Welcome to the 2015 Christmas Newsletter. A cool and wet summer has seen fewer numbers of visitors to the village than in recent year. Despite more properties being lost to the holiday and second home market, the community remains strong and cohesive with many groups continuing to meet in the village hall and other central places. The ‘end of month’ gathering at the Worm’s Head Pub, organised by Dai Cann, continues to become more popular and we welcomed our new MP, Byron Davies, to meet villagers to discuss their concerns at our October get-together.

Numerous contributions from residents have been received which will add to your enjoyment when reading this year’s roundup.

Rhossili Community Council received only a few planning applications to consider this year. Two significant ones are; one, the development at Little Hill House and the other the significant renewals and alterations of Rhossili car park recently acquired by the National Trust. Further details can be found at Swansea Council’s Planning Department’s website. Comments regarding the National Trust’s application can still be made up to 20 December 2015 should you wish to.
Following a meeting with CARIAD, your community council organised two training sessions for renewal of AED (defibrillator) skills, during September. Additionally, the community footpath map, last produced by Roger Button, has been updated by Ian Button – enclosed is a complementary copy for your perusal.

At the start of the year Rebecca O’Dowd presented an update of the Gower Landscape Partnership project to date and detailed their plans for 2015. This included repairs and restoration of the wall between The Ship and Rhossili Gallery corner. Other proposals are for the rebuild of collapsed sections of the Vile perimeter wall in the Gower style.

Swansea Council Highways Department have generally kept on top of keeping our roads in a reasonable state of repair, although there is a continuing issue with a section in School Lane. Steve Parry has continued to keep our footpaths cleared and gates and stiles in good order. A large pothole beyond the cattle grid at the top of School Lane was repaired by the Highways Department as a one off good will gesture.

Cut backs in Local Authority spending may have done nature a favour; by not cutting the verges and the open green spaces has resulted in a marked increase in insect life this summer past.

The Noticeboards do suffer considerably in the Rhossili weather and after around five years since being replaced, all three notice boards were given a full service and a cork backing that can be pinned to!

Vodaphone have installed a new mast at Pitton Cross so those with 4G will have great service, for the rest of us we still wave phones in the air in a peculiar manner and in some very odd places in an effort to find a signal!

I would like to thank all contributors who have taken the time to make this a bumper issue this year and contributions for the next Newsletter will be most welcome, if possible by October 2016 please.

Rhossili Community Council meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7.15pm in Rhossili Village Hall or the ante-room behind. Everyone is welcome to attend, and to raise matters of interest in the community. Contact details of all the councillors can be found on the RCC website: www.rhossilicc.org.uk. Please feel free to contact any councillor if you think there are issues (either beneficial or challenging) that you feel the council should be aware of and/or consider, or you can contact the Clerk, Jo Scott, direct.

If you are new to emailing and are not on the village circular, please notify the Clerk (at rhossilicc@gmail.com) of your email address, or if you do not have one, please read the notice board from time to time for notices.

Finally, I would like to thank all contributors who have taken the time to make this a bumper issue this year and contributions for the next Newsletter will be most welcome, if possible by October 2016.

Once again this year we have included a section to send seasonal good wishes at the end of this newsletter. I and the Council Members would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and to also remember absent friends.

Steven Campbell-Kelly
Chair, Rhossili Community Council
rhossilicc@gmail.com
www.rhossilicc.org.uk

RHOSSILI VILLAGE HALL AND BUNKHOUSE - 2015

This year, the Trustees have been able to carry out further improvements to the Hall and Bunkhouse. The major work was the painting of the exterior of both Hall and Bunkhouse. Other projects have included; replacing Hall chairs with more robust models; upgrading the bunkhouse toilet facilities; extending the fire protection; replanting of the perimeter hedge; installation of Wi-Fi to cover the whole building and installing

While every reasonable step has been taken to ensure the veracity of the articles, Rhossili Community Council does not take responsibility for any omissions or errors. December 2015
lights in the car park to provide a better welcome at night.

We are always looking for new ideas on how the Village Hall can be used by the community at large. If you have any suggestions about the facilities we offer we would like to hear from you. Please feel free to approach the trustees with any suggestions and they will be considered and acted on wherever possible. Examples of groups that use the hall include: Keep Fit, Pilates, Whist, Youth Club, Llandewi & Knelston WI.

As Chair, I would like to thank the Trustees, past and present, for their help and continued commitment to making the Village Hall a success. I would particularly like to thank Pauline Bevan who stood down as Trustees this year. Pauline has given many years of dedicated service to the Hall and we would like to record our appreciation for all her efforts during her time as trustee. Her comprehensive knowledge of the history of the Hall will be missed. There has also been a change in the roles within the Trustees with John Furneaux standing as Chair and Steve Walmsley becoming Treasurer when Rob Symberlist stood down after many years as Treasurer. Rob was Treasurer during the development phase of the bunkhouse and the intricacies of controlling funds when grant monies are involved called for great knowledge, attention to detail and commitment. All the trustees are grateful for his skill and dedication as he was an integral part in making the Village Hall and Bunkhouse both successful and sustainable. Tracey Button was co-opted as both Trustee and member of the Village Hall Social sub-committee. The Social sub-committee has been energised by further new members and this fresh impetus has resulted in several new or re-vitalised events over the last year that have been fun and well attended (such as the Halloween Party and the Community BBQ).

