



## VIEW OVER THE FIELDGATE

It's January and daffodils and snowdrops are out in flower! What is going on? Last year we were knee deep in snow before Christmas, with Christmas Day being about -13! This year I've not even thought about finding my combination thermals just in case. This reminds me of a few years ago Fieldgate and family and the faithful hound went for a walk one winter's day up Pen-y-Fan from the Neuadd Reservoir. It was a freezing day and we duly dressed in thermal unmentionables, top clothes, warm jumpers, walking coats, hats, scarves and gloves! Following the idiot's guide we found ourselves at the foot of a sheer cliff. A little (!) while longer we found ourselves at the top of the cliff face, red faced, puffing like a train and many layers lighter! None of that dented our pride until we met people on top of the ridge wearing trainers and jeans...having taken the easy route from Storey Arms!! One thing I can tell you is that on top of a crowded mountain there is no chance of taking your thermal unmentionables off!! But as a caution I will keep the thermals to hand ready for July.

Fieldgate Towers is already a-buzz with gardening activity, which means Mother Fieldgate has told Gardener Fieldgate (aka Father) what he should be doing. She has threatened to install lighting in the grounds so he can work in the night (I hope she's joking, although Gardener Fieldgate is praying she's joking!).

Did anyone try the Vicar's cake recipe? I did see there were a number of shortcuts which could be taken and I opted just for the wine...quality testing if course! The brandy seemed to end up in the Christmas trifle. That was one drunk tin of fruit! Personally, I can't wait to try the Vicar's own Rum Baba recipe and I think we can all guess what's in her Upside-down cake. .

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# ST PETER'S CHURCH



St Peter's had a very busy but rewarding time during the run up to Christmas. The decorative Advent wreath was sited near the pulpit and every Sunday a different candle was lit up until and including Christmas Day.

The Coffee and Carols Evening held at Plas Hendy was again a huge success.

The Candlelit Service held in the Church on 18<sup>th</sup> December was magical. Mr David Parry sang "O, Holy Night" which was so moving. The large choir who led the singing of the carols were outstanding. Our thanks to David (who also played the organ), the choir, the readers and the ladies who provided and served the delicious refreshments. Also thanks to Rev Joan and Rev Sheila for the memorable Service with one family travelling from Bristol to attend and enjoy it. Grateful thanks also to David and Margaret Spencer for providing all the nightlights.

Christmas Day Communion was well attended at the 8.30am Service, many find it awkwardly early, especially those with young families, whilst others find it fits in nicely with enjoying the rest of the day. Sorry, but it's impossible to suit everyone. However, it is rewarding to know that so many still wish to attend Church, especially at Christmas. We must thank those who provide and decorate the tree, those who put cards on it and supported the Shelter Box Appeal. Also ladies who decorated the Church so beautifully.

Mrs Mary Williams and Mrs Debra Inglefield are both well on the way to full recovery. Also Mrs Olive Hilditch who fell and broke her hip and after spending time in Nevill Hall Hospital and Monnow Vale is now back at home with Ken, who has not been very well either. Mrs Nancy Evans (past organist) also fell just before Christmas, but thankfully no bones were broken and after much heart-searching she agreed to move into a nursing home. I have the address if anyone wants it. Anne, her niece, has been wonderful, looking after her up until now. Our thoughts and Prayers are with them all.

Many thanks to Mr John Norman for repairing the gate at the altar-rail for free, saving valuable money.

Wishing you all a joyous, happy, peaceful and healthy 2012 and hope you can join us sometime.

*Olwen Smith*

# ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

The annual Coffee and Carols Evening at Plas Hendy on the 9<sup>th</sup> December was once again a very enjoyable and successful evening. Mr and Mrs John Crawley welcomed everyone with their super hot punch, which put everybody into a good voice for signing Christmas songs and Carols.



Excellent entertainment was delivered by David Parry, not only for his tribute to Andy Williams, donning sweater, scarf and bobble hat for “Let it snow”, but also for the rest of his programme. Angela’s solos were great and appreciated by us all. Thank you both for making our evening enjoyable and a success.

Delicious refreshments were served. The gift stall did a good trade. Some were luckier than others in the prize draw. At the end of the evening, when all the ‘thank yous’ were said we all left feeling happy and looking forward to celebrating Christmas.

Thank you very much to everyone who gave donations, prizes, food, etc and help in any way to make this a very successful event. A special thank you to Mr and Mrs Crawley for all their help and for making us all so very welcome.

We are all looking forward to meeting up with you during 2012, especially at the Flower Festival. There will be more information on the notice board and in future magazines.

