

Spring 2023



NEWSLETTER

OLD HAMLET OF LLANMARTIN

llanmartin-hamlet.co.uk

Hamlet news

Wales in Bloom

Painswick & Rococo Gardens

Blacksmithing

Morbitorium

Tenovus Extravaganza

Produced for the Old Hamlet of Llanmartin Residents Association

Letter from the Chairman

This newsletter comes to you as we look forward to some better weather after what seems to have been a long winter.

We have welcomed several new residents to the Old Hamlet in the past year and have also welcomed some new members to our committee. New members are always welcome and will help the residents association to flourish. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please contact any of us.

Our association has historically been funded by subscriptions from residents and from grants from Langstone Community Council (LCC). The grants in recent years have come by way of an annual grant which, for many years, was £500. Last year the grant was reduced to £250 and this year we have been allocated £150. Whilst this smaller amount is welcome the reduction will put more pressure on our funds.

We charge residents just £20 per household per year and this will normally provide enough funds to cover our essential costs if all households contribute. Please make sure you pay your subscription if you are able to. Details of how to pay can be found in this newsletter.

We do not usually rely on fund raising at any of our events although voluntary contributions have always been welcome.

LCC have generally been supportive of our efforts to help the community over many years. About 10 years ago they loaned us a storage container to keep our possessions safe and dry. They have now decided that this facility needs to be paid for and have offered us the opportunity to purchase it. Unfortunately, we are not in a financial position where we are able to commit the amount of funds requested. Regrettably, therefore, we have agreed that they will remove the container some time after 1st April.

Fortunately we have been able to find a suitable alternative storage facility for the time being.

You will find information in the newsletter about an event we are arranging to celebrate the King's Coronation. This event will be held in the grounds of Pencoed Castle thanks to the hospitality of the owner, Simon Wright. This event will be open to family and friends of the Old Hamlet of Llanmartin. Please do try and join us if you are able to.

We look forward to seeing you then and over the spring and summer months.

Finally, a big thank you to Richard Rayment who has recently stepped down as secretary of our association. Richard has been secretary for many years and has sat on the committee since the association was formed over 20 years ago. He has been an integral part of all that we do. We know that he will still play a big part in the community and has pledged his support when needed. We also thank his wife Susan who has supported Richard and the committee as a member.

Mark Robotham

Llanmartin Community Page

Great news. One of our Committee, Andrew Stead, has kindly set up a Facebook page for the Hamlet so that we can all keep up to date. It is the place to interact and we hope that you will sign up to become a member.

Old Hamlet website

llanmartin-hamlet.co.uk

Details of the Association can be found on our web site: llanmartin-hamlet.co.uk. It is the place to read the latest news, event details and items such as the minutes of the last AGM

Upcoming Events

Langstone Community
EVENTS



DON'T MISS IT!
Spring Table Sale

**LANGSTONE VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 25TH MARCH
11AM - 1PM
FREE ENTRY!**

COME ALONG AND SUPPORT
LOCAL BUSINESSES AND FUND-
RAISERS!

FABRICS, ESSENTIAL OILS,
SECOND-HAND BRIC-A-BRAC,
CRAFTS, GIFTS, HONEY, KIDS'
CLOTHES, PET ITEMS, POP-UP
CAFE AND MUCH MORE!

The Big Picnic



Following the coronation of King Charles on May 6 the Old Hamlet will be holding a big picnic with Pen-coed Castle as a backdrop on Sunday, May 7, Details are to follow, but already on the cards is the return of the Mobile bar and the Tenovus choir. Other activities are also being planned to join the mix so be sure to save the date

Join us every last Friday in the month beginning on March 31st



Coffee Mornings



Pencoed Cottage Pencoed Lane




Welsh Variety Extravaganza



Over 400 members of the Tenovus choirs flanked the centre and side seats above the main stage at St David's Hall in Cardiff as they celebrated the eightieth anniversary of their foundation. Sarah Forbes-Warren and Caroline Woods from the hamlet amongst them.



Sarah and Caroline



Excited and full of anticipation their infectious spirit transferred to the audience who filled every available seat. The program was packed and Princess Anne began the night with an introduction to Tenovus of whom she is patron.

Tenovus was founded by 10 Cardiff businessmen in 1943. Hence the name which derives from 'Ten of Us and throughout 8 decades they have continued to embrace a sense of community support.

Through singing the choirs support those affected by cancer and today they provide informal and

uplifting assistance. Through friendship and fun they strive to help family and friends wherever their cancer journey takes them

The evening was hosted by Amy Dowden and Roy Woodward, Amy was born in Caerphilly and is the first Welsh professional dancer in Strictly history.