I would also like to thank our support staff the Hall Administrator (Jo Higgins), the ‘meeters & greeters’ and cleaning team, for their dedication to making the Hall and Bunkhouse a continued success.

The current Trustees are: Tracey Button, Gill Evans, John Furneaux, Jeff Higgins, Vicky James, Marion Potts, Rob Symberlist, Sarah & Steve Walmsley.

Thanks to you all for your support throughout 2015 and we look forward to seeing you at the Hall in the coming year.

Steve Walmsley

VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL EVENTS

Social Committee

A very Happy Christmas to everyone!

Well, we’ve had a good year with lots of events. New members to the committee have added their skills, lifting us onto the dizzy heights of Face Book, Twitter and such-like. This has meant reaching a wider audience and increasing attendance at functions.

Roger’s quiz nights are always wondrous, much anticipated and enjoyed.

We’ve continued to welcome some brilliant drama sponsored by the Arts Council of Wales and of course we had our own ‘Sing-a-Long’ evenings of ‘The Sound of Music’ and ‘Grease’, (with some authentic, amazing costumes!)

The new ANNUAL (well, annual from now on,) Barbecue was beautifully cooked and served to a big mixed age group with children thoroughly enjoying chasing one another around.

And of course there was the children’s Halloween Party, an outstanding success, although a certain adult witch may not go in for blue hair dye in future!

Ahead lies ‘Carols round the tree’ on Saturday 19th December at 6PM, with contributions by the choir, traditional warm drinks, mince pies and a ‘Santa’s lucky dip’ for the children.

2016 will be packed full of excellent events, another quiz in February and the return of our friends from the Auvergne in March for a combined St David’s, French evening.
Do support Hall events, and if you have ideas, well, let us know!

Thank you for your support without which we would be redundant!

The Social Committee would welcome new ideas and new members!

Please contact either Vicki James eatmorecake@hotmail.com or Gill Evans revevgm@gmail.com

**Gill Evans**
*Rhossili Village Hall Social Committee*

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**WI UPDATE**

We have had another good year in W.I. Our talks, as usual have been varied and interesting. Here are some examples. Helen Sinclair, our local well known sculptor gave an excellent talk on her work. Sian Roberts the famous S4C cook told us a lot about the history of Welsh food. We learned a lot about the way food banks operate.

Many of us didn’t know about the debtors prison in Swansea (part of which still stands) Our last talk was by Peter Bowen Simpkins an hilarious talk about contraception through the ages, which made us realise how lucky we are to live in these times.

We enjoyed a trip Llanelli House and one to Llancaiach Fawr, and Caerphilly Castle. Our resolution evening ended with the traditional fish and chip supper provided, sadly for the last time by Brian and Caroline from the Captains Table.

Remember, new members are always welcome. If you want to come along and visit please do so, or contact Chris Williams 390282 or Marian Potts 390473.

*Chris Williams and Marian Potts*

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**Merry Christmas /Nadolig Llawen to all. Llandewi with Knelston WI**

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**VILLAGE SECURITY**

The following is a compilation of recent communications from PC Phil Davies.

“In recent weeks there has been an increase in thefts from sheds and garages. In the main the culprits have been targeting bikes and tools. Our enquiries are continuing and will hopefully result in arrests. Furthermore in the more rural areas a number of quad bikes have be taken from farms and small holdings during the early hours.

Could I ask that this information is disseminated to friends, family and neighbours to ensure that all valuable items are kept under lock and key and to report any suspicious happenings either via 101 in a non emergency or 999 if urgent.”

Although the chances of being a victim of crime in Rhossili is low I would ask for continued vigilance where any suspicious activity is reported and common sense crime prevention steps taken such as ensuring that the doors to your homes, vehicles and outbuildings are locked and any valuable items kept secure out of sight of the opportunist criminal.

I would like to thank you all for your support in keeping Gower safe.

All calls to the police should be made in case of a non emergency 101 and 999 in emergencies.

*PC Phil Davies*
*Reynoldston Police Station*
*Mobile 07805301600*

Additional:

I received details from my bank recently regarding security from fraudsters posing as banking staff. I have edited to read non bank specific. Please be aware this can happen to an unwary individual as well as a business. In this digital age fraudsters will try and acquire information and personal...
details about you to build your profile. They can do it piecemeal and contact can be made by numerous means such as phone and email, and by different people. Once they have a full profile of you...... BE VIGILANT, TAKE CARE AND BE SAFE.

“ To assist in protecting you or your business from fraud, we will from time to time suggest steps you can take to help protect yourself. Below are two key issues we believe you should be aware of.

Vishing - Involves contact via the phone from a fraudster posing as an official whom you or your business may trust.

Recently, a number of customers have been targeted by fraudsters who have called and posed as either the Police or as a Bank Fraud Investigator. The fraudster has tried to persuade the customer to transfer funds out of their account or to provide them with logon security details.

