



VIEW OVER THE FIELDGATE

I've not managed to snorkel in anything, let alone a dirty swamp! But has anyone ever seen river orienteering (think it's called riverreering). Don the obligatory boil in the bag wetsuit and float down river. Again my less that intrepid friend, Cath, seems less that enamoured by this suggestion. Think the most adventurous she wants to go to is a cup of tea and a slice of cake! And we all know how dangerous a piece of sticky bun is. I am working on intrepid friend. As an only child, I managed at quite an early age the art of whining until I get what I want! Please, take that as a joke!

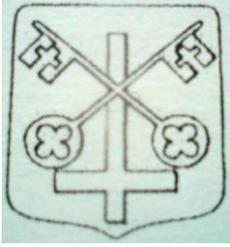
I hope the Tales of Olde Bryngwyn are going down well with the more mature readers and perhaps the mature members of Fieldgate's family may enlighten us with a few tales of their childhood, hoping that the local Constabulary have closed their books on quite a few little 'incidents' from many years ago. If not, does any WI member have a recipe for baking a cake with a file in it? I can bake a cake that is like a file!

There are quite a few events coming up over the year in the village and I hope to see many of you there. The plans for the Garden Party at Bryngwyn Manor sound very exciting and I hope that those readers who have children bring them along to the Manor. In the past we have been very lucky to have had very good weather.

Soon it will be snowdrop time which we all agree shows Spring is on the way. The finest display I know of is not too far from us – if you take the green lane from The Cripple Creek, past the chicken farm and you will find a wonderful display less than a ¼ of a mile from the pub...and then who of needs an excuse of a little liquid refreshment after a walk?

Oh, yes, I have been fiddling around with the layout of the magazine again!

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ST PETER'S CHURCH

Congratulations to the Entertainments Committee for yet another excellent and successful Coffee and Carols Evening in December.

Despite the very cold and wintery weather, many braved the elements to sing carols on 19th December for the Candlelit Carol Service, followed by hot tea and delicious refreshments. Thanks to everyone who helped in anyway. It was such an enjoyable afternoon.

Christmas morning was again extremely cold but a good number attended this very special service. The view as we left the Church was stunningly beautiful.

On the 6th of January, I attended the leadership meeting at the Vicarage in Raglan when those present worked out all the forthcoming events for 2011 so watch out for all that's taking place in the three Churches.

On the 15th of January, again in Raglan, the joint PCC members and interested members of the congregation met to voice their opinions on 'where we go from here'. Growth and the future of our Churches was discussed.

Bryngwyn PCC meeting took place at Bryngwyn Manor by the kind invitation of Mr & Mrs S Inglefield. Mrs Helen Hayward is now our Honorary Treasurer and we wish her every success in keeping all the accounts 'penny perfect'. Thanks were given to Mr S Inglefield who has been Treasurer for the past 25 years. A task he performed with great expertise, ensuring the books were always balanced.

It is twelve months since the flower and cleaning rota was amended. Many of you voiced your preference to combine the two together for the same month. It has worked very well indeed, with the vast majority agreeing it has been a success. To remind everyone, there are always at least ~~two~~ named to clean and do the flowers for one month. It is entirely up to them to agree 'who does what and when'. Where there is a new helper, they will always be placed with someone who knows the ropes. There will be a copy of the flower and cleaning rota placed in the Church for all to see. There are some leaflets produced which show who does what – what you see in this magazine or in the Church is the correct rota.

If you are interested in helping with the flowers or cleaning the Church, please do give either Janet Norman or Olwen Smith a call to discuss. Their numbers are on the contacts page.

Olwen Smith

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE



Despite the early 'cold snap' creating burst pipes at Plas Hendy on the morning of the Coffee Evening on the 10th of December, no-one would have guessed there had been anything amiss and everyone enjoyed a superb evening.

Mr & Mrs John Crawley greeted us with a glass of 'hot punch' upon arrival and the wood burner blazing away in the hall was indeed a welcome sight.

Our old friends Accord entertained us superbly and it was great to see them again. Delicious seasonal refreshments were served. The stall did a roaring trade. Some were lucky, others were not in the raffle and free draw, and the number of sweets in tin was guessed. A large Puma found it's way to Plas Hendy, must have heard about the excellent coffee evening, so he was auctioned and has gone to a good home. Favourite carols and songs were joyfully rendered and after thank you's were expressed we all left for home with a happy feeling, ready to celebrate Christmas.

