

Community News

Issue number 13

Spring 2009



For free distribution in Fron Garth & Trevor.

Royal visit to Fron



HRH the Prince of Wales visited Froncysyllte on Monday 2nd March to help Cakes and Company celebrate their success in achieving the Calor Village of Wales Award.

Their endeavours brought together the village in social harmony under the headings of Business, Communication, Environment and People to win the title.

The organisers introduced Prince Charles to all those representing these categories that had made such an outstanding impression on the judges.

Without their substantial contribution, none of this would have been possible.

Fron Male Voice Choir

By Emrys Roberts

The tradition of a love for music and singing in communities throughout Wales is to be found in the historical records of the village of Fron from the mid 19th century onwards and as Fron developed into a large village with chapels, church and school, singing became an important feature in its cultural life. In those former times, several small choral groups were active in the village places of worship and school.

Following the bleak and depressing years of World War 11 the inspiration to sustain this long established tradition arose as a result of the inauguration of the International Musical Eisteddfod at Llangollen, which was to exercise considerable influence on the men of all ages in the village. Those of the older generation lead the way and encouraged the village youth club members to join with them in forming the Choir. In addition, it was the desire of returning servicemen to continue the spirit of comradeship they had experienced in service life and re-kindle their former interest in music.

Founded in 1947, Fron Choir was based on the long established choral groups continuing to operate in the village. Starting life on a small scale, it was not realised at that time the brilliant future and achievements which were to be its rewards in later years. This success has been achieved by the commitment of the choristers to hard work and dedication, together with the good fortune in having the leadership of four gifted Musical Directors. Each of its three previous leaders, together with its current Director – Ann Atkinson – has bestowed their considerable musical talent on the Choir, thereby guiding it to the high standards that have been attained.

Sixty years on, the principles on which the Choir were based have not changed, a love of choral music, a desire to entertain a widest possible audience and a spirit of comradeship continue to be its aims

Bird list - Fron

By Julie Williams

Unfortunately although he came close on many occasions the Robin hasn't fed out of my hand this winter. Highlights have been the welcome return of the Tree Creeper, the over wintering Blackcap, Long Tailed Tits like fairies on the bird feeders. Heron perching on the tall conifer trees. No sight of the Song Thrush this winter in the garden but I have seen it further down in the village.

Blue Tit, Buzzard, Blackbird, Blackcap, Coal Tit, Chaffinch, Collared Dove, Crow, Greenfinch, Gold Crest, Goldfinch, Great Tit, Grey Wagtail, Heron, Hedge Sparrow, Jackdaw, Long Tailed Tit, Magpie, Nuthatch, Tawny Owl, Pheasants, Robin, Siskin, Tree Creeper, Wren, Woodpigeon, GS Woodpecker.

Chairman's Report

This will be my last Chairman's report as the next issue will see Tracey Pugh in the chair; I would like to take this opportunity to wish her well during her year in office. As my year comes to an end, I am not sure of the best way to sum up my time in the chair. It has ranged from my being really excited and upbeat to being really disappointed and frustrated. The exciting part is seeing all the positive things that happen in our communities, for example; the summer fete, the honour of laying the wreath at the Remembrance Service, and Father Christmas' grand village tours. The frustration comes from the length of time, it seems to take to get things done and to make changes happen, however I can assure you all, that the Rural Council along with Pat Jeffares and the other volunteering organisations in our communities, are working tirelessly and pushing hard to get things done. It just takes too long and patience never was one of my strong points!

However to end on a positive note, it has taken a long time to get the new play equipment in Fron, but guess what? Thanks to all the dedication and hard work of the afore mentioned people, the play equipment is being installed as I write!

I would like to thank all those people who have made this last year so special for me and particular thanks to my family; Claire, Jack & George for all their inspiration and support.

All the best
Jim Davies

Welsh Girdle Scones

On a cold afternoon try these scones for tea.

Required: 8ozs SR flour, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, 4 ozs. margarine, pinch of mixed spice, 3 ozs soft brown sugar, 3 ozs. Currants, pinch of salt, 1 egg and milk to mix.

