

HALLOWEEN Fun for Kids

Some simple ideas for Halloween



Festive Fun
in the barn at
Gwentlands

December 15th
6.00p.m.

Carols,
Christmas songs,
Mulled wine,
Festive food.
Quizzes & Raffle
and a visit
from Santa

Old Hamlet of Llanmartin



Cwmbran
Tenovus Sing With us Choir

Cyngherddau Nadolig
Lovelight
Christmas Concert.

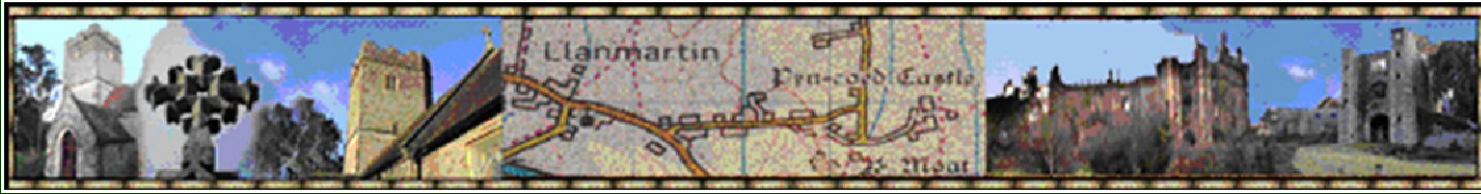
tenovus
cancer care
gofal cancer

Crystal suite, Parkway Hotel. Cwmbran NP44 3UW

December 10th 7.00.pm.

Tickets: £10 Children £5

Contact: cwmbranfot@gmail.com



NEWSLETTER OLD HAMLET OF LLANMARTIN

llanmartin-hamlet.co.uk



Another Wales in Bloom Gold Award

Produced for the Old Hamlet of Llanmartin Residents Association

Wales in Bloom - The judge's visit



After coffee and the presentation in the Old Barn, Jacqui and Tony took our judge on a tour of the hamlet. She was warm, friendly, knowledgeable, efficient and interested to hear all about the hamlet. She had made the journey from North Wales and had two more visits in the afternoon so her time was limited but she was anxious to see as much as she could.

Thanks to all those who took time to say hello and to everyone for all their effort on all fronts. She took our book "This is my garden" and was keen to see what was behind the hedges and front gates that she had no time to visit.

Here Jacqui gives us the run down of their whistle stop tour including a look at Ian's sunflowers on July 17th! I think they are indeed Mongolian giants!

"The judge did a whistle stop tour of the village today. When she said she could only stay for 1.5 hours, we had to motor along. Ian Neale could take the time on his own. His sunflowers are enormous!! We visited the green, Richard and Sue, the patch, Eirlys, lake at Hillside then finished at Mark's and then Janet's for wonderful cake!!! As we were trying to cover Best Village and it's your neighbourhood we had our work cut out. The judge was friendly, very knowledgeable and seemed happy with the info and all that she saw, plus all the lovely people she met. Here's hoping."

Jacqui



Ian with his flowering giant

SUNFLOWER TAKE OVER

On the date of her visit our sunflowers had still not bloomed and we were afraid that with so many lost due to the bad weather that they would not prove to be the Mongolian giant takeover that we had envisaged. However, since then so many have grown to epic proportions that it has been a real pleasure to drive through the Hamlet and see so many of them.



Richard Rayment's sunflower

Congratulations to all those who succeeded and gave pleasure to all. When you harvest your seeds, please use half to feed the birds and half to give other residents so that next year we can again have a great showing.

Should any seed heads be ready perhaps you can bring them to the AGM on October 2nd for distribution

The Tena Ladies!

Saturday 12th October
7pm til 10pm
at Langstone Village Hall
Doors open 6.45pm

Contact Heather on
07794 456023

Bring your own
drinks and nibbles!

Events @ Langstone

Only £6

Bingo!

If you come along to the Tena Ladies Event in October you can book early tickets for the Christmas Spectacular. They really are going to push the boat out this year so it is one you will not want to miss

Old Hamlet of Llanmartin

AGM

Llandeud Village Hall

(Behind the Indian Restaurant on the A48)

October 2nd 2024

7.00. pm.

To include-

Reports

Future Events

Election of Officers

Everybody warmly welcome

GWENT BRIDGE ACADEMY
CLAYTON STREET, NEWPORT, SOUTH WALES, NP19 7AU.
01633 222224
CHAIRMAN: E. SNEEGROVE SECRETARY: W. PARKINSON TREASURER: L. WILLIAMS

Learn to Play Bridge.

A series of 10 lessons at Gwent Bridge Academy Clayton Street Newport will begin on Tuesday October 15th starting at 7.00pm finishing 9.00pm.

