

Autumn 2023



# NEWSLETTER

## OLD HAMLET OF LLANMARTIN

llanmartin-hamlet.co.uk



Village Pub and Restaurant



Produced for the Old Hamlet of Llanmartin Residents Association

## GOLD AWARD

So excited to announce that the Old Hamlet of Llanmartin won a gold certificate at Wales in Bloom. Well done to the Wales in Bloom team and to all the residents who worked so hard. We even got a special plaque!

We also won the top award with top marks in the Community Section



Jacqui Ford accepting the GOLD certificate on behalf of the Association



If you would like to see a copy of the Wales in Bloom Book or would like a 'wetransfer' link to read a pdf copy on line -email [janet.myers3@sky.com](mailto:janet.myers3@sky.com)

Following the win the hamlet was featured on Wales on line with the heading ....

## How a tiny hamlet with just 50 houses won a prestigious award after 15 years of trying

The Llanmartin residents say their success is down to community spirit, hard work, and some unusual quirks



Having been one of the Wales in Bloom team who showed the judges around and being the one who accepted the award on behalf of the residents Jacqui Ford was interviewed by their journalist and photographer. She wrote on the what's app group.....

*Started at the Old Barn with coffee. Spent some time explaining how we set up the Committee, how we interact with the Village as a whole and how we set out with our Wales in Bloom journey. A lot of emphasis on how we approach it and how we felt actually finally winning it. Spent some time at Ian Neale's and then back to ours. We stayed at ours and photographer was to continue on up the lane and finish at Jan's.*

The article begins... "For 15 years we've been the bridesmaid," Jacqui Ford smiles as we look outside at the impressive rows of flowers adorning the Old Barn Inn. Visible from where we are sat sipping a coffee it's an unexpected sight from Magor Road, a busy thoroughfare where many might drive past without noticing the floral display at all.

The village of Llanmartin, just outside Newport, is used to this. A tiny hamlet with about 50 houses and a few hundred residents, it's not laid out in the most traditional way with the houses scattered among green fields and separated by the road rather than neatly bunched together. ....**Go on line to read the full lengthy article on Wales on line. There is also a video for you to see.**



## Celebration party / AGM

It is only fitting that the hamlet celebrates its gold award with a celebration so this years AGM will take the form of a cheese and wine evening, with just a brief inclusion of AGM related items.

Jacqui is stepping down as secretary, having taken on the job as a stopgap when Richard had to resign. She is already treasurer and does a sterling job and we are indebted to her for all she does if you think that you could fill this position, become a member of the committee or even take on one of the rolls as an officer please contact us before the meeting. Your contribution would be welcomed



Friday, October 13

## Festival Of The Dead at Cardiff Great Hall!

Europe's biggest touring Halloween show! A high octane mash up of circus, clubbing and carnival set to a blazing soundtrack

## What's on



### Cheese and wine / AGM

Wednesday, October - 11  
Llandevaud Hall 7 pm.

### Bonfire Night

Sunday, November 5 at 6.30 pm.



## Pencoed Castle

food, fun, fireworks and balloons  
free parking, bucket collection



### Carols in the Barn

Sunday December 17th  
Gwentlands Pencoed Lane 6.pm.



# WALES IN BLOOM



## Standard Marking Sheet - Category Village

**Horticulture** 33. accounts for 40%

**Environment** 26 accounts for 30%

**Community** 26. accounts for 30%

**Total Score out of 100.** 85

**Medal Awarded** GOLD

### Name of Entry

Old Hamlet of Llanmartin

### Judges

John Woods

### Date of Assessment

Saturday 15th July

### Introduction and Overall Impression:

It was a great pleasure to return as a judge to Llanmartin after a break of several years. The excellent community spirit to be found in your village shone through wherever we went during my visit. I was pleased to see a number of new features including the Crazy Cavan Memorial Garden located at the Old Barn Inn, and it was a real treat to visit Ian Neale and witness the giant vegetables being lovingly cared for prior to the start of the giant vegetables show season... And what a pleasure it was to see Tony Ford's creative work throughout the hamlet. The public art really did add strength to your entry.