Rub fat into flour, add other ingredients and mix with milk and egg to a pastry consistency. Roll out and cut into rounds. Heat a griddle plate at little less than full heat for 5 minutes. Cook on both sides at reduced heat. Serve hot dusted with caster sugar or cold spread with butter.

Fron Youth Club

By Helen Jones

The heat was on this Pancake day in Fron Youth Club, at first it seemed a difficult thing to get anyone at all in to the kitchen to make the first pancake and then before you know it there were plenty of offers from budding chefs to out do the last attempt at pancake making. I think we've all seen or fair share of pancakes now, well until next year....! Also thank you to The Corn Mill who supplied the pancake ingredients for the night, essential to any pancake day!



Fron News

Cakes and Company will reopen on Easter Saturday 11th April.

If you would like to volunteer to help at any time during weekends please call into the café.

Cakes and Company is pleased to have donated the following to organisations in the village:

Fron Home Education Group	£396	Fron Darby and Joan	£400
Tai Chi	£117	Seion Chapel	£400
Fron Pensioners Club	£360	Fron Community Centre	£400
Fron Youth Club	£400	St David's Church	£400
Fron School – library area	£400	Fron Hopscotch Nursery	£400
Fron After School Club	£400	Fron Art Group	£100

After School Club Christmas Fayre: Fron After School Kids' Club held their Christmas Fayre at Fron Community Centre on Saturday 30th November. There were lots of stalls, refreshments and a visit from Santa. Over £950 was raised. Thanks to all for their help and support.

History Talk: A lot of interest has been shown in the History Talks on the village given by Emrys Roberts. In January a talk on the first hundred years of Fron School was given and was very informative and at times comical. A total of £82.50 was raised for St David's Church Fron. The next talk will be held on Friday, March 6th at 7pm and will continue the theme of Fron School. We wish to thank Mr Emrys Roberts and also Geoff Alcock for providing such a variety of local photographs for people to look at. Quite a lot of reminiscing goes on and it's nice for people to get together with a shared interest in local history. The very response from a wide age range of people who have had connections with the village and are willing to travel to Fron to listen to the talks (often in appalling weather conditions!) confirm that this type of event is obviously worth continuing with, as there is lots more to learn and enjoy about the history of Fron.

Tug of War: Following the annual Tug of War event on New Year's Day £213.85 was received by Fron School. Thank you to Jess Richards, the Aqueduct Inn and its patrons and all who bravely took part in the tug of war. Your generosity and continued support is very much appreciated.

Bingo: Regular prize bingo sessions are held in Fron Community Centre on a Friday evening – look out for dates on the notice board and in the Post Office. The bingo held in aid of school equipment for children in Africa on the 30th January raised £170. Fitted storage units have been purchased for Fron Community Centre from the proceeds made at the bingo evenings organised by Dawn Needham for the Centre.

Fron Christmas Lights: The switching on of the Christmas lights once again proved to be a popular event in the village diary. A fancy dress competition for children was held and the winner, Matilda Hayward, switched on the Christmas lights with her fairy wand! The children and pensioners received free Christmas gifts from Santa. Llangollen Silver Band played, carols were sung, refreshments enjoyed and Alison Atkinson gave a Christmas verse with a modern twist, throwing sweets and chocolates into the audience enthralling young and old alike. A big thank you to all the helpers on the night. A magical time was had by all! The Christmas verse was written by Mike Griffiths.

Message from the Vicar of Froncysyllte and Chirk

Rev Tony Rees

It is the privilege and responsibility of clergy like me to conduct funerals when required. These will vary in character, even though the official service book is used. Different funerals will get different hymns, Bible readings, prayers, and of course eulogy, as the family sees most fitting.

And different mourners will come with their own memories of the deceased and also different levels of faith to sustain them. And this may well depend on the circumstances of death and age of the deceased. Some will be troubled, some will be at peace with the situation; some will come with confident Christian faith, others with no faith, and most with something in between.