It will be a fun and relaxed way to learn the fascinating game of bridge. Coffee & Biscuits available.

Cost £30.00 for the 10 lessons.

Please contact Bill Parkinson if you would like to attend.

01633 667844
william.parkinson@sky.com

Bridge Classes

Anyone interested in joining me on this Bridge beginners course, with the aim of setting up a Bridge Club in Llandeud village hall. We have an experienced Bridge player lined up and willing to guide us but only after we have mastered the basics.

Or alternatively, is there a Bridge player out there willing to take beginners classes at the village hall?

Phill Hurd

Local Honey for Sale



Hi everyone. Our bees have been busy this year and so we have plenty of local Welsh honey for sale, £5 per 8oz jar. I'm happy to deliver over the next week or so, or you can call into Hillside. Just let me know you're coming in case I'm going to be out 🐝🍯



Clare— Hillside, Pencoe Lane



Harvest Supper

This year a few Llanmartin residents joined Llan-devaud for their Harvest Supper. It began with a service in a packed church before a great buffet in the village hall. There was an Auction of produce and promises with all the proceeds going to the Tearfund charity to support a village in Africa. These included a trip up the Prince of Wales Bridge Towers, meals out, taxi to the airports etc. The evening concluded with folk singer Jeff Williams who lives in Parc Seymour and has a large following on the South coast.

Maintenance of 'The Patch '

Ahead of Bonfire Night preparations are in hand to cut the hedges, mow the grass and cut back some of the encroaching brambles. The fire has grown during the year and before it is lit preparations will be made to ensure all wild life has left.

Wales in Bloom

The Award Ceremony
Abergavenny.
September 13. 2024

The morning began with registration and an opportunity to split into groups to explore various aspects of Abergavenny and I soon realised there was a ton I didn't know about this iconic and beloved spot nestled right under Sugarloaf Mountain.

Many attendees took the tour of the town which was fascinating and so too were the visits to gardens in the city and the Abergavenny Hall with its giant fruit, veg and animals strung from the ceiling in readiness for the Abergavenny Food Festival.

Back at the Angel Hotel the brass band played to welcome guests and there was a welcome drink of Prosecco. Only two guests were allowed from each entry but the venue was bursting at the seams as guests took their seats. There was a considerable overflow in an adjoining room as well!



The Angel Hotel

There was Abergavenny honey for each guest and wine on the tables from the Sugarloaf Vineyard. A delicious lunch followed and then on to the main event - the awards in the form of certificates and a few converted plaques and one special silver cup. There were many happy faces as entrants learnt how they had done. There was a very large contingency in the neighbourhood awards and we received outstanding recognition- the top tier of awards.



It's Our Neighbourhood Award



Presentation of Gold Award
and Best Village

Next was the highlight for us - the announcement of the gold award in the small village category, along with the best village plaque, which truly felt like our crowning achievement.



Congratulations





Gold Award

A heartfelt Thanks goes out to all the residents for their interest and support; it truly was a deserving recognition for everyone involved. Special appreciation goes to the committee for their presentation at the Old Barn, and to Jacqui and Tony Ford for guiding the judge during her visit.

The presentation of our book 'This is my Garden' also played a pivotal part as it gave an insight into everyone's garden at different times of the year. If you have not seen it there is a link on the llanmartin-hamlet.co.uk website to a pdf copy.

After a second gold award it is now very much a challenge to see how we can make it three in a row. With everyone's help I am sure we can do it!

The Heritage Plaques of Abergavenny

Plaque 1

Abergavenny was once known for its soft and light flannel cloth. It was woven here in the town and surrounding villages. The remains of a loom were found in the roof of one of the buildings.

Plaque 2

St John's Church was taken over for the first King Henry the eighth grammar school established in 1542. It is said naughty boys were hauled to the ceiling in a basket as a punishment. In 1898 a new grammar school was built on Pen-y-pound and St John's became a Freemason's Lodge.

Plaque 3

Abergavenny was known for the manufacture of fashionable, very expensive, white periwigs. Wigs were popular from the 1500s onwards, partly because they could shave off your hair to keep you free of nits. In Abergavenny these were made from goat's hair bleached with a special recipe. Houses were built here in 1798 and when excavations were carried out, wig curlers were found.

Plaque 4

St John's Square site of the original Medieval marketplace. Traders and craftsman had their stalls here

Plaque 5

Tudor Gate or West Gate. The ceramic plaque is based on an old illustration. Abergavenny was a walled town with four gates.

Plaque 6

The car park near the Angel hotel was once the site of two Roman Barrack blocks which faced each other across the street. The settlement was known as Gobannium. A granary for wheat storage was found and pieces of window glass. Remains of metal working and pieces of harness suggest this was an auxiliary fort with cavalry.