Tips on Identifying Vishing Calls:

Be wary of unsolicited approaches by phone, especially if asked to provide any of your personal or business information such as username, password or bank details

Your Bank will never call to request codes from your Security Device, ask you to generate a code or ask for your PIN number

If you are suspicious about a call or feel vulnerable, don’t be afraid to terminate the call and call your Bank back on a known number

It takes two people to terminate a call, ensure the caller has also hung up and you have a clear line, or use a different phone line where possible

Always:

Verify requests to change bank details or set up new payment instructions by contacting the supplier directly. Use established contact details on file before implementing changes. “

Steven Campbell-Kelly

SUNDAY BUS SERVICE

In a letter received recently...

“The rumour [i.e. no Summer Sunday bus service] about 2016 is incorrect; however, there are difficulties in finding a funding source. As you are aware, the 2015 service was funded by Visit Wales but only on a one-year basis.

I have been meeting with City & County officers to find a way forward and there is a strong prospect of making application for RDP money through the LEADER programme; this would be for a seasonal service for 4 years 2016-19 inclusive procured through C&C Swansea Transport Team with marketing support from BayTrans and Tourism Swansea Bay.

I can’t give you any more detail at this stage. The Local Action Group which oversees applications for LEADER funding has been set up but has not yet met. This project will compete for limited funds with a lot of other projects in Gower and will therefore need support from the local community and this might yet need to include contributions in cash and kind from Gower businesses and individuals; I believe an approach may also be made to Community Councils as well.

So, in summary, please continue to elicit support from whatever source you can and thanks for your continuing interest.”

John Davies
BayTrans

John works very hard for the Gower Community in ensuring that we have the best possible Sunday service attainable – I sense he does much of this on his own. I believe that all Gower residents and Sunday visitors will applaud John for his dedication and hard work and we remain hopeful for the restoration of a full Summer service – SCK
MEDICAL CARE IN GOWER

Rhossili Community Council is presently in contact with the Chief Executive, ABMU Health Board concerning further changes in the reduction of opening/availability at Scurlage and surgery.

We have received an acknowledgement from ABMU Health Board which is being passed onto and will be addressed by the appropriate department.

Copies of the letter were also sent to our Gower MP, Byron Davies and AM Edwina Hart and both are making their own enquiries into this matter too.

Further information will transpire in future Community Council minutes.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Isabel’s Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

Recently Isabel saw an advertisement on television for a children’s charity showing disadvantaged children requesting donations to help make a difference to their lives.

The advert truly touched her and the following day when Isabel, Freddie and myself had baked a cake together she asked me if we could sell it. When I asked why she wanted to sell it she replied saying, "To give the pennies to the little girl I saw on television yesterday".

This was not a passing phase and Isabel continued to make lots of requests and suggestions on how she could help the little girl off the television. So we decided to take the bull by its horns and put a plan into action!!

Isabel and Freddie both really enjoy baking so she decided that a cake sale in aid of children in need would be a good idea. She spent her evenings and weekends colouring and designing posters for her cake sale. When we went shopping to get supplies for cake sale to my surprise at the checkout she had emptied the contents of her piggy bank into her purse and wanted to pay for the shopping.

We held the event on Sunday 22nd November in the village hall. Freddie organised and ran a tombola and they both organised a guess how many sweets in the jar competition, we also had a raffle with some wonderful prizes which local businesses very kindly donated. The event was a massive success and we raised £830.50p, we would like to say a huge thank you to all our friends, family and neighbours for all of their support, donations and delicious cakes we really appreciated it.

Isabel is one very happy little lady and is hoping that the money we raised will help make a difference to children’s’ lives who are not as lucky as Freddie and herself.

Sally Beynon

ONE AND ALL

In August this year Nicola and I were approached by Owen Sheers an author poet and playwright who had been seconded by the National Trust to explore and get to know the cliffs and coastline from Paviland to Rhossili. This was to celebrate 50 years of the National Trust’s programme to care for our coast. In 1965 John Betjeman wrote of the many threats to our coast in his poem entitled One and All, and it is this title that the exhibition gets its name from.

So Nicola and Stephen took Owen to Paviland cave and showed him the old fort on Yellow Top that has a replica of the Worm’s Head (it certainly looks like it!) and the various caves and coves from Paviland to Rhossili. Nicola explained the old medieval farming system of the vile with its narrow strips or lanchers (landshares), and then to the top of the hill and explained the site of the American camp and trig point.

In contrast to this I was interviewed on how farming has changed over the years from being virtually market garden to livestock to
conservation being constantly squeezed by the big retailers. I was recorded reciting a chant of the Gower wrecks, local names and Gower dialect words such as Britchen, Flathin and Umman and the chant of place names like Bantum, Ferny Pit, Absent Pool and Tawbut and also the chant of The Vile field names like Sandyland and Fold.

This was then all put together in an exhibition called One and All held in Somerset House in London. We were both invited up to the opening unfortunately I could not go but Nicola and her family went to Somerset House and had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

John Beynon

THE QUIET OF RHOSILLI

Early one Spring Sunday morning...