Roy is a stand up comedian who has gone from strength to strength with Welsh audiences



The Debbie Chapman Dancers who opened the show in an energetic performance



Victoria Scone. - the first person assigned female at birth to compete on drag race, UK and now a well known entity throughout the country



Amy Wadge. Grammy award, winner, and one of the U.K.'s most prolific, contemporary songwriters. Eurovision's Spaceman one of her latest hits





Sophie Evans who grew up in Tonypany and was runner up in Andrew Lloyd Webbers search for Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz. Now she is a well known TV personality in her own right and a West End super star.



Dafydd Iwan- a singer song writer who lives near Caernarfon. His song, 'Yma o Hyd' being the Welsh football teams official song in the World Cup in Qatar



Only Men Aloud. A Brit award winning group who have now been performing for over 20 years and delighting audiences worldwide



Amy Dowden and partner performing a dance from Strictly come Dancing

Images by John Myers who was present on behalf of Reach Media. Another connection with our tiny Hamlet. Currently he has been nominated for the UK press photographer of the year award. and since 2019 he has held the title of Welsh photographer of the year.

Pavements



I have asked Will Routley, on Langstone Ward Matters, to report the pavements on Magor Road, again. In March 2022 we were informed that they were on the list of works for 2022-23. The pavements were first reported in 2015 and added to the 'list'. I have reported them annually since that time - we live in hope!!!
Jacqui



Wales in Bloom

Residents will be pleased to learn that we are again to enter the Wales in bloom competition. So many plans were placed on hold during the pandemic but now with new determination we are planning to forge ahead



Want to Know what the Wales in Bloom embodies?

All your answers can be found here

Villages and towns across the country are getting ready for the annual festival of all things floral – in a bid to impress the judges of this year's Wales in Bloom contests.

The judges of the Wales in Bloom competition are set to have a very busy summer. They will travel to the corners of the country and back in a bid to find the deserved winners of this prestigious competition and highly desired prize. In a range of different categories, from tiny village to urban sprawl, as well as smaller categories for small businesses such as caravan parks and hotels.

A floral history

Wales in Bloom is a regional event that falls under the national Britain in Bloom contest, organised each year by the Royal Horticultural Society and designed to encourage community spirit and pride in local areas.

The competition began in the 1960's, after Roy Hay, a renowned horticultural author and journalist, visited France on a summer holiday. He found that the streets, public gardens,

towns and villages were beautifully decorated with flowers, shrubs and trees as part of the Fleurissement de France; an initiative to cheer up and enliven the whole country.

Roy Hay was captivated by the idea and suggested it to the British Tourist Authority, and so the Britain in Bloom awards were born.

Today, the competition is one of the largest horticultural campaigns in Europe, with over a thousand communities across the UK participating and it is thought that up to 9,000 people across the country get involved and volunteer for their local action groups.

Growing communities, not just flowers

Horticulture and gardening have always been at the heart of the Wales in Bloom principles, but today judging goes well beyond pretty hanging baskets on the high street. Participants are asked to consider the values of "Environmental Responsibility" and "Community Participation", as well as "Horticultural Achievement", so that the awards embrace many different aspects of modern living.

Communities that enter the competition also tackle such issues as litter, graffiti, anti-social behaviour, conservation and sustainability. Many organising committees also work with local groups such as youth clubs, community service groups and charities that help adults with learning difficulties or mental health illnesses. The idea of the competition is to have a real positive impact on residents' sense of pride about their neighbourhood, as well as community spirit, acceptance and integration.

It's this sense of community spirit and neighbourly goodwill that is one of the most important philosophies in the Wales in Bloom criteria, which in turn fosters civic pride and a pleasant community, not to mention a draw for tourists.

Brighten the Budget

In times of recession and government cut-backs, community initiatives like Wales in Bloom are often overlooked and deemed as non-essential spending, but perhaps initiatives like Wales in Bloom are even more important at times of economic hardship, and that the contributions by committee members and the volunteers are invaluable when council funds are squeezed.

And it would appear that many communities across the UK agree. Participation in the Britain in Bloom awards have increased by over 40% in the last three years, as local groups join together to make the best of their area. It seems that a gloomy national bank balance doesn't have to mean gloomy town parks.