Plaque 7

Images on the stones show scenes from the life of Lady and Lord Llanover. They promoted the Welsh way of life and Lord Llanover was a member of Parliament associated with Big Ben

Lady Llanover employed harpists and all her servants had to wear traditional Welsh costume. She helped to bring the Eisteddfod to Abergavenny and was known as the Gwent Bee. The river Gavenny here gives Abergavenny its name.

Plaque 8

Across the road from the Cibi Brook there is an old mill wheel and the water rushes underneath. Tan House is marked with a plaque and remains from when this area contained many smelly tanning pits for leather.

Giant Vegetable Competition Malvern Show

Ahead of the Malvern Show Ian Neale wrote that this was the first time he could remember having to shut the greenhouse doors during the day in September to keep the warmth in. Some of the plants had blankets to keep them warm. Normally a spring occurrence. Still he added 'That's what makes growing giant vegetables fun, no two seasons are the same.' We wish him every success.



Ahead of the competition

Apples

Many thanks Norbury for sharing your apples.



Penhow Village Shop

We were sad to see Castle Farm Shop at Bishton close its doors but fresh fruit and veg are delivered to the Penhow Village shop on a Friday. Place an order from the extensive list of produce by 5pm Wednesday using the order form and it will be ready for collection late Friday morning



The shop also stocks a selection of daily essentials as well as popular local artisan bread and bakery products, home-made preservers, locally produced meat, frozen fish and local dairy products, including glass bottled milk. They also sell newspapers and magazines for which regular orders and paper vouchers are accepted.

Open:- Mon-Fri: 9am-1pm & 3-5pm

- Sat: 9am-3pm << earlier closing for winter months

Bonfire Night The Old Hamlet of Llanmartin November 3rd 6.30 pm

Lower Pencoe Lane - opposite Gwentlands



Join us for Food, Fire,
Fun and Fireworks

All welcome
bucket collection

	10-9	8	7-6	5
C1 <u>Year Round Activity and Future Commitment</u>	Excellent evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning. The annual programme of activities is exceptional.	Very good evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning.	Good evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning.	Satisfactory evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning but some areas of improvement needed.
C2 <u>Communication, Education, and Awareness</u>	Excellent use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are extremely well evidenced.	Very good use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are very well evidenced.	Good use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are well evidenced. A few missed opportunities.	Satisfactory use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are evidenced but limited and there is room for improvement.
C3 <u>Support and Funding</u>	The range of groups and organisations engaged are an excellent representation of the wider community. Excellent levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is sustainable and outstanding.	The range of groups and organisations engaged are a very good representation of the wider community. Very good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is very good and will be sustainable over time.	The range of groups and organisations engaged are a good representation of the wider community. Good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is good and, with effort, will be sustainable over time.	The range of groups and organisations engaged are a satisfactory representation of the wider community. Satisfactory levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is satisfactory and fairly sustainable over time.



The Old Railway Wagon

Mark has suggested that we obtain some formal quotations to repair the railway wagon in the Patch and we will request a grant from the LCC. This would give us more valuable storage space.

In the meantime we are very grateful to Kaye and her husband for all the repairs they have made to date in order to keep it water tight

New Councillors elected to the Langstone Community Council

Sam George

Rob Lewis

Bernadette Newport

Iain Riley

Congratulations to the 4 new Langstone Ward Councillors announced by NCC. The uncontested election results means that there is no cost to Langstone Community Council and no need for co-option, as the Community Council is back to full strength.



Judge's Report from our successful entry for the 2024 Wales in Bloom competition.



Horticulture 33. accounts for 40%

Environment 26 accounts for 30%

Community 26. accounts for 30%

Total Score out of 100. 87

Medal Awarded **GOLD**

Name of Entry

Old Hamlet of Llanmartin

Judges

Sue– Marie Roberts

Date of Assessment

Saturday 17th July 2024

Introduction and Overall Impression:

What an absolute pleasure it was to visit the Old Hamlet of Llanmartin such an excellent community spirit and so welcoming as I visited gardens around the Hamlet.

What an excellent and very colourful display there was to be had at the Old Barn Inn and was such an excellent starting point for what was going to be a highly enjoyable visit throughout. It was clear from the very off that the additions of Tonys metalwork and artwork were going to be on display throughout the Hamlet.

Once again this year I am delighted to award the Village Category and GOLD award to the Old Hamlet of Llanmartin - well done.



Judges Feedback Section A – Horticulture: *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*

It was brilliant to hear how successful the beginners calendula seeds campaign had been and the competition that was heating up as to who could grow the tallest mongolian sunflower was very evidentially going to be a huge success again this year.