On 18 April 2010, and as a consequence of ash fired into the atmosphere from the Icelandic volcano – Eyjafjallajokull, the air space over the UK was free of aircraft with no noise or vapour trails, and the skies over Rhossili became unadulterated by man.

Seated just to the east of the trig-point of Rhossili Downs looking eastward towards Swansea Bay,

Summit in sunshine with a clear blue sky, still air, a calm sea......seated in pure silence,

Low lying mist shrouding all Gower with a chink of light reflecting off the Swansea Bay Sea through a thinning in the haze...

Pure Tranquility

No breath of wind
Nor roar of sea,
No birds on high
No man to see

The glint of sunrise
Beyond distant shore,
Through opaque mists
The land obscure

‘Tis fine the view
With nought to see
From top of Downs
Without all, just me

Steven Campbell-Kelly

(I’m not a poet and I do surely know it!)

RESTORING HAY MEADOWS

- with Gower Landscape Project

The small-holding known to all as “Ivydene” originally had some 5 fields within the boundaries of The Vile. Croft Field, always attached to the house and barn, has always been meadow and has not been ploughed within living memory of anyone in the village. However, the remaining fields, Little Park, Slade Acre, Kiln Hay and the tiny Johnny’s Garden have had a very different history. All of these fields were sold to a neighbour, Betty Button, and sown to daffodils. These were grown commercially for a number of years, but the venture did not carry on, and the fields sold again, to Mark and Pam Keegan. This time, the fields were ploughed and planted with vines, with a view to producing Gower Wine, and both red and white wines were ultimately produced. After a few successful years, the vineyard was destroyed and the Keegans then cleared the land of wire, posts and vines and hand seeded with a mixed grass seed. They rented the pasture as grazing to a number of local farmers, each on a one-season contract, on occasions making a small amount of hay. We rented the fields for 2 years as extra grazing for our ponies and then bought them out-
right, returning them to the original ownership of the smallholding.

Kiln Hay deserves a special mention as it is unique among the fields of The Vile and is the last field to be enclosed to form The Vile Field system we can see today. There is no sign of a field in that position on the 1780 Map for Thomas Talbot. By 1814, from a map obtained from Penrice Estate, there is a dotted line across, indicating a partial removal from the common land on the cliffs above Mewslade. The tithe map of 1840 shows Kiln Hay completely enclosed, and the boundary then matches the one in existence today. What makes the field unique is that it has the Gower style dry stone wall all the way round; boundaries inside the confines of The Vile tend to be earth banks with a low “hedge” along the top and these are evident in all the other fields owned by The Scott Family. We have no examples of “Lanshers”, the low earth and stone banks separating the strips within the larger, arable fields, probably showing that these fields always used to be meadows.

The hedges along the remaining boundaries of the fields have all been dated using the Hooper’s Rule method.

**Age of Hedge = Number of woody species in 30m stretch x 110 + 30 years**

We found that the western hedges in Little Park and Slade Acre were over 400 years old, and sections on the eastern boundaries were over 300 years old. Some sections have been over-planted in modern times so they were discounted, and other sections have deteriorated and died, or been removed. We are pleased that some of the dressed stone facings have survived the best efforts of the rabbit population!

**GROWING**

The fields named as Slade Acre, Johnnie’s Garden and Kiln Hay were top-seeded by hand after the fields had been thoroughly harrowed with a borrowed chain harrow. Then five cattle were grazed to tread the seed in and they were left until March, 2015 when all livestock was removed. A path was kept mown down the middle of Slade Acre so that growth could be monitored, and noxious (toxic) weeds removed.

Growth was observed to be excellent among the grasses, and there was a very successful growth of Yellow Rattle, especially in Slade Acre. Johnnie’s Garden, by contrast, only had three discernible plants during this first year. Invasive Ragwort and Oxford Ragwort were systematically removed, and as many of the 5 different types of thistle as could be; all were removed by hand and no chemicals were used.

Grasses identified were: Cocksfoot, Meadow Fescue, Sheep Fescue, Perennial rye-grass, Black grass, Common Couch, Timothy Grass, Crested Dog’s Tail, Red Fescue and Annual Meadow Grass.

Other plants identified: White Clover, Red Clover (a large increase on previous years), Dandelion, Yarrow, Black medick, Sorrel, Pignut, Cow Parsley, Hogweed, Scarlet Pimpernel, Common Vetch, Bush Vetch, Centaury, Red Campion, Common Rock Rose, Knapweed, Cowslip, Primrose, Creeping Violet, Lords and Ladies, Bluebell and our first Orchid (Early Purple).

We were not able to identify the insects that were observed, but the sound they made on a warm, sunny day was incredible. They were hunted by low-flying house Martins and Swallows and a Barn Owl was observed hunting over Slade Acre on more than one occasion. Many types of butterfly were observed, not all easily identified and a more scientific approach will be needed in the future. Those identified accurately were Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Small Blue, Common Blue, Large and Small, Cabbage White and Orange Tip.

**MOWING and MAKING HAY**

The mowing of the fields was very problematic, with different difficulties presented by each field and some common to all the fields.