Once again this year the Wales in Bloom Village category has been hotly contested, and I am delighted to award both a GOLD Award and the Wales in Bloom 2023 Village Category winner to Old Hamlet of Llanmartin. Very well done! Longyfarchiadau lu!

### Judges Feedback Section A –

#### Horticulture:

The seasonal floral displays seen throughout the Hamlet be that on the Hamlet Green, with the businesses, or in the many private gardens, were consistently good. Likewise the permanent tree, shrub, climbers, herbaceous plantings, including those that are attractive to pollinators were both appropriate and well maintained. The private gardens throughout the hamlet contain a rich horticultural treasure trove offering both flower and foliage interest throughout the year. Oakdale Cottage, Woodbury, and Pencoed View with the Bottle Brush were amongst the ones that I noted. It was also good to see in your portfolio the pictures of the spring bulbs and wild flowers to be seen flowering early in the year throughout the hamlet.

The maintenance of the Hamlet Green was very good.

It was a real pleasure to visit Ian Neale's Giant Veg and witness his enthusiasm and skill.

Whilst the Old Barn seasonal floral displays and permanent plantings were generally good, there were brambles present in one part of the big Hydrangea bed fronting the road. They can easily be removed, but it does highlight the need to take a minute and look carefully at permanent plantings in order to spot weeds hiding within the bone fide plantings.

Whilst I don't doubt that a planning consent condition applied, I was very impressed by both the plant choices and maintenance of the landscaping at the new private crematorium. Well done the proprietors.

### Judges Feedback Section B – Environment:

The addition of the pond and surrounding plantings at Hillside provide a whole range of additional habitats in what is already a really nice rural setting. It was good to hear about the experiences gained in both establishing the pond and creating the range of habitats. And the bees are another worthy addition too!

It was also good to hear about the bat project at Pencoed Castle.

The sensitive maintenance and ongoing research of the Bethal Chapel Burial Ground is to be commended.

As mentioned above the street art including the Crazy Cavan Memorial Garden created by Tony Ford has added another dimension to the character of your village. Very well done!

Cleanliness was evident throughout the judging tour due no doubt to your volunteer litter pickers. Well done again!

### Judges Feedback Section C – Community:

The number and variety of community activities taking place throughout the year is to be commended. Well done!

The 'Absolute beginners' Calendula Project' was an excellent idea to introduce non-gardeners to the joy of growing things. And an excellent plant choice too offering guaranteed success!

And what a publication the Old Hamlet of Llanmartin quarterly newsletter is with a Wales in Bloom item in it every time! Excellent.

Likewise with your Wales in Bloom 2023 Newsletter giving details of your project to recreate a wildflower rich area in 'The Patch'.

And although it exceeded the 30 sides of A4 it has to be said that the portfolio produced and published using the Blurb template was absolutely superb! Well done the editor and all those who contributed!

To achieve bronze. Score required 50-59

To achieve silver. Score required 60-74

To achieve silver gilt. Score required 75-84

To achieve gold . Score required 85-100

## NO RESTING ON OUR LAURELS

Although we received a GOLD certificate it was by one point only so there must be no resting on our laurels if we are to achieve gold again next year. It must be upwards and onwards and the Wales in Bloom sub committee will be meeting shortly to discuss ongoing projects.

The following observations re marking will help you further understand the criteria which play an important part ...

### A1 Overall Impression

Are the overall design and materials used within the entry appropriate to the location and do they generate a positive image?

### A2 Maintenance of Planted Areas

Are areas maintained to an appropriate standard including cultivation, weeding, feeding, pruning, grass maintenance, tree management and maintenance?

### A1 Plant Selection of

Are the plants used in the planting schemes suited to their growing conditions and location and is there year round interest (where appropriate)?

### A2 Plant Quality

Are the plants vibrant and create

High impact with excellent attention to detail delivering the desired results in a most consistent and appropriate manner.

