

# Vale of Grwyne News and Events

December 2018



Welcome to the first edition of our new Newsletter. This is a joint venture between the Vale of Grwyney Community Council and the Vale of Grwyne Parish. It will be produced quarterly (December, March, June and September). We hope to publicise up-coming events, report on what has happened locally, and generally try to keep everyone informed about what's going on.

We are going to publish it on-line, with paper copies available for those who prefer the real thing. We will post it on the Vale of Grwyney website [www.valeofgrwyney.org](http://www.valeofgrwyney.org), but if you would like it electronically delivered straight to you, please contact our new email address [vogpaper@gmail.com](mailto:vogpaper@gmail.com).

[vogpaper@gmail.com](mailto:vogpaper@gmail.com) is also the place to send all your forthcoming events, local news and pictures. We hope to hear from the three halls, the churches, the schools, the pubs, and anyone else with something to promote or say.

## Contacts :

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**Llangenny School Hall** is holding its Christmas Event on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm. Music will be provided by professional musicians Sarah Newbold (flute) and Meyrick Alexander (bassoon). Sarah and Meyrick play with leading orchestras all over the world. They also teach and champion local

talented young musicians and this is an opportunity for them to show their talents too. There is no charge for the evening but there will be a raffle for Hall funds. Mulled wine, mince pies and nibbles will be available and there will be carols for all.

Llangenny School (Village) Hall is a Grade II listed Victorian building which was the village school until 1947. It was then converted to a village hall, and was substantially refurbished some 14 years ago with grants from the Heritage Lottery, European and other grants and large amounts of money raised locally by the Committee. The School Hall is now a modern facility for the church and community with a well equipped kitchen, office and main hall with underfloor heating. The main hall can cater for at least 60 people with comfortable seating, with disabled access and toilet facilities. There is a good quality piano and facilities to show films and digital photographs. A table tennis table and equipment for short mat bowls are also available.

Llangenny School Hall recently held its AGM followed by cheese and wine and a film "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" and we welcomed a new member to our Management Committee.

The Hall is adjacent to St. Cenau's church in the middle of the village with limited parking. For more information and hiring contact Ella Thomas on [roland.genny@gmail.com](mailto:roland.genny@gmail.com) or 01873 269711.

### **Vale of Grwyney Community Council: what is it for?**

The Community Council is the link between residents and Powys County Council. In Wales there are over 730, with about one Community Councillor for every 250 members of the community. In the VoGCC we have nine councillors for about 700 people. You are bound to know at least one of them.

The Council meets on the third Monday of every month, meetings rotating between the three halls of Llanbedr, Llangenny and Glangrwyney. At these meetings we discuss planning and highways matters, and any other items of local importance – including benches! Our County Councillor, Cllr John Morris, is usually present to report on what is happening in Powys County Council, and to take local concerns up to PCC. Members of the public are always welcome at our meetings, though if you want to speak on any matter you should contact the Clerk, Maria James, [valeofgrwyneycc@gmail.com](mailto:valeofgrwyneycc@gmail.com). There are sometimes vacancies for councillors. If you are interest in joining us, please contact Maria. You can find out more about VoGCC on the website <https://valeofgrwyney.org/>.



**People of the Black Mountains** (working title) is an ongoing project by filmmaker and photographer Siôn Marshall-Waters. The project looks to document experiences and stories of those presently living in the region in the form of film, photography and sound recordings. In doing so, it aims to address various aspects of community, identity and belonging to create a piece that highlights the everyday and ordinary in an extraordinary landscape.

As part of the project, Siôn, originally from Abergavenny, has been attending and documenting church services at Partrishow since January, as well as regularly meeting with farmers near Waun Fach and Forest Coal Pit. Long term, the project hopes to extend to wider areas of the region to eventually include perspectives on the mountains from neighbouring town



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would like to participate in the project, please get in touch with Siôn.

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**St. Catwg's Mothers' Union** (which serves all the Ministry Area churches) is holding its AGM on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 2 pm in Llangenny School Hall. Following the AGM (about 15 minutes) Annabelle Elletson will be giving an illustrated talk entitled "A long walk in Nepal". Annabelle and a friend recently walked for three weeks in the foothills of the Himalayas and have some wonderful stories and pictures for those less adventurous of us enjoy. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to hear Annabelle's story. Do join us.

The will be a short exhibition of the photographs and film pieces in Crickhowell early next year. Details to be confirmed.

The project is part funded by Arts Council Wales and in collaboration with Peak Cymru, the arts charity based in Crickhowell. If anyone

## **Grwyne Fawr CIC**

The Grwyne Fawr river is the boundary between Powys and Monmouthshire. The valley, topped by the reservoir dam, has fewer than 20 houses. These are in two parliamentary constituencies, two local authorities, two police authorities and four parishes. We also have one postcode that is in both counties

After Fiveways, with its grey phone box, all the Monmouthshire houses are accessed from the only road up the valley, in Powys (which collects their rubbish). To try and sort out some of the problems arising from this, a Community Interest Company was set up in 2015. As a CIC, it is able to access grants not available to local authorities, and to work across county boundaries. There has been some success with controlling access to the forestry by off-road vehicles, and in getting a better police response to the raves that break out during the summer months. We have also been pursuing broadband, so far without success. There is weak copper Wi-Fi for the first mile up the valley. After that, or to obtain speeds above 0.45 MB, locals have to use satellite systems. The hunt for better broadband goes on....