Making a statement

Residents are to be asked if they would like to recycle a container with seeds provided by the Residents Association. Carol Joynson is our Wales in Bloom coordinator, and she has suggested that it would be a good idea to choose Calendula. Our recycled containers could be placed either at front doors or at the approach to residents property. It would help to give us some cohesion and provide us with a project to assist our Wales in Bloom involvement



Springtime bulbs



Each year, the hamlet benefits from bulbs which are planted to enhance our environment. Our latest addition has been crocuses and they have made a great display this year. These have joined the daffodils, snowdrops and tulips that have been planted in other years along the entire lane and on the hamlet green and top triangle. We also have many bluebells celandines and other wildflowers in the mix, many of which are starting to sprout

Giant Vegetables



A winning entry

Ian Neal is well known for his growing of giant vegetables and his entries in the Guinness book of records so we are pleased to report that he will continue to exhibit during 2023

He writes

'Thanks to the Malvern show for helping me achieve this. I thought this would be my last season growing giant vegetables but I have decided to keep on going. Wishing all the giant vegetable growers a great season in 2023. Looking forward to seeing you all at Malvern 2023.'

In the past Ian has been delighted to see residents who are interested in visiting his greenhouses to see his endeavours. If you are interested in asking him if we can bring a group to visit him let us know.

Image request

We make up a port folio to show the Wales in Bloom judges the hamlet throughout the seasons so please share your pictures on the Facebook page. At the moment the bulbs are particularly vibrant so we would love to see what you have in your garden or near you. As you will see Wales in Bloom covers much more than the floral attributes of the hamlet so all your pictures are welcome

Painswick & Rococo Gardens 2023



The middle of February has come around again.

Each year at this time, I look forward to two events; the first being my elder daughter's birthday, and the second, a much anticipated visit to the Rococo Gardens at Painswick in Gloucestershire.

The gardens are an absolute joy. As far as you can see there are swathes of snowdrops, single ones, double and triple ones; a delicate white carpet, growing around trees, a brook, paths, and the lake, where ducks and ducklings live and swim.. Amongst the snowdrops, are hellebores of various colours, dark pink cyclamen, primrose leaves with buds in their middles (waiting for their time to flower) and, amongst the spiky leaves of the daffodils, are buds just starting to colour up. They flower that bit later than the snowdrops.

Once inside the gardens, there are clean toilet facilities and a small independent garden centre selling shrubs and seasonal species of many plants. The owner of the garden centre is very friendly, and a mine of information. The shrubs and plants on sale are reasonably priced and very healthy. There are numerous small, beautiful buildings spread around the gardens, and there are seats for people to take a rest and to take in the scenery. Vegetable and fruit gardens can also be found, with lots of information about the items that are grown there. Small gifts and cards can

be purchased from the entrance, and teas, coffees and snacks can be purchased and consumed in an enormous tepee, where there are plenty of tables and chairs available.

Roll on next February when we can visit the snowdrops again. What a joy! To find out more, telephone 01452 813204 or go to rococogarden.org.uk Sue Rayment



The life of a Blacksmith

We are all aware of Tony Ford's ironwork at Oakdale but we have another Blacksmith at work in the hamlet and we thought you might like to know something about him and what he does.

About Soulful Iron /



After months of searching for a suitable workshop Mike is pleased to announce that Simon at Pencoed castle is providing a barn space for his workshop/forge.

Mike Gracia

I'm an artist blacksmith based in Wales (just over the bridge from Bristol). I trained in Blacksmithing at the National Blacksmithing College in Hereford in the late 1990's and after a long break from Blacksmithing, have now returned to the craft.

I call my business 'Soulful Iron' as I believe every piece a Blacksmith creates by hand has an element of their soul that they put into their work.

I use traditional blacksmithing techniques to create both works of art and functional products, be that candlesticks or fireside pokers, ornate forged steel bowls or pattern-welded knives (often called Damascus knives).

Check my gallery or visit my small online shop to discover my past & current pieces.

Commission work also undertaken.



soulfuliron.co.uk



Bee Friendly Shelters

Some New Bee friendly Bus shelters are coming to the Bishton & Langstone Ward later this month as part of this years shelter replacement programme,

The shelter will have a sedum living roof together with solar powered internal lighting and a "perch type" seating arrangement.

One of the three new shelters will be on the A48 the other two in Underwood (Waltwood Road).

Ray Mogford

Shout Out

The Big Lunch for the Kings Coronation is destined to be a memorable event with plenty of activity but if you know anyone who would like to set up a stall or perform on the occasion do get in touch. Contact any committee member or email janet.myers3@sky.com.