So we approach the annual remembrance of the death of Christ Jesus on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Those first disciples were shocked at the brutal and untimely death of their Lord (not understanding that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and die in order to enter into glory), and just as shocked at his apparent disappearance on that first Easter Sunday morning ...until he appeared to them later that day. And even then it was hard to believe that he was alive again after such a public death on the cross. They were not a little confused - and who can blame them? Will you approach Good Friday with the same horror of the disciples and the same question of Jesus "Why?" sharing the pain of Christ, grieving over the sin of the world?

Or will you approach Good Friday believing that Christ hung and died on the cross forgiving us all, and saving us from the effects of sin, and reconciling us to God? Or both?

Will you approach Easter Sunday with the same wonder and incredulity of the disciples ... waiting to be convinced, yet willing to be convinced?

Or will you approach Easter with the joy that Christ is alive for evermore, our living Lord waiting to live in us and make us alive in him, full of faith and hope in life after death with God in heaven? Or both?

And will you attend church or chapel to strengthen or affirm your faith on Good Friday or Easter Sunday or both? You will be very welcome, wherever you are and whoever you are and whatever faith you have, because we are no different from those first disciples who witnessed the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, expressed despair one day and delight another day, but found him to be their living Lord every day thereafter.

Fron Church Services

Sunday 22nd March 9.30 am
St David's Church, Froncysyllte
Family Service for Mothering Sunday

Friday 10th April at 12.00 midday
St David's Church, Froncysyllte
Devotional Service for GOOD FRIDAY

Sunday 12th April at 9.30 am
St David's Church, Froncysyllte
EASTER SUNDAY
Easter ceremonies and Communion

Sunday 31st May at 9.30 am
at St David's Church, Froncysyllte
Family Communion for WHITSUNDAY

The Aqueduct Community Association

Firstly a belated Happy New Year to you all from the Aqueduct Community Association, we hope you were able to take advantage of some of this year's Christmas activities which again gave an opportunity for the three communities to get together.

We completed a three night tour of all the villages with Father Christmas on his sleigh, and some dodgy looking elves! This raised valuable funds for the Christmas activities including the Pensioner's Christmas Party which took place on 19th December at Garth and Trevor Community Centre. The evening was a great success, with a meal and entertainment laid on and a lot of volunteer help from a wide cross section of the community. We continue to receive thanks from those who attended and enjoyed the night.

You may have also noticed the Christmas trees which were erected and decorated in Trevor, Fron and also Garth this year, and we hope you enjoyed seeing these. The switch on of lights for the Trevor and Fron trees were accompanied by Christmas festivities including music and hot food, and these events were again well supported.

We continue to pursue a range of projects on behalf of the community, and in early March there will be a new section of footpath down the old railway line from the Old Trevor Station to link in with Offa's Dyke footpath and also provide a link to our proposed Woodland Walk, this section of footpath has been sponsored by our County Councillor Pat Jeffares who with the support of the Community Council have brought the Tidy Town initiative on board. The Aqueduct Community Association will continue to work closely with the County Councillor and Community Council who are both advisors to the association .

We continue to seek grant assistance for a range of other projects and also raise funds to supplement this. With this in mind we have organised a Cheese and Wine evening on 21st March at Garth and Trevor Community Centre. Tickets now on sale and please see advertisement within this newsletter.

Mark Valentine

Mobile Library

The mobile library will still be calling every three weeks on a Tuesday:

Garth Rockman's Arms	9.30 to 10.10
Garth Primary School	10.15 to 11.00
Pentre Village School	11.20 to 12.00
Trevor Community Centre	1.15 to 2.15
Rhosymedre Community Centre	2.30 to 3.45
Fron Lay-by by Cliff's Cafe	4.00 to 4.40

Dates for 2009: March 24th, April 14th, May 5th & 26th and June 16th.

Any queries regarding the operating of this route should be referred to Rhos Library 01978 840328.

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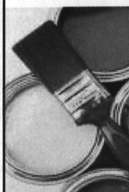


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COMMUNITY NEWS

and include a name and contact number.