For further information about the Grwyne Fawr CIC contact Ian Mabberley [ian.mabberley@btconnect.com](mailto:ian.mabberley@btconnect.com) or Ian Mitchell [ian@abilityengineering.co.uk](mailto:ian@abilityengineering.co.uk) .

## **Changes to Hospital Services**

On Tuesday 4th December, in Clarence Hall Crickhowell, Brecknock and Radnorshire Community Health Council are holding a meeting to allow local residents to learn about proposed changes to specialist hospital services in South Wales. Officers from Powys Teaching Health Board will give a presentation on the future options for specialist services. This will be followed by questions and discussion and further information on how the changes could affect residents of our local community. This 'listening event' will be your opportunity to contribute and influence how these options will affect us all in Powys. The meeting will begin at 7.00pm. All are welcome to attend and offer their comments and opinions on this important subject.



## Glangrwyney Village Hall

Message from the Chairman: Phill Bowker:

Following the AGM in September 2018, the Committee is pleased to announce that its application for grant aid to the Big Lottery, People and Places Fund, has now been submitted. We can expect to hear news early in the New Year, once our application has been assessed. The grant application followed a comprehensive consultation process and was well supported by the local community with letters of support from key organisations, such as the Community and County Councils and the local Church and Chapel. In addition, the Committee also received many letters of support from individual residents as well as from a wide range of local businesses, clubs, organisations and user groups. The Committee also received letters of support from our local MP, Chris Davies and from our local AM, Kirsty Williams.



In the meantime, the Hall continues to be busy, with around 12 groups in the community using the Hall on a regular basis, across the week, in addition to the range of casual bookings for parties and other functions.

The committee is well aware that the hall is in desperate need of some upgrading and modernisation and whatever the outcome of our grant application, the committee intends to make improvements at the hall, to ensure the facilities remain fit for purpose. In the meantime, the committee has installed broadband, so internet access is now available to hall users. The hall also has a website, which is 'active' but also in the process of been updated and we also now have a presence on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Glangrwyney/>

To hire the hall though, you will still need to telephone in, and the contact number is 01873 811533. Terms and conditions of booking and other important documents can be found on the website: [www.glangrwyneyvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.glangrwyneyvillagehall.co.uk).



## Llanbedr Church in Wales School

### *Ysgol Llanbedr*

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The Friends of the School organised a Promise Auction on 9th November, held at the Rectory, Llangattock. A big "Thank You" to everyone who offered promises, supported us by attending on the night and to those who bought all our fantastic lots. Accompanied by a tremendous raffle we raised over £5.500. The money will be used to support our fantastic little school and all our big plans for the next few months. The auctioneer was County Councillor John Morris.



#### Other School events:

Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December

Elf Day. Pupils come to school dressed as an elf and take part in Elf Workshops

Christmas Fayre and Open Day

Wednesday, 12th December

PC Skyme "Stay Smart" for Years 3 and 4  
Carol Service / Nativity at St. Peter's Church, 6pm

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Lunch followed by Carol Singing at Waitrose, 4pm;

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper Day and Disco;

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December

Whole School Pantomime Visit

Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Buffet and Parties;

Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December

School closes at 3.15pm.

#### Torchlight Carols in Llangenny

On Christmas Eve at 4 o'clock the popular nativity procession will start at Llangenny church, leading to the stable at Golden Grove and finally to something warm at The Dragon's Head.

Join us to walk through the village by torchlight singing carols and telling the Christmas story. Come dressed as a nativity character - grownupstoo!

We have a supply of children's costumes on the day. A wonderful and joyful end to the shopping - and a break from the telly, decorating and wrapping.

Be part of something traditional and magical in our ever popular journey to a real stable.





# Vale of Grwyne

## Christmas Services

**All Welcome!**

**16<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Sunday**

Carol Service	Patricio	11-15 am
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**20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Thursday**

Carol Service	Llanbedr	7-00 pm
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**23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**

Holy Communion	Llangenny	9-15 am
Holy Communion	Llanbedr	10-45 am

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Monday**

**Christmas Eve**

Torchlight Parish Crib Service Llangenny	4-00 pm
(Procession through the village followed by mulled wine and mincepies at the Dragon's Head)	
Holy Communion	Llanbedr
	10-00 pm

**25<sup>th</sup> December 2018- Tuesday**

**Christmas Day**

Holy Communion	Llangenny	9-30 am
Holy Communion	Patricio	11-15 am

**30<sup>th</sup> December – Sunday**

Holy Communion Joint Parish Service	Llangenny	10-00 am
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