

THANK GOODNESS WE LIVE HERE!

How many times, in these strange and worrying days of lockdown, have we thought of those in tower blocks, on estates, living in inner cities, and even in camps, and counted ourselves so lucky to live in Llanfallteg. Here we can stroll the lanes, enjoying the wild flowers, the gardens, the birdsong, whilst knowing that our neighbours are looking out for us. This unusual edition of the newsletter is a celebration of all that. Enjoy.



Gracie Wiggans, grand-daughter of Sue and Huw Jones, looking rightly proud of her rainbow painting for the NHS. It is now displayed in the window of Cardigan Ambulance Station.



Lee Lewis-Squelch, Caerau, lit up his house to show gratitude for all key-workers



The King family leading the applause for the key-workers in Llanfallteg West.



Izzie Rozhon, and her sister Sophia, raised over £100 for NHS Charities Together with a cake stall.



Helgorn Taf Bugle

Nikki's Wildlife Watch Spring 2020

While we're all living with the effects of Covid-19, the natural world around us continues with the spring business of flowers blooming, trees bursting into leaf, birds waking early to sing a wondrous dawn chorus for staking out their territories, fish returning to the river and all sorts of creatures calling for a mate to join them in their dens, setts, hollows in trees and every type of crevice available to them. All over our beautiful landscape.

Mother Nature completely unaware of our lockdown? Or is she? Just maybe, this time is giving her a much needed helping hand.

My exciting spring sightings on my walks recently - **Friday March 27th** I heard the chiff chaff calling over near the old mill.

Saturday April 4th The first swallows I'd seen over the village

Sunday April 5th I walked north along the river and was thrilled to see the kingfisher flash by, followed by a dipper. As I walked, I lost count of the butterflies dancing along in front of me, including a number of Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells, Spotted Wood Browns and Red Admirals all enjoying the warm sunny afternoon.

Looking across the river towards the old railway track I could see a display of lady's smock shimmering in the dappled sunlight. My father always called them the cuckoo flower as they bloomed when the cuckoo arrived. How I wish that was still true.



Lee with the cuckoo flowers

Have you got any names of plants or animals that you learned from your parents or grandparents or maybe local names?

Perhaps you could all let us know about any differences or changes you are noticing in your gardens, around our village and countryside.

We would love to hear your nature stories, please do send them into the editors for inclusion in the next edition of the Newsletter (hopefully, next time, a colourful paper version delivered to your door)

Keep well, keep safe, keep walking and watching.

WEB LINKS TO WILDLIFE WEBCAMS

Now that we have time on our hands due to lockdown, here are some links to explore for those nature lovers amongst us. Thanks to John, Nikki and Jamie. Just click on the links.

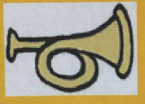
Wildlife Trust Webcams – <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/webcams>