Send copy to: Clerk to the Council

1 Ael Y Bryn, Llangollen Road, Trevor, Wrexham
LL20 7TF or via e-mail to: clerk@llangollen-ruralcc.org
Tel. Enquiries: 01978 810466

**Summer issue deadline for adverts or articles Tuesday
12th May 2009.**

Disclaimer: Llangollen Rural Community Council
declares that the publication of any advertisement
does not carry its endorsement or sponsorship for
the advertiser or their products or services unless
indicated.

Garth & Trevor News

Trevor and Garth WI. January Meeting is Bingo Night with some fabulous prizes to be won. the evening was arranged by Anne Arnold & Mary Evans. On Feb 7th members of the Thursday evening craft group visited the Stitching & craft Show in Manchester. A Rail journey was the theme of the monthly meeting arranged by Margaret Jones & Elaine Roberts.

Seating in Garth – following the Community Council's Risk Assessment Following a recent review of the seating provided in all three communities, a concern was raised as to the positioning of a bench in Garth. The bench is located in a small refuge a little distance down from the school hill, and looks back across the road onto pleasant views of some terraced gardens. The bench has been in place for generations and is viewed as an intrinsic part of the village. The original bench would have been placed when traffic was of a more sedate pace and it would be fair to say that that scenario has changed. The fundamental concern is safety and whether a bench positioned very near to the road, with no pavement or kerb is now the best option, particularly for our older or very young residents who may be unsteady on their feet? We understand there may well be a strong desire to retain the seat but perhaps some thought needs to be put into the best possible solution. This may include rotating the bench to look out onto the fields and valley beyond, and provide some ornamental fencing to part enclose the refuge, and prevent a simple trip or slip into the roadway. We would seek your views on this, and ask for those to be directed to Sue Jones the Clerk to the Community Council by the end of March. We wish to seek the best possible solution to hopefully retain the use of the bench for generations to come. Written by Mark Valentine.

Bird Watch – Trevor

By Anne Arnold

Chaffinch, House Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Robins (3), hope two of these will pair up soon. Magpie, Thrush, Blackbird (male & female), Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Jay, Nuthatch (2) hope these are a pair. Great Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Long tail Tit, Buzzard, Tawny Owl, Pied Wagtail, (hadn't seen for a while), Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker a few of these breaking up the bark on the trees.

Trevor Post Office – Many thanks to Colin & Barbara for all their help and kindness over the years at Trevor Post Office. We all miss the Post Office! Good luck and best wishes to you both for the future and we all wish you a long and very happy retirement.

Trevor Church Easter Services

10th April Good Friday Service at 9-30am

12th April Easter Day Holy Communion at 9-30am

Homelink Library Service

If you are disabled or have difficulty getting to your local library a Homelink library service is provided by Wrexham County. This offers a home visit every four weeks and provides access to the whole range of library and reference services, including books, Audios, CDs and DVDs. For further details contact Maifun Rogers at Wrexham library, by telephone on 01978 292090 or E mail Maifun.Rogers@wrexham.gov.uk

The dates of visits to your area for the next three months are as follows:

Thursday 26th March

Thursday 23rd April

Thursday 21st May

Village of the Year

By Julie Williams

Froncysyllte community have been celebrating their success after winning the Calor Gas Village of the Year – being named the best village in the whole of Wales!

Village representatives Janet Norman and Diane Cooper were at the event in the Guildhall in London to hear the good news in December.

Of particular praise by the judges was the village's community café, Cakes and Company which is run by volunteers in the Community Centre from Easter to October every weekend.

Julie Williams, treasurer of Cakes and Company who put forward the submission and co-ordinated the application process wishes to thank all those who contributed particularly on the evening of the judges visit, to Diane and Janet for their presence at the awards ceremony and to Dave and Janet Norman for completing the video diary that was requested after the judging, for presentation at the award ceremony for Village of the Year.