*Helen Hayward*

From Fieldgate –

I have my fiercest look on at the moment! I know some of you have e-mail,

So in the words of Delia Smith “let’s be having you!”

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

## Christmas Cracker Jokes

How do you make an apple puff? Chase it around the garden.

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back? A stick.

What is a vampire's favourite food? Neck-tarines

Why does a horse have six legs? 'Cos it has forelegs in front and two behind.

What sort of song would a ghost sing? A haunting melody.

What do you do when you see a big lion? Hope he doesn't see you.

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This month we are lucky to have something special for our Tales of Olde Bryngwyn – a photograph of Bryngwyn School pupils and teachers taken in 1933. This photograph can be found on page seven and was kindly provided by Mrs Iris Richardson (who is fifth from the right in the second row).

We are also doubly lucky in having a contribution from Fieldgate's father in providing a tale from the School!

“How many of you recognise the pupils and teachers in the photograph? The teacher on the left was Mrs Jones, also wife of the Rector Joseph Jones, and the teacher on the right was Mrs Gaines. Mrs Gaines had a reputation of being quite liberal with the cane, which some were in those days.

There is a legend of a group of boys in the photograph who were late for school and knew they would be for the cane. One of the boys had the idea of dipping their hands into a barrel of tar, which the Council road repairers had alongside the road, in an effort to lessen the effects of the caning. When they got into school, Mrs Gaines made them scrub their hands clean and yes, they had the cane!”

Those of you who know the school and its location will instantly recognise where it was taken. I imagine if we were to stand where the photographer was standing we would see a view that is eighty years old. There are a few differences though. Have a quick look at the photograph and see what they are. The ‘road’ is a dirt track, and I have seen it depicted in old maps as just that. It looks like there may not have been a school yard as we know it, so did the school grounds go up to the wall of the Churchyard? The yew trees’ trunks have filled out in those eighty years. And look at those trees between the Churchyard and the Vicarage ground! It’s a forest!!

Can anyone supply me with the names of the pupils? Perhaps a little history of who they are, where they lived in Bryngwyn and what they ended up doing. Any photographs of old Bryngwyn and its inhabitants would be really appreciated. All photographs will be returned.



# WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A Happy and Healthy New Year to you all.

2011 ended with a Party at Crawley Hall but first the business side was dealt with. Helen Hayward gave a report on the Violence against Women Light a Candle Service which was held at Usk. She stated that it had been a very moving service.

The proposed programme for 2012 was discussed and note was made of two special occasions. The Olympic torch was passing Crawley Hall on the 25<sup>th</sup> May and the Queen's Jubilee in June.

Name tags were distributed so that new members can put a name to the face. Hopefully we will have reached 32 members in February.

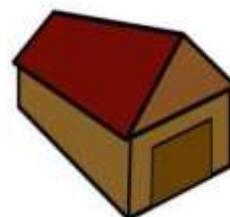
The party commenced popping of corks of their bucks fizz, well some members managed!!!!!!! A beetle drive, members quiz, heads and tails competitions were arranged and a free raffle. A new member was welcomed, Rosie, but members were amazed when it was a dog puppet which emerged from the kitchen a friend of Sue Womack and entertained us. An excellent buffet was provided and the evening concluded with a Christmas carol and the President wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

January 2012 meeting took the form of a New Year's Dinner at the Cripple Creek where, once again, we had an excellent meal and excellent hospitality.

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at Crawley Hall at 7.15 p.m. You would be made most welcome and if you require further information please contact Carole Tranter, Hon Secretary on 01291-690341 or e-mail [carole@illa2.plus.com](mailto:carole@illa2.plus.com)

## CRAWLEY HALL

Contact: Simon Williams-Powell 07927 150363  
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# Tales of Olde Bryngwyn



Names of the pupils will appear in the next magazine

## DATES OF NOTE

2012 events have yet to be finalised,  
but be assured it will be a full calendar

2012

June 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>  
July 1<sup>st</sup>  
Flower Festival

St Peters'

### \*\*\*SUBMISSIONS FOR

### NEXT MAGAZINE BY

**20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012 \*\*\***

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## CHURCH SERVICES & ROTAS

	Date	Time	Readers	Flowers & Cleaning
February	5 <sup>th</sup>	3pm	H Hayward & K Spencer	
	12 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	N Saunders & J Fletcher	K Spencer O Parry
	19 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	D Saunders & C Davies	
	26 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	S Inglefield & B Fletcher	
March	4 <sup>th</sup>	3pm	H Saunders & O Smith	
	11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	D Inglefield & Sian	S Vaughan A Partridge
	18 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	J Fletcher & C Davies	
	25 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	N Saunders & O Saunders	