Mike Gracia has also been instrumental in getting the Old Hamlets contributions to the Newport Food Bank

Many Thanks



The committee were sad to hear that Richard Rayment was standing down as Secretary of the Old Hamlet Residents Association and Sue as a committee member

Taking on so much over the last 20 years their input will be sadly missed. However it does not mean that they will no longer be involved in the community. Quite the contrary and Richard will still be seen keeping our Hamlet Green in tip top condition. It does mean however that the committee is in need of a secretary and if you feel you could be of assistance do get in touch

Richard,

As Clerk to the Community Council, can I thank you on behalf of the Community Council for all your time and involvement with the local resident's group, and all the work you have contributed to over the years including last years Jubilee events.

Adrian Edwards

For a weekly snapshot of your local city councillors activity
Bishton&Langstone Ward Cllrs and
Langstone Ward Matters

Subscription Renewal

With our grant from the LCC reduced to just £150 this year we will need some creative finance to maintain all of the things we do

For all those who wish to join the Residents Association your £20 per household contribution is therefore critical and if you need to join or renew please either pay by cash to the Treasurer - Jacqui Ford at Oakdale Cottage, Magor Road, Llanmartin

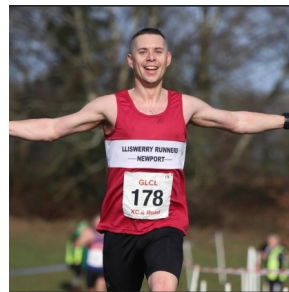
Opposite the junction to Underwood

Or by cheque or bank transfer –Barclays Bank

Account Name: Old Hamlet of Llanmartin Residents Association

Account Number: 73926435

Sort Code: 20-18-17



Seville Marathon

Jaron Lloyd (an ex resident) continues with his passion for running Those who know him will be pleased to learn that he has just completed the Seville Marathon in Spain



On the cards for next year



How about a day trip to Keukenhof in Holland to see the tulips? They are awesome and with an early start I have proved that it is possible and the cost is not too high. Let us know if you are interested

Litter Pickers



We have a great team of Litter pickers keeping our Hamlet clean and tidy. Richard and Sue Rayment, John Harper and of course (modestly) myself. Plus an excellent team that do Langstone.

I have litter picked today but I draw the line at jumping into the stream on Waltwood Road to pick up the drawers, toys, electric fan etc etc that someone has kindly left. I will contact NCC.

Jacqui

Morbitorium

For those craving some where different to visit not far from home a visit here might be a revelation.



Housed in a cottage attached to the home of its owner the Morbitorium is a museum of curiosities that exhibits oddities covering folklore, medical antiques, witchcraft, taxidermy and the occult. It's a must visit for anyone with an interest in the unusual things in life.

It is a one of a kind place but for those who are fascinated by 'Ripley's Believe It or Not' this is one for you. It is where the unbelievable comes alive right before your eyes! It is a place which fuels our decades-long obsession with horror, the occult, supernatural and the macabre

In the museum gift shop you will find tarot cards, incense, art, taxidermy, witchcraft supplies, homewares, exclusive t-shirt designs, ouija boards and more. If interested you can even sign up for a class in taxidermy or witch craft!

Lo-



Halse Garden Centre

The buildings before demolition



The owners of a 115-year-old garden centre have had to shut half of the buildings on their site after the council told them they hadn't asked for permission to build them. Anthony and Nicola Halse, who own Sunnyside Nurseries in Langstone in Newport, spent two years trying to win approval for the three colourful cabins on their site which they constructed after being told they didn't need planning approval.



Anthony and Nicola Halse

The Old Hamlet were sad to see the buildings go at the local garden centre. They were a welcome addition and will be missed. Over the years the garden centre has been instrumental in help and advice and we are sorry to hear that the battle has been lost.

Welcome to new committee members
Sharon Keiller, Kristy Thomas
Sarah and Andrew Stead



Heron

Tony Ford has previously mentioned the possibility of replacing the Heron on the Hamlet Green which has been refurbished twice so far. But at the last committee meeting it was unanimously agreed that Tony be asked to continue refurbishing the Heron for as long as he can as it is a much-loved feature of village life.



The Hamlet gathers for its unveiling

Bonfire Night

Bonfire night this year will not be in the usual location but at the castle where it will have less effect on animals. As a result the building of a bonfire throughout the year in the field opposite Gwentlands is redundant and you are requested not to build a fire there. It has also become a home to rabbits and other wildlife therefore lighting it has become a problem. Walking dogs and using the herb planters however is encouraged.

published and printed by Janet Myers
janet.myers3@sky.com