Excellent standards of cultivation. Very consistent throughout. Horticultural maintenance and general care is outstanding



Ian with his vegetables



Calendula project



Tony with planted BBQ



## Party in the Patch

On Sunday July 9th neighbours joined together on the Patch in Pencoeed Lane to enjoy lunch and a fun filled afternoon with plenty of activity. There was a treasure Hunt, quots, welly wanging, splat the rat and giant Jenga. The children were also delighted when riders out for a hack called in.

There was so much scrumptious food brought by everyone to share but the orange trifle and the gin and tonic cake were firm favourites and mid afternoon Pam offered everyone tea which was most welcome

The sun shone until the last half hour when a thunderstorm broke but with the marquee erected everyone was able to take shelter, enjoy a second helping of food and listen to see if they had won the raffle.

As it subsided folk were then able to get the chairs and tables stowed away before they left declaring the afternoon a great success and looking forward to the next time.



Wellie wanging





## Magor and Undy Community Hub

This is now open and only a few miles from the hamlet. There are activities to suit all ages and every possible interest. It was built at a cost of £2.9 million. It is a modern building, which consists of a main hall, a smaller hall, meeting rooms, kitchen and foyer area where refreshments are available.

**Take a look at what is on offer  
You will be amazed**

## A NEW BOOK FOR 2024

With all our gardens strung out of sight along Pen-coed Lane and the Magor Road it is difficult to appreciate all the plants and wildlife that lie beyond our front gates. So to enlighten all we intend to produce a book next year entitled

### This is my garden

In it we hope residents will introduce themselves and include elements that will be of interest to others and perhaps highlight why they love their garden and how it took on its current character. Lets fill it with photos of ourselves, our plants, flowers, vegetables and the wild life that also call it home.

Feel free to write a contribution at any time during the next 9 months and I will collate it into a book. Text ( or just a collection of jottings ) together with photos can be emailed to me at [janet.myers3@sky.com](mailto:janet.myers3@sky.com).

#### Include

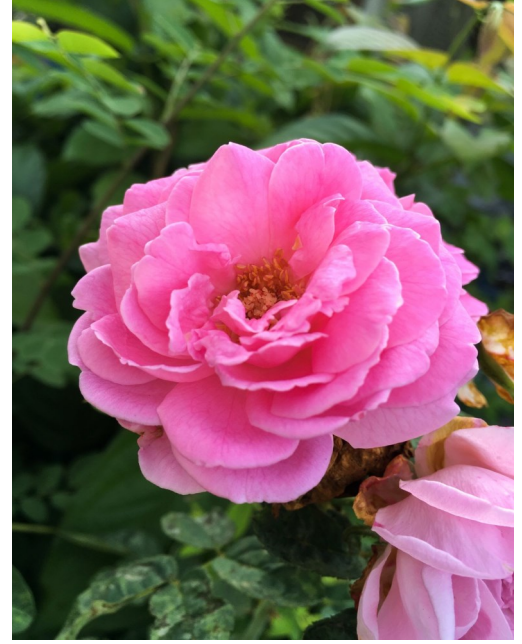
- \* Your house name
- \* Names of those who live there
- \* Something about your family, including your pets
- \* Garden highlights, plants and wild life and all those things that give it personality- even those weeds. After all the bees, bugs and birds love them.
- \* Remember those vegetables and fruits as well and the toad that might live in your pond or the hedgehog that comes out on the lawn when dusk falls.
- \* Some houses and their gardens are full of history. For instance did you know one even has gravestones and connections with Charles Wesley and one was a forge !Many have bats and even stranger ghostly residents!!

It should make a great read and let residents learn more about their neighbours and the wider community It will also give the Wales in Bloom judge next year an insight into all those things he wanted to know existed beyond each gate but time did not permit!

Continued on page 11

**Events @ Langstone**  
**Kirsten Orsborn**  
**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**  
**Saturday 14th October**  
**7pm til 10pm**  
**at Langstone Village Hall**  
**Doors open 6.45pm**  
**£6 per ticket**  
**For tickets contact**  
**Jacqui 07522 859372 or**  
**Heather 07794 456023**  
**Bring your own drinks and nibbles!**  
Raffle & Bingo

## For the love of roses



Many of us have roses in our garden, but I wonder if we have ever stopped to consider their place in history. Cleopatra was famous for having her boudoir filled with mounds of rose petals. The liveries of the houses of York and Lancaster, were represented by white and red roses respectively, and the civil war that broke out between these two houses between 1455 and 1485 was later termed the Wars of the Roses.