Timing of the cut proved to be a bit of a problem. Because the Gower Landscape Project does not have access to its own equipment, cutting etc. has to be done by Contractors. Because the Project fields are for flower conservation, as well as hay,
While every reasonable step has been taken to ensure the veracity of the articles, Rhossili Community Council does not take responsibility for any omissions or errors. December 2015

participants have agreed to mow the fields after the flowers have seeded. By the time this happened, contractors were busy with combining cereal crops etc. It was hard to find a Contractor willing to do the work, and/or had the relevant machinery available. To the rescue came Geoff Beynon!

Kiln Hay was also problematic. The existence of large occupied anthills on parts of the field make use of large machinery impossible. We also noticed that there is a long pile of loose stones, now almost completely overgrown, which we believe to be limestone rocks ready for burning in the kiln and nearby a small “face” in exposed bedrock from which stone could have been cut; both these features mitigate the use of large machinery. So we used a motorized scythe to cut as much as possible but the effect was very unsatisfactory, and most of the grass is still standing. Once cut, the grass-for-hay didn’t have a chance to dry out as the weather at the end of August was not good enough for long enough for it to dry sufficiently for baling, but it was tossed by hand twice or three times on dry days.

Generally, the experience of our first year trying to restore historic hay meadows on our part of The Vile could be considered worthwhile. There have been some successes, notably the increase in flowering plants already showing up, although this may be because the fields have been left to grow rather than provide grazing for our animals; counting species next year will give a clearer picture. However, cutting (or mowing), making and gathering the hay have shown up all kinds of problems for this as a Project. We hope the Project continues and even expand, and hope that our problems will be less acute in Year 2.

Huge thanks are due to Geoff Beynon, for his support, advice and effort on our behalf, also Becs, at GLP for helping us broadcast the seed at the beginning and Alan Kearsley-Evans for getting it all off the ground. We are looking forward to the next years, continuing our efforts to help restore our part of the historic landscape that is The Vile.

Jo and Pete Scott

THE HELVETIA

If the icon of Rhossili isn’t Worms Head, then it must be the Helvetia! There are bound to be countless pictures of families posing next to it hanging on walls or in albums all over the World.

In researching another feature of Gower, we sent away for a book from a trader on a well-known book supply web-site, but when the parcel arrived, it contained the wrong book. However, we had a look through it and were intrigued with the story it told about our own Helvetia and the picture of her before she sank, so we thought we’d like to share it with everyone. (see last page for photo of Helvetia under sail)

There was a South-Easterly gale blowing on 1st November, 1887 and the Helvetia, was off Mumbles Head, asking for a Pilot to take her, and her cargo of 500 tons of Scandinavian timber, into Swansea but it was too rough for the cutter to get out to her. The Helvetia and another ship, also loaded with timber, sought shelter elsewhere. The other ship made it safely to Lundy, but the Helvetia struck the Helwick Sandbank and floated over it, thanks to the cargo of timber, which kept her afloat. She was blown around Worms Head, and found enough shelter to drop anchor in Rhossili Bay. The Rhossili Life-saving Company, led by Coastguard Darch, fired a rocket aboard and offered to take the crew to safety. However, the Master of the ship refused to leave in case someone from the village claimed his ship as prize. During the night, the wind changed to the West and she started to drag her anchor, so the crew was forced to come ashore. The cargo of the Helvetia gave quite a boost to the local economy with all that valuable wood to retrieve but although all the crew and the Master escaped unhurt, she caused tragedy later.

The steamboat Cambrian, from Llanelli, was sent as part of the salvage in the summer of 1888 and to stop the ship from swinging broadside in the waves, her Master had the crew walk the anchor to the Low Water Mark. However, when
Cambrian left, her anchor remained, stuck firmly in the sand and several villagers were tasked with digging out the anchor and taking it to Kitchen Corner, where it was attached to a buoy. When Cambrian came back to retrieve the anchor, a boat was lowered to collect it and it was manned by “six land-lubbers out on a day trip”. However, they didn’t go and get the anchor straight away, but went instead to The Ship Inn, where they spent the rest of the day! When they finally got into the boat and set out, nearing the buoy, a wave caught them, capsizing the boat and tipped them all into the sea. Sadly, five of the six were drowned, the only survivor being a fireman who was the only one who could swim.

After shipwrecks there was always an inquest into the circumstances, so one was scheduled for Rhossili. Helvetia’s Master and Mate both remained in the village to give evidence. The Mate was a young Norwegian who fell in love with the eldest of his host’s five daughters. He asked for her hand in marriage but was refused and, presumably, he sailed off into the sunset. Of the girl, well, she remained a spinster all her life, dying at the age of 80.

We love telling this story to visitors, when we’re “On Watch” at The Lookout, hopefully adding to their enjoyment and giving them an idea of how wrecks have played such an important part in the life of Rhossili Village. Not long after NCI started at The Lookout, someone unknown tried to steal the anchor from The Samuel, stranded on The Causeway in 1884. Fortunately, they were interrupted and told to restore it to its previous position. When we tell this story to visitors, we also tell them that the path they take down to The Causeway was cut by villagers to retrieve Samuel’s very valuable cargo – coal. The zig-zag path allowed the villagers’ horse-drawn carts to bring the coal up and they sold it for three pence a bag or a shilling a cartload and it was interesting to find out that the salvage company wasn’t interested in the cargo; what they wanted was the copper sheets on her bottom and the bolts that held her together.

