



VIEW OVER THE FIELDGATE

I am grumpy. Yes, cheeky chappie Fieldgate has her grumpy head on. Two days ago I finished the magazine ... including the editorial ... went to print it all off and the document had corrupted. I could hear the sharp intake of breath of sympathy from those of you who work with computers. To translate to those unfamiliar with computers – it was bad, really bad news and I HAD TO START IT ALL AGAIN! Sorry, bit of grump slipped out then. The OHMMM of yogic practises of calming meditation can be heard coming from Fieldgate Towers. You can just hear it above the gnashing of the Fieldgate’s teeth!

It’s interesting how other parts of Wales celebrated Harvest in days of old. Two harvests – hay and corn – were treated quite differently and it shows the importance of the harvest. The hay harvest lunch was given to the labourers in the field under the shade of a tree and consisted of a gruel which had gelled and then added to cold milk or beer and some potatoes or bread and butter. The corn harvest was more important and this is reflected in the meal of roast meat, vegetables and a baked milk pudding.

It wasn’t all work in the fields though! In these other parts, any unsuspecting person who entered the harvest field during reaping time would be pounced upon by the opposite sex and thrown on the hay stacks and bound in hay bands until a ‘levy’ had been paid. This was known as “giving a green gown” to the females and “stretching their backs” for the males. I think we can all guess what “a roll in the hay” means and if we talk really really quickly we can pass it by! All harvests seem to end with alcohol, dancing, music and merriment, especially if you read Thomas Hardy or watch a BBC bodice ripper!

Finally, a huge thank you to Robert Snare for his contribution to the magazine.

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ST PETER'S CHURCH

Due to a Christening on the 7th August it was decided to delay the Songs of Praise until 4th September at 3pm. But where were you??? Sadly, very few attended. In previous years many of you joined us to sing our favourite hymns. Those of you who did support us really did enjoy the Service which was led by Rev'd Joan and Mrs Shelia Vaughan as organist, followed by delicious light refreshments.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Festival Service was held at 11am on 11th September. This was very well attended with an approximately fifty strong congregation. Rev'd Sheila Toms was the preacher and reminded us that Harvest is the third most important Festival in the Christian calendar. It gives everyone chance to share their bounty with those less fortunate. While we have such a bountiful Harvest, others are starving. The Church was decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables. From home grown grapes, beetroot, apples, pears, tomatoes, beans and leeks, to a giant pumpkin! Our grateful thanks to those who gave their flowers and produce, all of which was later sold at the Lunch. Again thanks to Andrew Watkins for supplying the Harvest Loaf which was shaped like a sheath of corn and was eaten at the Lunch. We must again give thanks to the Entertainments Committee and friends who provided and served the delicious Lunch.

On Sunday 2nd of October we have a "Back to Church Sunday" when it is very much hoped that every Church member, the entire PCC and regular worshippers will attend and invite at least one friend to join them. Wouldn't it be rewarding to see St Peter's full. What is stopping us all from meeting at St Peter's at 3pm on Sunday 2nd October?

The Churchyard gates are desperate for attention. They need rubbing down and a coat of preservative applied. Any offers of help??? Please contact me on 01291 690836. It is your chance to do your bit to keep our little Church looking cared for.

From the Register: 7th August, the Christening took place of Max John, son of Janet and Michael Jefferies, grandson of Sandra and the late John (Roscoe) Powell. As his parents and Godparents have promised to ensure he is brought up in the Faith, we look forward with joy to welcoming Max and then all back in Church as often as possible.

Olwen Smith

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

The Harvest Lunch on 11th September 2011 took place in the new Hall with its new kitchen. Not all was new though – still some familiar faces and friends who joined us for the Harvest Supper in the old Crawley Hall back in September 2000. Enough nostalgia. Back to the present. The number for the lunch this year was slightly lower mainly due to the earlier date but next year we will be back to the third Sunday in September. Everyone enjoyed the excellent roast beef etc especially the Harvest Loaf. Many thanks to all who donated or helped in anyway and those who supported this successful event. Everyone was impressed with the new Hall and the Harvest Lunch will continue to be held there.