However the first evidence of blossoming roses comes from a period 40-35 million years ago and the oldest known fossil was discovered in Colorado, USA. Fossils have also been found in other countries including the Balkans and I wonder if gardeners know about the rose valley in Bulgaria which extends for about 87 miles across a stretch between the Balkan mountain ranges which prevent the cold winter winds from damaging the plants and provides a unique climate.

I discovered it many years ago when we had a house in the neighbouring

region. Every May and June the area is breath taking as it becomes dressed in the most beautiful hues of every shade of pink as the Damask roses bloom. Under the Communists the region became well known for making pistols, ammunition, and automatic weapons but now the region is famous once more as one of the world's biggest sources of rose oil. It is often referred to as "liquid gold." as it takes more than 3,180 pounds of roses to produce just one pound of rose oil. Hence its hefty price tag.

The Bulgarians love their national costume and folk history and need no persuasion to dress up and dance at every opportunity. There are national costumes for men and woman and they are bright and colourful. Black, red, pink, white and yellow being the dominant colours. They also have many folk dance competitions. Several times a week our neighbour would don her costume and go to practice dance routines in the local hall. She was an excellent

dancer with many awards. It is not therefore surprising that she would take part in the near by Rose celebrations.

It is the woman's task to pick the flowers as they are considered to have the most nimble fingers. They start very early, often at about 4 am as the perfume of the roses is strongest at this time of day. The woman who picks the first flower puts it behind her ear as a decoration. By 10 am with their baskets brimming with blossom they stop for the day. In the afternoon the roses will have lost about half of their oil content.

The rose fields extend throughout many towns and villages and all have concerts, workshops, expos, parades and other activities with the coronation of a Rose Queen being the culmination.

Likewise, there are many flowers in our gardens which have links to other parts of the world. If you should be wondering where you should next take your holiday, why not pick a flower in your garden and find somewhere in the world where it plays a part





Take for instance lavender. There are many places even in the UK, where you can enjoy fields filled with lavender or just a short journey via the channel tunnel will bring you to Provence with its rolling countryside dotted with fields of purple. After all they say lavender is ancient, venerable and magical.

If you love tulips, why not consider Holland and the gardens of Keukenhof or if you love roses why not Bulgaria ( see 'For the love of Roses )

You will be surprised at the inspiration, you can get from your garden and the interesting places that you never even knew existed before you began your research.

Happy holidays!

## Murder trial tonight

Courtroom thriller, based on a true story



In August 12 people in the hamlet visited the Mercure Hotel in Cardiff to what was deemed 'a murder trial' It was set in a courtroom where we were the jury who first witnessed a real life murder on a screen followed by a murder trial portrayed by actors. It was based on a true story, and at the end we were asked to vote guilty or not guilty.

The result was resounding in favour of not guilty.

The actual facts were then shown on screen. Alex Jones was found guilty and imprisoned for 15 years before the true murderer came forward We were mortified and left wondering how often miscarriages of justice happen like this!

The event was made even more enjoyable by Prosecco and nibbles at Kristy's before we left and a meal afterwards. It was a great outing and we look forward to many more

## AUTUMN FRUIT COBBLER



This warming pudding is perfect comfort food for when the nights start to draw in

### INGREDIENTS

2 apples (peeled, cored and chopped)

2 pears (peeled, cored and chopped)

4 plumbs (stoned and chopped)

150g blueberries

150g light brown sugar

45ml apple juice

### FOR THE COBBLER TOPPING:

200g plain flour

45g golden caster sugar

1 1/2tsp baking powder

1tsp bicarbonate of soda

50g butter

115ml milk.

