were unable to have the duck race on Fete Day because the water in the river was dangerously high. The water level hasn't gone down much since the Fete either. However we have decided that come what may we will have the Duck Race on Saturday 11th October at 4pm. Hopefully we can find a suitable stretch of water or a dry land alternative. More ducks will be on sale at £1 between now and the race.

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

We set out with our trusty measuring stick on Monday 14th September in search of sunflowers There were less to find this year, possibly due to the awful summer, but we did find some amazing specimens.

Name	Diameter	Height
Edward and William Carpenter	5ft 0ins	6ins
Dave Owen	10ft 5ins	12ins
Nicki Browne	6ft 9ins	12ins
Rhys Goymer	4ft 0ins	7ins
Tom and Helen Best	9ft 11ins	12ins
Ella and Iolo Rees	6ft 6ins	8.5ins
The Pask Family	4ft 0.5ins	4ins
Jennifer Hermitage	8ft 0ins	11ins

The prize for the tallest sunflower goes to Dave Owen
The prize for the largest diameter is shared by Dave Owen, Nicki Browne and Tom and Helen Best.
Well done everybody.

Josie Thomas

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Village Walks
The one walk planned since the last newsletter failed to get going. The very wet August produced only two walkers at the Hall, and the outing was "kicked into touch". Unbeknown to the leader two other intrepid walkers did start off from a different point and walked a different route to that planned. They did stay on the road mind out of the mud!

Would you be prepared to sponsor a future edition of the Helgorn Taf Bugle? Please contact the editors.

VILLAGE TRIP

Once again we had a wonderful day out. We exactly filled the 49 seats on the coach and we gave the bus driver an elaborate itinerary that took him backwards and forwards between the museum at St Fagans and various parts of Cardiff. He coped reasonably well.

Those of us who chose Cardiff Bay found ourselves in a "Mela" - an exotic multicultural festival of Asian music and dance. The Ronald Dahl Plaza in front of the Wales Millennium Centre was packed with thousands of people in the most elaborate costumes listening to the music organised by the BBC Asian Network and visiting the rich spicy food stalls.

The Cooke family sent the Newsletter this report: "Thank you for a fantastic day out. We chose to spend the day at Technquest. The boys pressed buttons and levers to their hearts' content. They loved the science show about space travel, and the planetarium was very interesting. Good fun was had by all!"

Sue Allen sent us a note "to say how much I enjoyed the visit to Cardiff. I spent the time in the castle and gardens and really enjoyed the Italian garden with its fountains. I drew some sketches and will probably set about building a fountain at home sometime soon. At Cardiff Bay I took a trip round the bay and had a cocktail. I had never seen Cardiff Bay, despite working in Cardiff for 2 years. Thanks for arranging everything and the door to door service".

Peter Icke took the Cardiff Bay Road Train and saw all the sights including the Barrage. An excellent commentary provided fascinating information about Tiger Bay and the Docks. He also joined a conducted tour of the Welsh National Assembly and stood in the debating chamber. Despite being in the basement natural light is reflected down by mirrors high up in the roof of the building.

Many chose St Fagans and the weather was perfect for visiting the buildings in the open air museum. Of particular interest this year was St Teilo's Church now that the walls are decorated with splendid, richly coloured paintings as would have appeared in the church in 1520.

Dave King visited Cardiff Castle, the Cardiff Arcades and Cardiff Museum. The exhibition on the origins of Wales was excellent and he commends anyone with the time to make a visit to see how Wales evolved from gas, rock and heat right up to the present time. You will leave with a better understanding of why there's coal there but not here! Dave also found an India wedding with all the guests dressed in really magnificent clothes, which no doubt inspired him to go to Marks & Spencer and buy a Panama Hat.



SCARECROW FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION

36 scarecrows, 2 judges, 1 photographer and lots of laughing.

Way back at the beginning of the year I was informed that along with my sister Jacqui, I had been volunteered to judge the community scarecrow competition. It was to be held on the day of the open gardens and anyone could enter and leave them in their own garden, outside the village hall or in the Plash garden. We both agreed to this of course and looked forward to the day, totally unaware of the effect that it would have on our nerves. As the competition drew closer, Scarecrows began to pop up everywhere, in bushes, under cars and hedges and even in a Kayak. Peter Icke sat on guard at the end of his drive all week, day and night never budging and never dropping his beloved clipboard.

The day dawned with the sun shining so Jacqui and myself set off with our list of exhibits and criteria (ever the professionals) closely followed by Jamie King to take photographs along the way.

Our first stop was the post office; Hazel as ever was on duty but where was Alan? "Right" says Jacqui marching across to a grand looking Batman relaxing in a chair, "lets get on with it" to her utter surprise it leapt out of the chair and chased her across the drive. Until that moment I didn't realise that one person could jump up and down, run, stamp feet and scream all at the same time.

Me I just laughed for days. Thanks Alan!

Once the nerves were settled and the screaming had died down we slowly made our way around the village armed with sticks to poke any potential humans who dared to try it again. Myrddin lay in a wheelbarrow with a bag on his head for ages but to no avail, his timing was all wrong, sorry Myrddin.

Beginning at the West and finishing in Henllan we proceeded to poke, prod and squeeze some fabulous creations, 36 in all. The 26 who entered were marked out of 10 for durability and bird scaring to cuteness and most disturbing. It was a tough job but in the end Nikki & Haydn were the overall champions, closely followed by David & Karen Fisher, Laura Bowen and Rebecca & Gideon Carpenter.

All in all the day was a real success, a true community event. We can't wait until next year, but be warned we will be armed!!

Christine

