

Coed-y-Paen News

Mar 2020

Covid-19, The Coed-y-paen Initiatives

In this time of national upheaval, we are very lucky to live here. We have fabulous countryside to enjoy and tremendous community spirit and both email and Facebook to communicate with each other if we can't get out. Sadly neither the Carpenters Arms nor the church can be the social hub of the community but there have been many offers of help and, as I write, three main suggestions:

1. If you can't get out and need something, just put a note on the village email group and if someone can help they will 'Reply to all' to accept the request (this avoids duplication).
2. Matt is offering, to those in need, delivered pub meals, veg boxes and some other essentials. The details of the link to use for ordering are on his email dated Wednesday 25 March. Deliveries will be Tuesdays and Fridays. As this service is for village residents only, and this Newsletter will appear on our website for all to read, I am not publishing here any further details of that service.
3. Hannah Priest (email of 25 March) has offered to drop a card with her phone number to anyone who needs help whilst self-isolating.

Church News

It is very sad that we have had to cancel all Services in Christchurch until further notice due to the Coronavirus and the need to keep people safe.

I am very pleased to let you all know that we have finally been granted a "Faculty" to replace the Church roof. We hope Clayton will be able to begin this work soon so you will be able to see things develop as time goes by. We must seriously start fundraising as soon as we can in order to replace the funds we are using. I am hoping that we can all enjoy some fun events and community activities once we all get over this difficult time.

We have recently had a wildlife survey of the Churchyard with some very interesting plants and creatures identified. A simple plan is being put together to designate certain areas and develop others so to protect and encourage more wildlife. I believe this is really exciting and thanks to Denise and Val for starting all this with the "Bug count". We are hoping to put up bat boxes, bird boxes with a special Owl box. We have already won awards for this work and a huge thank you to all the volunteers who help us and keep the Churchyard looking wonderful. I do hope you have all seen the super display of daffodils in the Churchyard with primroses and violets to come. It's well worth a walk to take a look. You could even have a quiet comforting moment enjoying our Church from the outside in the peace and quiet before Clayton starts work!

I look forward to being able to say come to the Church for a party to celebrate the new roof, so everyone keep safe and well so we can all get together soon and enjoy our very special village community and lovely village Church.

Thank you to everyone for all your support.

Cilla Davies
Church Warden

Residents' Association News

Forthcoming Events

Before the Covid 19 crisis erupted we were planning a quiz, barbecue and a new event ... an Arts & Craft Exhibition/show/auction (very early stages of planning!) Obviously we can't set dates for anything at the moment but will keep you posted.

At the AGM in Feb, the following committee members were elected:

Dennis Perkins (Chair), Sue Rogers (Sec.), Val Clare, Gerald Davies, David James, Nick Morley, Lynn Perryman, Jean Scarborough, Denise Thomas.

Broadband update

Briefly, the service to be provided by Beacons Telecom will be 100MBps⁻¹ and installation will be covered by the government's 'Gigabit Voucher Scheme' which you will have to sign up for, via Beacons Telecom. Call them on 02920 099345 to sign up.

The monthly cost will be:

£36 – unlimited download;

£24 – max 20GB download (enough for email and limited internet surfing);

£6 (phone only) with £5 for calls, plus vat.

There will be a minimum 12 month contract, and no price rise for going 'out of contract' however we have no guarantee about future price rises. Switching to another provider at the end of the year may be difficult or impossible.

Installation has begun, but the timescale for further roll out is vague. The optical fibre will run in part through BT's underground ducting and mainly overground using BT and Western Power 'poles'. At least one property has the service already but the engineers ground to a halt last week. This was because the fibre has to be hung between poles across roads, necessitating brief closures which must be notified to Mon CC and I believe doing that is 'work in progress'. Since I drafted this para, the Covid 'lockdown' has intensified and I have no news on how this will affect the roll out.

Recent events

Since the last Newsletter in December Jean Scarborough hosted a Burns Night Supper, in aid of Hope and Homes for Children. A wonderful, authentic and successful evening was enjoyed by some 31 locals, as reported on the website at <http://coedypaen.net/burns-night/>

Jean also hosted a 'Soup Lunch' which raised £468 specifically for the church roof.

In February, Denise Thomas hosted a 'Hardanger' Craft afternoon which was well attended and the ladies rose to the challenge of producing a sample of the embroidery. They are looking forward to when they can "meet for the next session."

On 3 March, the annual Poems & Pints evening took place in the Carpenters Arms, chaired as usual by Gerald. There were some interesting and moving poems etc, all interspersed with Gerald's amusing collection of 'Letters to the Guardian' on the health benefits of Marmalade Making (*sic!*) which seems to be the thing to do if you want to live to a ripe old age!

Sue Rogers