35g walnuts (roughly chopped)

1tsp mixed spice

1tsp ground cinnamon

3tbsp light brown sugar

Place fruit in a dish

Mix crumble ingredients and place on top

Bake till golden brown in oven at 180

## Ford Bash



*The party gets underway*

**M**any residents in the lane were invited to a Ford Bash at Oakdale to celebrate some special celebrations by family members. A great band entertained, the wine flowed and the buffet was awesome. How Tony and Jacqui managed to pull off such an event after experiencing gale force winds as they struggled to put up the marquee and gazebos is a credit to them both for we had a memorable time. Thanks for your hospitality.



*The band*



*Plenty of great food*

For a weekly snapshot of your local city councillors activity

Bishton&Langstone Ward Cllrs and

Langstone Ward Matters

## Some Rugby Facts and Figures

*With Wales doing so well in the Rugby World Cup this seems apt at the moment*

Rugby union is most popular in New Zealand, South Africa and Wales where it is not only the national sport but part of the nations, history, culture and tradition. However, rugby union is played across every continent and boasts over 2.3 million registered players, 405 million fans and 120 member nations.

### Wales

The Welsh in particular have a feverish nature to their love of rugby. They have produced some of the most talented players to ever play the game, such as Gareth Edwards, Barry John, Phil Bennet and JPR Williams to name but a few.

Wales always compete well, despite a significantly smaller playing pool than their English counterparts and they relish the challenge of playing against so called 'bigger' nations.

In actuality Wales should rarely be considered the underdogs given that they have achieved 40 overall 5/6 nations titles which is as many as any other nation.

### Rugby Players

The average size of a professional rugby player in Europe is 102kg in weight and 1.87 meters in height. The average size of a forward is 112.55kg and 1.90m and the average size of a back is 1.83m in height and 91.7kg in weight.

### Autumn International Tickets (Still Available)

We partner with [liverugbytickets.com](http://liverugbytickets.com) to bring you a fantastic selection of rugby tickets for the biggest games in town. I personally use their service as it is difficult to get international rugby tickets through my club, and the site is secure, reliable and user friendly. We do earn a small commission from qualifying purchases although this does not effect the price you pay

.Written by Tim Jamesin Tickets

## A wealth of local activity for all ages.

New residents and those looking for local clubs, societies and activities are directed to explore what is on at all that these busy hubs:

- Llandevaud Hall
- Langstone Hall
- Penhow Hall
- New community hub at Magor/Undy

You will be amazed at what is on your doorstep. Activities are far reaching and offer so much more than nurseries for tiny tots and coffee mornings for seniors! You will be amazed at what is on offer. Why not take a look.

Those who are alone and would like company, use the old hamlet what's app to see if there is someone else who would like to go with you.

To join the group just ask any committee member. Alternatively use the community Facebook group set up by Andrew?



## Newport Food Festival

This year, we want to make the Food Festival bigger and better with a weekend of food celebrations in Newport.

**Friday 13 October: Food Festival supper**

**Saturday 14 October: Food market & chef demonstrations**

**Sunday 15 October: Street food and live music**

There will also be entertainment for all the family including street entertainers and workshops which will be located at The Place, Bridge Street.

Entry to the Festival on the Saturday and Sunday is free, while the Festival Supper event on the Friday will be ticketed.

## Newport City Dogs Home wins two RSPCA gold awards



In September 2023 Newport City Dogs Home won gold in two categories at the 2023 RSPCA Cymru PawPrint Awards for their work with stray dogs



## Harvest Service

**Sunday October 8th at 11am at St Martin's Church**

Everyone is welcome.

Donations of dried or tinned foods for the work of the Salvation Army in Newport can be brought to the service.

Rev Hilary Prest

Netherwent Ministry Area

01633 412803

# Newport Pride

In September Newport held an event for Pride. Sarah Forbes-Warren and Carole Woods sang with the Tenovus Choir



**Pontnewydd Male Voice Choir  
Tenovus Sing with Us Choir  
present**

## **An Evening of Song**

in aid of Tenovus cancer care

**St Gabriel's Church 7PM**  
Clomendy Rd, Cwmbran, NP44 3LR

Advance tickets £8 email [cwmbranfot@gmail.com](mailto:cwmbranfot@gmail.com)  
Tickets on the door £10

Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
Give hope. Help cope.

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Supporting **tenovus** cancer care

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