The seasonal floral displays of the green and throughout the Hamlet were packed with subtle pinks and grey shades and complemented the overall plantings at businesses and in lots of the private gardens and standards were very consistent throughout.

The permanent features for events such as the Christmas tree on the green is a great sustainable investment for an annual event.

The private gardens I visited contained rich horticultural treasures and all were well maintained and had a balance of permanent trees, shrubs and climbers. It was great to see that planting attracting pollinators in pretty most every garden in the Hamlet.

Such a gem was visiting Ian Neale's giant veg growing allotment and it is clear that his dedication has been a life long passion and a display of such skill and patience to still be trying experimental methods to get the very best from the vegetable was fascinating to see.

Judges Feedback Section B – Environment: *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*

It was great to see that the pond at the hillside and the plantings in its surroundings was buzzing with wildlife, insects and numerous breeds of duck.

Such a shame to hear that the castle that had previously been a busy hub for the community and due to financial issues that the bat project had now come to a halt with the loss of ownership.

Everywhere was so clean and litter free. Hats off to the volunteers and litter pickers.

Judges Feedback Section C – Community: *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*

Well what can I say it is clear that the community are the backbone of this Hamlet and it's clear the pride and respect its residents have for their village. The newsletters are a great way of keeping everyone connected and informing non participating residents of what the group are doing by highlighting the special events and fundraising and raising awareness to the community of what the Hamlet has to offer and I will be very interested to know who is the Champion Giant Mongolian sunflower grower of Llanmartin?

For me the "This is my garden " tops the dedication and enthusiasm the community have for their own gardens but also for their community greenspaces and its clear to see that Llanmartin has clear guardianship for its nature.

Keep up the excellent work! I look forward to visiting again soon.

	10-9	8	7-6	5
A1 Overall Impression	High impact with excellent attention to detail delivering the desired results in an appropriate and consistent manner.	Most areas are high impact with very good attention to detail although some inconsistencies.	Good overall impact although not always balanced. Some areas make an impact but others need to be more vibrant with better design.	Although generally satisfactory , more attention to detail is required in order to increase impact and improve consistency of design.
A2 Maintenance of Planted Areas	Excellent standards of cultivation. Very consistent throughout. Horticultural maintenance and general care is outstanding.	Standards are very good with few exceptions. Horticultural maintenance is managed consistently.	Standards of horticultural maintenance are good and fairly consistent. A few exceptions where further attention is required.	Standards are generally satisfactory . However, the horticultural maintenance programme requires further attention to detail in some areas.
A3 Plant Selection	Excellent plant selection with extensive year-round interest, and almost no exceptions.	Plant selection is very good overall with only a few exceptions and ample year-round interest.	Plant selection is generally good , but there is room for improvement in some areas in order to extend year-round interest.	Plant selection is generally satisfactory , however it requires further consideration in order to extend the season and maintain interest.

	10-9	8	7-6	5
A4 Plant Quality	Plant quality is excellent , plants are very healthy, vigorous and grown to their full potential.	Plant quality is very good , plants are mostly healthy and vigorous, with only a few exceptions.	Plant quality and health is generally good , but not always consistent. Lack of vigour in some areas.	Plant quality and health is generally satisfactory , but could be improved.
B1 Local Identity & Pride of Place	Extensive evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. An excellent impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in excellent condition.	Considerable evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A very good impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in very good condition.	Some evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A good impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in good condition.	Little evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A satisfactory impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in variable condition.
B2 Natural Environment	Is there an understanding of what biodiversity means locally? Have efforts been made to create, restore or maintain appropriate habitats to support wildlife? What has been done to assess the effectiveness of any interventions? E.g. through surveys. Is nature being considered in all activities, rather than just restricting wildlife-friendly practices to a specific project or area?	The natural environment is managed to an excellent standard supporting an extensive range of flora and fauna, with little improvement required. Extensive effort to assess the impact of interventions. Nature is considered across all activities.	The natural environment is managed to a very good standard across the whole entry, supporting a considerable range of flora and fauna. Considerable effort to assess the impact of interventions. Nature is considered across most activities. Very little effort would lift it to excellent.	The natural environment is managed to a good standard supporting a range of flora and fauna. Some effort to assess the impact of interventions. Nature is considered across some activities. Requires further work to improve it in places.
B3 Environmental Management	Excellent evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts. Extensive use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues. Taking measures to minimise the use of water. Where local environmental issues have been identified, have plants or greening solutions been considered, e.g. as rain gardens, green roofs/walls, or as barriers for pollution?	Very good evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts. Considerable use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.	Good evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts. Some use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.	Satisfactory evidence of effort to garden sustainably, conserve resource and minimise negative impacts. Little use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.