The video camera was kindly donated by Calor Gas and Dave and Janet continue to record activities and events taking place in the village as an ongoing record and are always pleased to hear from anyone organising functions in the village.

The Community was judged to be worthy of Village of the Year, not for amenities and facilities but for an active village social life and its caring concerns towards others, the environment, business, and its ability to be inclusive in communicating in a variety of ways to a wide range of age groups.

Geraint Roberts, Community Councillor, said 'the village was the best he had lived in, and had such a caring Community with people looking out for each other'. Consultation is ongoing between interested parties to try to find the best way to spend the £2,000 won in the competition.

It is stipulated that enhancements must be of value to the entire community including visitors. Suggestion forms have been placed in the Post Office and Community Centre. So far there has been support for a sensory garden in the grounds of the community Centre and floral displays in the village.



The children are: Kyle Hayward, Adele Hughes, Casey Bathers.
Adults: Janet Norman, Anna Jones, Julie Williams, Dawn Needham. The plaque awarded (and the dragon mascot) Janet Norman and Diane Cooper at the awards ceremony in London.

Thursday 7th May at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Church, Chirk

FRONCYSYLLTE MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT

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Aqueduct Community Association

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Tools for Africa

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Tools for Self Reliance gives practical people in Africa the chance to take control of their lives and build their communities by giving them the tools and training they need.

If you can help please contact Mike Gleed on 01691 773221 – thank you.

Would you like to sponsor me?

Hi, I'm Nick Thomas the son of Jean & David Thomas from Llangollen Road, Trevor. I am doing a charity trek up Kilimanjaro in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity number 1062623 which takes place on the 18th – 27th September 2009. I need to find a minimum of £4,000 to do the trek, and have put down a non-refundable deposit of £450. In the last three days I have found sponsorship of £850, but as you can imagine I have a long way to go. If you can help in any way it would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks Nicholas Antony Thomas and my web site to donate is www.justgiving.com/nicholasthomas2

Renovating Vintage Motorcycles

By Dilwyn Jones

My love for motorcycles started when I was fourteen years old. Many years ago my father had one of the early motorcycles called a Raleigh and he would ride it around his home village of Llansilin. Over the years I have owned and rebuilt bikes of all makes and sizes. I have had quite a number of Japanese bikes but my love has always been with British bikes. I have quite a nice collection of classic vintage bikes and my latest project is renovating a 1925 Model P Triumph. It was in a very dilapidated



state, needing lots of parts replacing and being remade. As luck happens I have a very understanding wife who lets me spend most of my waking hours in my garage, with the warmth of my lovely log burner! I have quite a lot of visitors who come to view the machines and my wife brings us cups of tea and home made scones, as we sit around the fire. A full enthusiast of the TT Races, I have been to the Isle of Man for over fifty years and was presented with an award by the Minster for Tourism at a special dinner in the Villa Marina along with my two brothers, also enthusiasts. My son Brad Jones has followed in my footsteps riding for Wales in the Six Day International in Czechoslovakia in the eighties. In the summer months I ride my machines around the area, on Norton's to Triumphs, BSA and AJS. The Velocette IE is one of the easiest bikes for me to ride now at my age and I am as much an enthusiast now as in my youth.

Ruabon-Fron-Llangollen

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Commencing Monday 23 March 2009