If anyone knows any further information about the spinster daughter, or anything else about the

Helvetia, we’d love to know. Did she live in your house?

Jo and Pete Scott

RHOSILLI COASTGUARD

Rhossili Coastguard 2015 Update

It has once again been a busy year with us responding to 59 incidents to date however this is down on 2014, which I suppose this is only a good thing...

It has certainly been a year of change with the closure of the operational room at Swansea Coastguard which was a real shame and has resulted in us now reporting to Milford Haven Coastguard just across the water. There have been a few teething problems and the loss of familiar voices and vast amounts of local knowledge has now gone and this is a real shame, however, we move on...

We have had some new blood join the team with Alison Carey joining us from Oxwich Coastguard and another member of the Higgins family, no it is not Josephine but the one and only Josh!!! With the additions there have been a few who have left us as a result of the new coastguard restructure; they are Marc ‘Gunga’ Lancey who served the team for 10 years and the ever reliable and ever present Steve Jones who served the team for an incredible 42 Years...

We would like to take this opportunity to wish them both well for the future!

The ‘other’ Steve Jones, formerly Little Hill House, has also left the team early in the year and we also wish him all the very best, too.

The vacant role of deputy station officer has now been fulfilled by Steve Lancey.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our station open day during August as a result of awful weather, but we aim plan to do this again next year. The team continues to train on a regular basis throughout the year in order to maintain their skill base and fulfil growing demands of what is expected of them.
The team is currently looking to fill a few spaces within the team so if you are interested in joining or finding out more please contact Darren.

We would like to wish everyone in the village a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Darren Powell and Steve Lancey
Rhossili Coastguard

NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTE
Worm’s Head Station 2014-2015

This has been a year of unusual visits, including one that resulted eventually in the bomb squad arriving. We knew that something like it had happened during War II because the incident was written up in our Visitors’ Book but it was still a bit unnerving to have a member of the public turn up this July with a shell head in his arms asking, “What do we do with this?”

Our other most unusual visit this year was a van with a grand piano on board which the chaps proceeded to set up on the cliffs above the Ledges for a photo-shoot.

Apparently a concert pianist fancies the idea of playing in the wild surroundings and the National Trust are hoping for a recital next year!

It was a long hot summer and visitor numbers soared. There were the usual incidents involving surveillance, medical emergencies of varying degrees of gravity and, more seriously, a fatal cliff fall, an attempted suicide and a death. Of course there was the continuing problem of people marooned – in spite of notices and advice - on the Worm. But I am glad to say that such incidents prevented, by the use of our monster megaphone mainly, are over three times as many as the ones where Horton ILB or Rescue 169 have had to be called out.

Two events must be recorded. The first was our break-in. It was badly timed: we were anticipating our annual inspection. Having left the Lookout spotless and expectant for the following day, there was a telephone call at 4 in the morning saying that we had been broken into and generally trashed. This was followed by a desperate scramble to return things to a suitable state for opening at all. It was done with minutes to spare and we passed.

The other thing was of course the refurbishment of the Lookout. The National Trust, partly funded by the Gower Society, has furnished us with a fine new slate roof and triple-glazed windows. For the six weeks when we were turfed out we had alternative accommodation in a small blue cabin called the Groundhog (manufactured on an impressive site up the Neath valley). Somehow it seemed to attract even more visitors than usual and we had a pleasant if energetic exile.

We are now back home and things are quietening down but we never know what is going to happen next: it was only luck that the recent alarm of a Land Rover rolled over on the cliffs didn’t turn into the tragedy it could have become.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Andy Bowen
Station Manager,
National Coastwatch Institution Worms Head

RECYCLING BAGS AVAILABLE

Don’t forget that you can collect new supplies of recycling bags from Pitton Cross Caravan Park if you run short. You can collect pink, green and food bags from the shop daily between 10am and 4pm. This service is in addition to the kerbside replenishment service already provided by Swansea Council.
BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE:
PITTON CROSS CARAVAN PARK

Notes from a small campsite.

As the festive season gets under way, here is a snapshot of how we at Pitton Cross Caravan Park have found this year.

We have found that our bookings were coming constantly from the start in January.

The end of August was not brilliant weather and didn’t help our pitches.

We would like to thank our staff Jeny & Sharon.

Robert & Phoebe Close and Thea Beynon for their help in the shop and on site.

We have had another successful year working closely with Mark & Kathryn Bulson of Scamperholidays Ltd, who has the shepherd’s huts and timber tent on site. We look forward to another good year working together.

Throughout this year we have held in conjunction with ‘I Support Parkinson’s UK’, a children’s treasure hunt and draw a dragon competition at 50p ago. Thank you to all those children who took part a fabulous £92.50 was raised.