We will be at Plas Hendy on Friday 9th December 2011 for the Coffee and Carols evening. David Parry, our organist, will be entertaining us with his Andy Williams tribute plus our favourite Christmas Carols and songs. More details in the next Magazine. Tickets available from mid November from the usual sellers and Olwen (01291 690836) or Helen (01291 690607).

Operation Christmas Child is one of the world's largest children's Christmas appeals. Over one million shoeboxes packed full of goodies get sent to children in Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe every year. Your response last year was excellent and appreciated by the children. Leaflets and details will be on the table at the back of St Peter's Church, Bryngwyn.

Helen Hayward

From Fieldgate –

COOEE!!! Me again.

If you have forgotten the request to have the magazine e-mailed to you,
here is a little reminder – **PLEASE HAVE THE MAGAZINE EMAILED TO YOU!!!**

Send an email titled "Magazine Request" to

bryngwynparish@hotmail.com



COFFEE BREAK

KIDS ARE QUICK

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: Millie, give me a sentence starting with 'I...'

MILLIE: I is...

TEACHER: No, Millie Always say, 'I am.'

MILLIE: Ok ... 'I am the 9th letter of the alphabet.'

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AN IRISH GHOST STORY – just for Halloween!

This story happened a while ago in Dublin, and even though it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's true.

John Bradford, a Dublin University student, was on the side of the road hitchhiking on a very dark night and in the midst of a big storm.

The night was rolling on and no car went by. The storm was so strong he could hardly see a few feet ahead of him.

Suddenly, he saw a car slowly coming towards him and stopped.

John, desperate for shelter and without thinking about it, got into the car and closed the door.... only to realize there was nobody behind the wheel and the engine wasn't on.

The car started moving slowly. John looked at the road ahead and saw a curve approaching. Scared, he started to pray, begging for his life. Then, just before the car hit the curve, a hand appeared out of nowhere through the window, and turned the wheel. John, paralyzed with terror, watched as the hand came through the window, but never touched or harmed him.

Shortly thereafter, John saw the lights of a pub appear down the road, so, gathering strength; he jumped out of the car and ran to it. Wet and out of breath, he rushed inside and started telling everybody about the horrible experience he had just had.

A silence enveloped the pub when everybody realized he was crying... and wasn't drunk.

Suddenly, the door opened, and two other people walked in from the dark and stormy night. They, like John, were also soaked and out of breath. Looking around, and seeing John Bradford sobbing at the bar, one said to the other....

'Look Paddy....there's that eejit that got in the car while we were pushing it!!!!'



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Although August is a holiday month for members they provided and served refreshments at the opening of the new Crawley Hall, Bryngwyn. September saw the first meeting for several years, in Bryngwyn, at the new Hall and all members agreed how inviting it was.

Two new prospective members were welcomed and one more will bring us to thirty!!! Several ladies interested so hoping.

Carole Tranter was congratulated on her first grandchild, Ernest Bill.

Diane Watkins, President, had won a first with her botanical water colour and second with acrylic landscape at a WI competition.

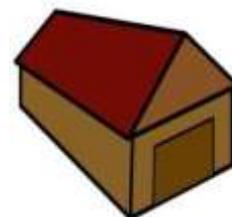
The weather for the fund raising event, providing refreshments, at Merilyn's open garden was, not as predicted, but heavy showers, however, a profit was made and those members who helped had a sociable time. Members were asked for programme ideas for 2012

If you would like to come and join us you would be made most welcome.