<i>Chester</i>			12:22	13:22
<i>Ruabon Station</i>			12:51	13:54
<i>Shrewsbury</i>			12:22	13:25
<i>Ruabon Station</i>			12:53	13:55
<i>Wrexham</i>	9:45	11:15	12:45	14:00
<i>Ruabon Station</i>	10:03	11:33	13:03	14:19
Ruabon High Street	10:05	11:35	13:05	14:20
Ruabon Station	10:07	11:37	13:07	14:22
Plas Isaf	10:10	11:40	13:10	14:25
Rhosymedre	10:13	11:43	13:13	14:28
Cefn Mawr, The Crane	10:14	11:44	13:14	14:29
Acrefair, Eagles	10:16	11:46	13:16	14:31
Garth School	10:21	11:51	13:21	14:36
Trevor Estate	10:25	11:55	13:25	14:40
Froncysyllte CC	10:28	11:58	13:28	14:43
Llangollen	10:36	12:06	13:36	
Llangollen	10:42	12:12	13:42	
Froncysyllte CC	9:20	10:50	12:20	13:50
Trevor Estate	9:23	10:53	12:23	13:53
Garth School	9:27	10:57	12:27	13:57
Acrefair, Eagles	9:32	11:02	12:32	14:02
Cefn Mawr, The Crane	9:34	11:04	12:34	14:04
Rhosymedre	9:35	11:05	12:35	14:05
Plas Isaf	9:38	11:08	12:38	14:08
Ruabon Station	9:41	11:11	12:41	14:11
Ruabon High Street	9:43	11:13	12:43	14:13
<i>Ruabon Station</i>	9:46	11:16	12:46	14:16
<i>Wrexham</i>	10:04	11:34	13:04	14:34
<i>Ruabon Station</i>	9:53		12:53	
<i>Shrewsbury</i>	10:31		13:31	
<i>Ruabon Station</i>	9:55		12:54	
<i>Chester</i>	10:20		13:22	

COST

Llangollen

1.40

Froncysyllte

1.40

1.10

Trevor Estate

1.40

1.10

1.10

Garth

1.70

1.40

1.10

1.10

Acrefair

1.70

1.40

1.40

1.10

1.10

Rhosymedre

1.70

1.40

1.40

1.40

1.10

1.10

Ruabon

Concessionary travel passes will be valid on this service.

County Councillor's Diary

This is a brief update of the on going issues within the Llangollen Rural Ward.

I would like to start by saying what a good year it has been, and I hope the success continues this year. We have seen the coming together of our three villages working for the good of their communities.

What a wonderful Christmas spirit, with the switch on of the Christmas tree lights, one at Trevor basin, one in Garth and one at Fron Community Centre. Once again the visit from Santa around our three villages was a great success and I would like to express my thanks to Santa and his helpers for all their hard work.

The pensioner's party at Trevor Community Centre was enjoyed by all who attended.

A special thanks to some members of Trevor Youth Club, and to Connie who worked their socks off on the night. I received many phone calls from the pensioners commenting on how hard they worked looking after them, and as a pensioner myself I agree whole heartily with their sentiments. I would like to say a big thank you to all those who worked so hard during the year to make these events happen.

Several meetings have been held between myself, Community Councillors, some bus users within the ward, and Wrexham Council bus Transport manager. I am pleased to be able to tell you that a shuttle bus service will commence from Fron, Trevor, Garth, calling at Acrefair, Cefn, Rhosymedre and going through to Ruabon train station, which connects with the scheduled bus service and rail. I have spoken to the proprietor of the bus company and he is prepared to stop anywhere on route, if you indicate. It is due to start on 23rd March and is for a twelve-month trial period. This service will be reviewed after six months, so be warned **USE IT OR LOSE IT!** Please see inside for the bus time table.

I have been successful in getting an environmental improvement grant, on behalf of the Community Council. Site meetings have been held and we have identified the old station yard as the project that would meet the requirements. To obtain the Tidy Town grant, this project has to have voluntary organisations involved. Once again, Steve Edwards acting on behalf of the Aqueduct Community Association has brought in the Cadbury's Community team to be part of this project. Also working on the project will be Shane Hughes and his team 'Keep Wales Tidy'. This is to start on the 2nd March.

Calor Gas Village of the Year: I would like to congratulate the villagers of Froncysyllte for winning the above title, and have now had the Royal Seal of approval. Well done for all your hard work.

Any problems don't hesitate to contact me.

Pat Jeffares

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Next Community News will be out during the first week in June 2009 and will be delivered to households by Councillors and the Garth & Trevor Youth Club. Any items of news for inclusion in the Summer edition should be in by Tuesday 16th May 2009.

If you would like to see any of the previous newsletters, then these can be seen on our web site www.llangollen-ruralcc.org