Thank you very much to everyone who gave donations, prizes, food and so on and helped in any way to make this a very successful evening. A special thank you to Mr & Mrs Crawley for all their help, especially the mopping up operation after the burst pipes and for making us all very welcome. Thank you also to Anthony Price & Sons, plumbers.

Looking forward to meeting up with you during 2011 at our functions. Watch this space for further details.

Helen Hayward

WEATHER FORECAST

If the cat in February lies in the sun,
She will creep under the grate in March

As many mists in March as there are frosts in May



COFFEE BREAK

	2						8	
1				9				6
			7		2			
		5		8		6		
	6		1		3		7	
		2		4		1		
			8		9			
4				2				9
	8						3	

What do you get if you cross a firefly with a moth?

An insect that can find it's way around a dark wardrobe!

Why are goldfish red?

Because the sea turns them rusty!

How did the gardener mend his trousers?

By using cabbage patches!

When is a farmer like a magician?

When he turns his cows into pasture!

How do you make a bandstand?

Take their chairs away!

After tucking their three year old son in bed one night, his parents heard sobbing coming from his room. Rushing back in, they found him crying hysterically. He managed to tell them that he had swallowed a penny and he was sure he was going to die. No amount of talking helped. His father, in an attempt to calm him down, palmed a penny from his pocket and pretended to pull it from his ear. The little boy was delighted.

In a flash, he snatched it from his father's hand, swallowed it, the cheerfully demanded: "Do it again, Dad!"

PETER'S TIPS

Spring is in the air!

Now that spring is in the air, talk is of diets and detoxing but the time has also come to turn our thoughts to Spring Cleaning around the home!

Exterior

When cleaning your windows you may notice that your paintwork shows signs of damage or just generally looks tired and is in need of refreshing, especially after the hard frosts of this winter. These areas will need attention, normally a good rub down, fill, spot prime, undercoat and gloss or stain to finish. (Rather like a sauna followed by a makeover!)

Interior

When removing your Christmas decorations you may have pulled an odd piece of plaster or paint from your walls, or maybe even left a hole from drawing pins etc. Get these repaired, or better still refresh your walls and ceilings with a coat of paint. Also why not bring back the freshness to your woodwork with a coat of colour.

There were a tremendous number of burst pipes and leaks this winter. Obviously these should have been repaired by now but don't leave those tell tale marks and water stains – get these stain blocked and decorated.

If you would like any further advice or help please do feel free to contact me on the details to the right.



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Talking of work – did you know that the phrase “to go at it hammer and tongs” refers to a blacksmith holding a piece of heated iron in his tongs and striking it loudly with his hammer.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In December 2010 Bryngwyn WI celebrated 90 years at the home of John and Jane Crawley, Plas Hendy, on a very cold evening. Members were met by two smartly dressed waiters namely Oli Tranter and Ken Gunter who greeted members, who were also smartly dressed, with a glass of bucks fizz. They were shown into the drawing room where Diane Watkins, President, welcomed

Gwent WI County Chairman and Secretary. The celebrations commenced with a rousing rendition of Jerusalem accompanied by John Crawley on the grand piano. Three Singers from Abergavenny entertained us before we were served canapés both savoury and sweet. The celebration cake, made by our member Rosemary Roberts, was cut by Olwen Smith, our longest serving member. The WI was toasted with champagne and a piece of cake was distributed. The Singers concluded the evening and the President thanked everyone who had helped make the evening such a success. Lin Bonar acted as Photographer. A booklet designed by Diane and compiled by Carole and Helen Hayward, covering the last 90 years was distributed

The WI were indebted to John and Jane Crawley who opened their home for the celebrations as the first meeting was held there in 1920 and it was fitting that one of the first members Miss Gertrude Crawley looked down from her portrait on the wall and kept an eagle eye on us during the evening

Nearly a full attendance in January saw us at the Cripple Creek for our New Year's Dinner where we had an excellent meal and the usual hospitality. In February we have a, "light-hearted", we hope, talk on Graveyards and Graves I have known.