Folly Farm Webcams – <https://www.folly-farm.co.uk/webcams/>

Dyfi Osprey Project – <https://www.dyfiospreyproject.com/live-streaming>

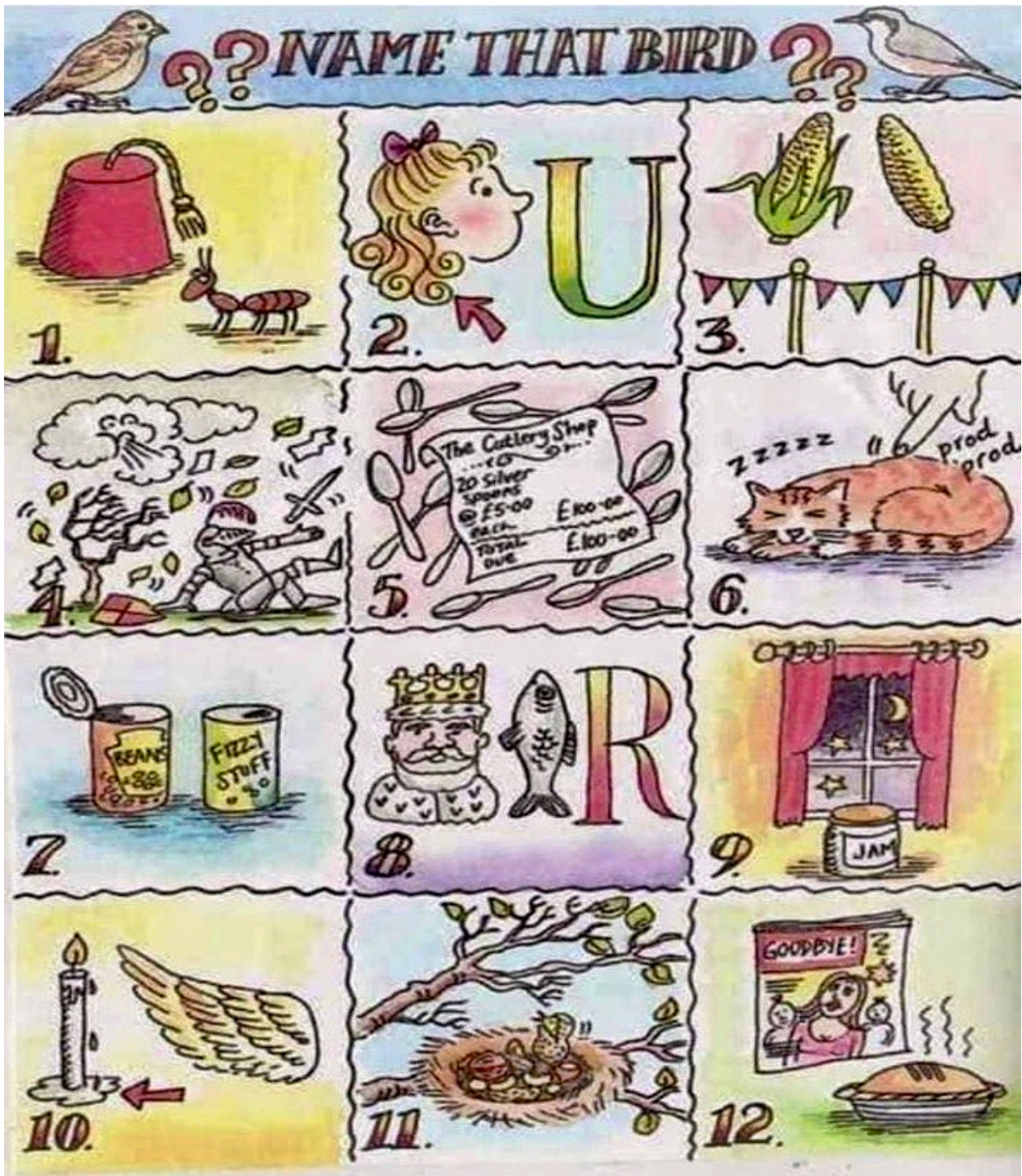
Edinburgh Zoo Webcams – <https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/>

San Diego Zoo Webcams – <https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams>



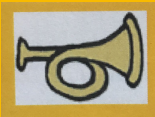
Helgorn Taf Bugle

Thanks to Sue Jones and the King family for these quizzes. For the answers see:
<http://www.llanfallteg.org/category/news/>



Small Quiz

1. What is the second smallest city in the U.K?
2. What is the smallest city in Scotland?
3. Northern Ireland has 4 cities in the top-20 smallest cities in the UK. Can you name them all?



Helgorn Taf Bugle

POETIC REFLECTIONS ON THE LOCKDOWN

Daily Haiku by Jos Collen

At the start of the lockdown, my art teacher Johnny Cox promised to set his faithful band of students a weekly online class - the first was to write and illustrate a haiku. This immediately had me thinking obsessively in three lines of 5, 7 and 5 syllables with a quick check finger count.

Colours, warmth, birdsong
So distant that other world
Beyond my garden

Going out tonight
Theatre and drinks with friends
Virtually of course

Dave joined in the challenge from Italy, then my daughter Sian and grandson Finn in Pontyberem. Followed next by Dave's sons Sam and Ben, partners Karen and Jason in Ammanford and Bexhill and my New Zealand granddaughters Lyra and Starry. On our "three generations haiku" Whatsapp group we now send and receive as many as 10 messages a day, more when people are feeling particularly inspired.

Moon sits up slowly
What's out past the horizon?
Beyond our new world

You feel far away
Remind me when I see you
To say I love you

It's turned into a surprising and delightful way of keeping in touch across three generations, age range 9 to 77, recording something of our daily lives, projects, thoughts and reflections, from the mundane to the philosophical, sometimes taking on the character of a conversation. We try to keep them light but inevitably the pandemic and the fact that everything we knew has changed lurks in the background.