Our Collection tin raised £217.22, by our customers & visitors from the village who gave generously to Parkinson’s UK.

Roger & Eira have taken more of a retired role this year and helped out more with Felix & Ripley. Roger has been on many walks this year and had the opportunity to show Chinese people Rhossili on one of his guided walks.

Ian and I are taking more of a role in the driving seat of the campsite. We have worked long hours and made a few good improvements on site. Ian is now on Rhossili Community Council and I have gone on to the Rhossili Village Hall and Social Committee.

2016 will be our 10th year, in working with Roger & Eira at Pitton Cross Caravan Park.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year for 2016.

FARMING INSIGHT:
Great Pitton Farm

At Great Pitton Farm there are many enterprises which make up our farming business. One small enterprise which has grown and developed in recent years is our lambing flock.

The flock of ewes are a hardy Welsh mountain breed which is kept not only for lamb production, but are also used to manage the fauna and flora across the cliffs. The Welsh breed is ideal for grazing the cliffs as they are incredibly efficient at looking after themselves, not only making use of the poor quality forage on offer, but are equipped with an impenetrable fleece which protects them from the weather. These hardy ewes are light weight and sure footed enabling them to reach their food in the most inaccessible places; their agility means that some of the more adventurous decide to pop over the wall to see if the grass is greener on the other side! This is when Rusty my Welsh sheep dog is invaluable helping to round them up.

Our ewes can be found grazing the cliff from the wall which runs down Mewslade valley to the Knave and also Paviland Cave cliff. Most readers of this article will have therefore met some of them but may not have given them a second thought; they will certainly not have given you much thought as they are not short of visitors to their home!

So here is an insight into their seemingly uneventful lives. The ewes are born on the farm; they spend the first five months of their lives enjoying the view with their mothers and brothers. In August they are weaned and moved into the more productive fields on the farm where they continue to grow. The male lambs are produced for meat so is sold once they are in prime condition. Each lamb must be by law

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electronically tagged with its own unique identification number.

At a year old the ewe lambs move to my parent’s farm in Llanidloes (mid Wales). They have their first lambs at two years old and remain there until they are three or four, lambing every year. At this point in their lives they have reached their prime and move back to Rhossili where the winters are not so hard.

Upon the ewes return to the farm they join the flock on the cliff once more where they will remain for the rest of their productive life. The shortening days mean that the ewes are ready to mate and are put to the ram around bonfire night so that their lambs are born towards the end of March when the grass starts growing. They will produce around 1.7 lambs per year and roughly 7 in their lifetime.

Next time you pass through their cliff remember they are there in all weathers and are probably enjoying the sunshine and the view as much as you!

Tom Higgs

RHOSsili FOOTPATH MAP
third edition

This year it was time to update the Rhossili footpath path. Being the third incarnation of the map, once again, a different approach was taken.

The 1st map was put together with the help of Swansea City council and the hope was to get something out there to ‘test the water’. After this map’s initial success it was time for a redesign with the feeling the original map was overly detailed (too many paths) for either visitors or anyone just out for a stroll. So a lot of paths were removed leaving just a selection of guided walks around Rhossili Parish taking in the Gower Way and Coast path, and were used to great effect.

The maps have been sold for five years, selling very well with over 5000 copies sold. Having sold these maps at Pitton Cross Caravan Park over this time, and hoping that I understood what people were looking for, I decided to take on the mantle to produce the third edition.

With Rhossili getting more and more popular with a more diverse visitor profile, I decided to take out most of the description wording and use local images, having found that when directing visitors to Ramsgrove it was easier to show Ramsgrove rather than trying to explain. Making use of modern technology (not to everyone’s taste) we worked with The Gower Landscape Partnership to incorporate their Gower Walking App into our paper map as 90% of visitors have a smart phone making use of the 4G signal.

You can’t beat the feel of a paper map explaining your route, when out as a family!

Having started the design phase back in the spring and with the desire to have the map ready for the summer, it slowly started to come together by late July. We were 75% there but as with these projects as you get near to the end, new glitches appear. Half the battle was to have the right images; I was not looking for the best image of Rhossili but a story through images. Thether leading you down a path, showing you what’s at the end of your route or how to be begin. It is not possible to show every thing Rhossili Has to offer, so I hope this presents a taster of Rhossili even if it is not the main meal.

A copy of the map should be enclosed with this Newsletter. Further maps are available at Pitton Cross Caravan Park and other outlets in Rhossili. A big thank you goes out to all who help Roger Button, AW Graphics, the Gower Landscape Partnership and our advertiser.

Ian Button

Pitton Cross Caravan and Camping Site

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**RHOSSILI WORKING GROUP**

**Update: Christmas 2015**

At the demise of the Atlantic Array, you may remember that the Group decided to keep going to seek conservation status for the Bristol Channel as a way of protecting the coasts of Gower and North Devon from undue exploitation. This would not mean total opposition to all development, but that projects would need to be fully justified and protections put in place. The species driving the need for protection measures is the Harbour Porpoise.

**Proposed candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC)**

Pursuing environmental protection for the Bristol Channel has been the priority for the Group, and where we have been heading since the first concerns about the Atlantic Array.