We have a membership of 27 but would like to reach 30 at least in 2011. In 1983 we had 33 members and sometimes more during the 90 years. Meetings, at present, at Llanarth Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm. You would be made very welcome and if interested please contact Carole Tranter on 01291 690341 or e-mail carole@illa2.plus.com.

CRAWLEY HALL

We are making progress with the Hall. The kitchen is in. The painting is being done. We are getting quotes for the Car Parking area. It is Bryngwyn's turn to host the Maundy Service Supper for Raglan, Llandenny and ourselves this year. We hope the Supper can be held at Crawley Hall on 21 April 2011.



As you know, the AGM for Crawley Hall is always held in February. The "Legal Brains" on the Committee have told us that, as long as we prepare accounts for a February year end, can hold the AGM later. The Committee plan to hold the AGM in the New Hall as soon as it is completed then everyone can see the Hall.

We would like to use the Magazine to thank The Parochial Church Council, Mrs E.Gwatkin and Mr.Sam Inglefield for their very generous donations to the Hall re-building funds. The Committee are very grateful for their help.

TALES OF YE OLDE BRYNGWYN

AND A BRIGHT SPARK CAME TO THE HENDY (2)

or

WATT about the OHM - Christmas Time!!

Christmas time is always magical and my earliest memories are not only of the great time we had but also the smell. Christmas has its own smell starting in November or even the end of October when the ritual of “stirring the Christmas puddings” was followed, that is have a stir and make a wish (Mum would say “Now don’t be selfish, wish for something for others!”), craftily putting my finger in the mixture and having a taste, letting the dog lick my fingers clean so that he could have a taste as well, in those days Prince was my faithful companion.

Getting ready for the big day involved everyone on the farm, fodder was placed strategically so that the “chores” could be completed as quick as possible, but most of all it was the arrival of the tree that signalled the great day and the possible arrival of Father Christmas; “only if you have been good boys and have written to him and posted the letter up the chimney” then having first waited for it to catch fire so that it was quickly carried aloft (modern children miss all of that sort of fun because most houses do not have a chimney) Santa Claus was on his way.

My first memories of our Christmas tree was not really a tree at all but a branch off the tree felled by the Estate (Llanarth Estate) for the Court which had been tidied up by removal of the lower branches these off cuts would be distributed around the houses and farms, although we were not part of the estate Mr Powel the estate foreman would always find us a branch.

Today’s Health and Safety people would have a fit if they had seen us clipping little candle sticks to the branch which would be lighted at Christmas Breakfast after we had all come home from Church, many was the time that only quick action averted a major fire! When the electric arrived what a difference, I can remember our first set of tree lights which was a rope of stars the end one (which was white) would be push up under the fairies dress so that “she” was lit up, and to mark the occasion Dad negotiated with the estate for our first ‘popper fur’ tree.

David Spencer

DATES OF NOTE

April 5 th	
PCC Meeting	Bryngwyn Manor
April 21 st	
Maundy Thursday	Bryngwyn
May 20 th	
Musical Evening	Plas Hendy
May 29 th	
Rogation Sunday	Bryngwyn
July 3 rd	
St Peter's Day Service & Tea	Bryngwyn
July 16 th	
Afternoon Tea	Bryngwyn Manor
August 7 th	
Songs of Praise	Bryngwyn
September 11 th	
Harvest Service & lunch	Bryngwyn
December 9 th	
Coffee & Carols Evening	Plas Hendy
December 18 th	
Candlelit Carol Service	Bryngwyn

CONTACTS

ST PETERS CHURCH

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Cleaning

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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CRAWLEY HALL

Secretary – Cecilia Davies 01291 691222

BRYNGWYN MAGAZINE

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***SUBMISSIONS FOR NEXT

MAGAZINE BY 20TH MARCH 2011

CHURCH SERVICES & ROTAS

	Date	Time	Readers	Flowers & Cleaning
February	6 th	3pm	D Parry; C Davies	
	13 th	8.30am	D Inglefield; H Saunders	Maureen Morgan
	20 th	8.30am	J Fletcher; N Saunders	Olwyn Parry
	27 th	8.30am	B Fletcher; S Inglefield	
March	6 th	3pm	D Parry; O Saunders	
	13 th	8.30am	D Inglefield; C Davies	March 15 th – Spring Clean
	20 th	8.30am	J Fletcher; N Saunders	No flowers during Lent
	27 th	8.30am	B Fletcher; S Inglefield	