They may not be great poems, but they keep us connected. I think the simple format helps everyone to write something without feeling intimidated by the idea of writing a poem. I'm thinking of compiling them into a book to remind us of getting through this difficult time together.

Out on the doorsteps
Clapping for the NHS
How good to see them

Did you hear me clap
Down my isolated track
Telepathic sound

I enjoy to bike
Up and down around and about
Lyra's leg does not

Friends bring plants and eggs
Care and kindness multiply
Hope for a new world

Another three weeks
Could get used to this slow life
Deep breathe and out again

Social distancing
On and off for two more years
Make every hug count.

All locks have got keys
A way out of any maze
You just have to look

When a Cough's Worse than a Fart

While Coronavirus is doing its worst
Mother Nature's breathing a first
Fewer vapour trails in the sky
Mother Nature's on a high
Car emissions on an all time low
Mother Nature is saying whoa
Social distancing and self isolation
This is all a new kind of alienation
Children's worlds turned upside down
Not sure what's happening in the covid lockdown
Missing their friends and counting the days
That they can all play outside again happy days
Mothers homeschooling turned into teachers overnight
Worrying themselves silly in case they're
Not doing things quite right
When a cough is frowned upon more than a fart
Everyone's becoming heroes and playing their part
The great British public doing their best
To stick to the rules and obeying the test
Good times will come it but may take a while
Just hang on in there and give us a smile

By Alison Lindley
(written to cheer up my daughter)



Helgorn Taf Bugle

What price our Grade II listed Bridge?

From the Archive: (Llanfallteg History Society)

Llanfallteg bridge is unusual in having on the NE side a long causeway of stepped rubble stone, incorporating a single segmental flood arch. The original contracts for Llanfallteg bridge construction were drawn up on 21st January 1807. The masons involved were David Parry of Gronno-ucha, Llangan and Thomas of College, Llangan. The estimated cost of building the bridge was **£461-19s-4 ½ p**. Causeway walls to the bridge were extra at a cost of **£89-10s**.



The breakdown of the works for the walls.: (7th/10/1808)

Both walls 60 perches at 2s-6p per perch	£7-10s
120 foot of coping at 1s per foot	£6
240 loads of stones at 4s per load	£48
Piece of stone	£7 - 10s
15 Loads of Lime	£17-17s-6p
30 loads of sand	£1-2s-6p
The making of 45 loads of lime into mortar	£1-10s
Total	£89-10s

The bond for the work done was signed on 5th January 1809. The agreement was between David Parry, Thomas Thomas, William Harries, Henry Llewhellin and the Clerk of the Peace for the county of Pembroke, Henry Rees. The amount involved was £150.

The bridge was re-pointed within the last two years by the County Council, I wonder how that cost compared to the original construction?

The original Grand Total of £701-9s-4½p was the equivalent of approximately £61,800 at today costs.

(Source: original paper by John Spencer from Pembrokeshire Record office documents ref CS535/87-1681-4HDX/1193/12)

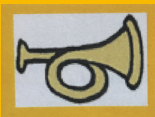
THANK YOU SAM

Nikki's son, Sam, luckily for us, has been spending lockdown with her, and contributing to our community by litter-picking around our village, and as far as Llanddewi Velfrey.

The photo shows the result of one day's picking at the beginning of April. Hopefully, lockdown will have meant a reduction in traffic, and therefore littering, But, it begs the question, what happens when traffic levels get back to normal? And, how is it possible that so much litter can be picked off our roadside in one day?

A big thank you, once again, for Sam.





Helgorn Taf Bugle

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Trustees of your Community Association, we would all like to send you our best wishes during these unsettling times. More than anything, we hope that you, your families and friends are staying safe and well and that kindness and hope remain uppermost in our minds and throughout our community.

For clarification of the present situation and to bring you up to date with the evolving situation surrounding our programme, the Millennium Hall will remain closed for the foreseeable future, at the very least until the end of May, and we will review this situation and update to the village website as circumstances develop. We do, of course, look forward to the time when we can reopen and welcome you all back, but only when it is entirely safe to do so.

Meanwhile, the external repairs and painting of the Millennium Hall have been commissioned in order that the fabric of the building is maintained. We welcome the support of the Community Council for committing to meet a large part of the costs for this work. However, the Community Association budget will be put under stress by the lack of income from hiring the Hall.