Meeting 1st Thursday in the month at 7.30 p.m. at Crawley Hall, Bryngwyn

Contact Carole Tranter, Hon Secretary Tel No 01291-69034 e-mail carole@illa2.plus.com

CRAWLEY HALL



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Contact: Simon Williams-Powell 07927 150363 www.crawleyhall.btck.co.uk

TALES OF YE OLDE BRYNGWYN

Continuing our 'tale' from Robert Snare -

"Church attendance in St Peters was always a very solemn occasion as we stood shivering in the cold with just the flickering candles to illuminate the prayer books. I still have the Prayer Book presented to me by Mr and Mrs Powell for Christmas 1941, and it falls open at all those rousing hymns we used to sing to the traditional tunes. I have it beside me now and the print is so small I can barely read it with my glasses today.

I think Mr Stroud was in the Royal Navy or merchant shipping fleet and was lost at sea. I never met him as he had left for the war before I arrived, but I can still remember the tears and love emanating from the congregation as we sang hymn 592 "For those in peril on the sea". It was a very emotional, never to be forgotten moment. "Fight the Good Fight" and the National Anthem were always fitting endings to the services

Christmas provided a welcome break and all the school children were dressed in their best clothes to attend a party in the big House, not far from the school. In the midst of rationing it was a very exciting day to have jellies, mince pies and Christmas cake. Goodness knows where the ingredients came from. We children then sang carols around the big Christmas tree, and then it was time for the cold walk home through the very dark night.

Summers were very exciting for walks and exploration. I was allowed to "help out" at the farm across the road from The Well, and it imbued me with the determination to own my own farm one day, which I did. The school children took part in picking potatoes in the fields just below the school. It was bitterly cold and we were allocated a twenty yard stretch of field which we had to pick clear before the tractor came round again, to turn over the next ridge. The seasons passed in steady harmony and the war seemed a long way away.

My sister had returned to my parents a year earlier as the school cut off age was 12, and she was two years older than me. Then it was my turn. I passed the eleven plus examination and was enabled to attend Grammar School, but the nearest one was in Cardiff and it was obviously impracticable to make a daily journey. I was told that there was, and still is, a very good grammar school in Abergavenny when I visited Bryngwyn recently, so I am not sure if that was available then.

The upshot was that I returned to my parents in Maidstone, Kent and saw through the worst of the doodlebugs and V2 rocket attacks emerging unscathed.

I joined the Royal Air Force and became a front line jet fighter pilot for twenty years before resigning my commission as a Squadron Leader and going into civil aviation flying to the USA and back. I bought my farm near Guildford and stocked it with sheep and beef cattle, while my wife ran a riding school.

We sold the farm ten years ago and downsized to our present cottage in a neighbouring village to the farm. In retirement I am still not letting go. Appalled at what is happening in this country I stood for Parliament in the May 2010 General Election but was not elected. I do want to conclude with my sincere thanks to all and any of that community who may have survived. The stability afforded to me by living in such a close knit, kind and generous community in my early development has lasted through the years. I now retire to my wife of 52 years, three daughters and two grand children."

DATES OF NOTE

October 2 nd Back to Church Sunday	St Peter's
December 9 th Coffee & Carols Evening	Plas Hendy
December 18 th Candlelit Carol Service	St Peter's

***SUBMISSIONS FOR

NEXT MAGAZINE BY

20TH NOVEMBER 2011 ***

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BRYNGWYN MAGAZINE

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CHURCH SERVICES & ROTAS

	Date	Time	Readers	Flowers & Cleaning
October	2 nd	3pm	D Parry; C Davies	
	9 th	8.30am	D Inglefield; J Fletcher	
	16 th	8.30am	S Inglefield; O Saunders	C Davies K Griffiths
	23 rd	8.30am	H Hayward; O Smith	E Williams
	30 th	8.30am	H Saunders; B Fletcher	
November	6 th	3pm	D Parry; K Spencer	
	13 th	8.30am	D Inglefield; C Davies	J Fletcher D Inglefield
	20 th	8.30am	N Saunders; S Inglefield	
	27 th	8.30am	J Fletcher; O Saunders	