Predicting the future is quite impossible, though I feel sure it will be different from the old "normal". We create the future through our choices and activities so I sincerely hope you will include using the Hall as a focus of community life, for clubs and societies, for meeting one another again and enjoying this neighbourhood when we re-open.

Chris Heron

Llwyngarreg Stroll the Gardens

Liz and Paul O'Neill at Llwyngarreg (www.llwyngarreg.co.uk) have kindly invited residents in the village to extend their daily walk to incorporate a stroll around their beautiful gardens. People are asked to maintain social distancing guidance, and to ensure their visit is part of a walk from home. Driving is not permitted at the moment. Dogs on leads are allowed, and the gardens are open from 9.00am until 6.00pm



Plants for Sale

In addition, Liz is concerned that this year will be a thin one for the National Gardens Scheme. The NGS won't be able to donate nearly as much as the £3 million they annually give to charities such as Marie Curie Cancer Care, MacMillan Nurses, Carers Association etc. In response to this, the money raised from plants she has available for sale this year, instead of helping with their garden costs, will help support the NGS.

All the plants are priced at £3 per pot.

Contact Paul and Liz by email with your order, and they will arrange delivery - lizpaulfarm@yahoo.co.uk

This is a small flavour of what is available, the full list can be found at <http://www.llanfallteg.org/news/plants-for-sale-ngs-fundraising/>

Agapanthus, Alstroemeria, Corydalis, Euphorbia, Ferns, Periwinkles, Hostas, Monbretia, Penstemon, Phlox, Pulmonaria, Salvias.

Happy Gardening!



Helgorn Taf Bugle



Hello Everyone!

We hope this finds you all fit and well in these strange times!

As with many businesses The Plash has been forced to close its doors for normal service, so as a result we have had to adapt our way of operating. We are working hard to make sure The Plash comes out the other side of this still able to open for this wonderful community.

As many of you are aware this has been a time of massive personal change for me as well and as a result we have a new "TeamPlash", made up of myself (Steve), Lou and Lisa. We are working as hard as we can to keep beer and food available, in the safest possible way with contactless ordering and collection, to keep things like the ever popular Quiz Night running and to add new offers and online boredom busters as much as possible. We will also be taking this time to make some positive changes to The Plash, which should be great for everyone when the time comes to reopen officially! For those of you who are unaware of our takeaway service, here's how it works:

1. Phone The Plash with your order (the menu is on our website and facebook page)
2. We take your mobile number and text you a payment link and arrange a time slot for collection (if you wish to pay cash, this isn't a problem, there will be a cash box outside when you collect!)
3. Your food will be outside the front of the pub for you to drive up and collect at the agreed time
4. And that's it! Take your food home and Enjoy!!

Over the past few weeks we have been absolutely blown away and overwhelmed by the support we have received from the community and we would just like to say a massive.....THANK YOU!! It is so appreciated.

So, ordinarily at this time of year we would be planning Beer Fests, Live Music Nights, even Fireworks and Christmas! However, whilst we are hopeful that we may be able to do some of these things we have to plan for this being the norm for the foreseeable future and make The Plash the best it can be during this time.

Thank you all and Stay Safe.

We look forward to seeing you very soon!

Cheers,

Steve and TeamPlash!!

Online Quiz Night:

Sundays (before Blue Bag Day!), 6pm, Every Fortnight. Join in the fun and check the leaderboard to see how you do!

Pizza Wednesday:

Any 2 Pizzas, Side of Chips or Cheesy Garlic Bread and 2 Peronis - £12

Burger Thursday:

Any Burger, Chips, Coleslaw & 2 pints of Real Ale -£10

Fishy Friday:

Fish and Chips with 2 pints of Real Ale - £9

Drinks Serving Times

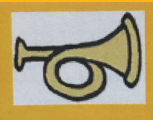
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday 6pm-8pm.

Wednesday to Saturday 5pm-9pm

Food Served

Wednesday to Saturday: 5pm -9pm

For Updates and further details please visit www.theplashinn.co.uk



Helgorn Taf Bugle



FAIRIES IN THE VILLAGE?



Fairies have been busy this spring. First they brought tea cups to the table outside the hall. Then, they adorned the tree with beautiful woollen flowers and creatures. Surprise! Surprise! They hadn't finished. A box of material to create bunting, and bring further cheer to the villagers has now appeared. Have you checked the bottom of your garden recently for visitors? Thank you, whoever you are.



Walking our beautiful village, and along the river bank. Thank you to those responsible for the work on the footpaths.