Background: in 2004, EON wanted to build a wind farm on Scarweather Sands off Porthcawl, and commissioned Chris Pierpoint to carry out a baseline survey on marine mammals, resulting in the two reports *Pierpoint 2006 (Interim)* and *Pierpoint 2008a*. The first was initially published but then withdrawn, the second was never published despite many requests. The surveys showed high incidence of porpoise with calves in the area: EON withdrew the development. Permission has recently been given to dismantle the meteorological mast on the site. The sea area should have been declared a possible conservation area with further research commissioned, but nothing happened.

World Wildlife Fund made a formal complaint to the European Commission against the UK Government regarding the Government’s failure to set up conservation areas for Harbour Porpoise in UK seas. Porthcawl Environment Trust (PET) made a parallel complaint against the Welsh Government. The EC accepted both complaints, and proceeded with the WWF complaint which is currently at the second stage of legal process - the Submissions of Reasoned Opinion; the PET complaint is still on file, awaiting the outcome of the larger complaint. WWF commissioned a report *WWF (2012) Protecting the Harbour Porpoise in UK seas*: this recommended six areas around the UK as potential SACs for the Harbour Porpoise, including the Outer Bristol Channel to which it gave an overall rating of A/B and global significance of B.

Faced with being taken to court, the UK Government commissioned its own report which was published in March 2015 as JNCC Report 544. This report somehow managed to exclude the Outer Bristol Channel as a candidate SAC. Report 544 is a statistical model derived from the contours of the coastline, but then applies a methodology which excludes the Bristol Channel. Rhossili Working Group has produced a critique of JNCC Report 544 which raises concerns about both factual input and methodology.

Report 544 has been used exclusively to determine the candidate SACs.

A parallel report commissioned and published at the same time, JNCC Report 543, describes Swansea Bay as a 'hotspot' but this has been excluded from consideration.

**Latest position:**

The legal action is on-going between the European Commission and the UK Government.

NRW put the JNCC proposals out for ‘informal’ consultation in March - June 2015. The Secretary of State used the proposals (probably prematurely) as part of the determination for permission for the Tidal Lagoon.

We are informed that JNCC and the other statutory nature bodies have now submitted their recommendations to the various UK governments, and a formal consultation is expected in January 2016.

The Group is strongly opposing the current cSAC proposals and is seeking inclusion of The Outer Bristol Channel (including Scarweather, Swansea Bay and Gower coast) as a candidate Special Area of Conservation.

In September, we made the startling discovery that in 2009, EON had agreed that the Pierpoint Scarweather Sands data of 2005 – 2007 could be included in the Europe-wide database for
porpoise – the Joint Cetacean Protocol (JCP). Unfortunately, the data was passed on from an intermediary and this version of the dataset did not include GPS tracking, so was not accepted for the JCP; this may be why the data was not included in the recent study of potential conservation areas. However, we further discovered that the original Scarweather research had full GPS tracking references, but nobody asked for them – a failure of process by the conservation agencies.

We have made our findings known to Defra, JNCC, NRW and Welsh Government. Properly, it should mean that the Scarweather data now gets included in considerations, and should mean that the Bristol Channel becomes a possible area of conservation. But we have had no response from either governments or agencies, and our fear is that they have carried on regardless of the new information. We will only know when the proposals are published for consultation, probably in January.

We will continue to press the case for the inclusion of the Bristol Channel as a conservation area for the Harbour Porpoise, by pressing the case of the Scarweather Sands research, and by challenging the premise and process of Report 544.

The complaint by Porthcawl Environment Trust specifically cited the porpoise population at Scarweather Sands. Accordingly, we have kept the European Commission informed of our findings. But the UK Government has repeatedly changed the rules on Judicial Reviews: by reducing the timeframe for appeal from three months to six weeks, and last week by taking away the restrictions on cost which had recently been put in place by the Aarhus Convention.

It is always beneficial to have more views and assistance in formulating and progressing lines of argument in order to achieve the goal of protection for the Outer Bristol Channel and the coasts of Gower. If you would like to help, we would welcome your participation, so please get in touch.

**Tidal Lagoon**

We decided not to oppose the Lagoon, but merely to seek safeguards for the porpoise in the area, asking that the developer avoid the breeding season for piling, and provide warning frequencies for approaching porpoise during operation. The Secretary of State, in granting permission, used NRW’s recent proposals for Special Areas of Conservation which do not include Swansea Bay and the Outer Bristol Channel, but did include some safeguards for marine mammals.

The biggest concern regarding the built Lagoon turned out to be the future water quality of the Bay (we were not involved in this). The Lagoon stretches out so far that water circulation is severely impeded, meaning that the sediments and silts carried down by the River Tawe will not be effectively dispersed by the tides. The Swansea Council / NRW expert projected that Blackpill will become mudflats, and there will be saltmarsh between Blackpill and Norton. However, the main concern is that future water quality will not meet the requirements of the European Water Framework Directive - this is the legislation which gives us clean rivers and blue flag beaches. In giving consent for the Lagoon, the Secretary of State effectively said that Swansea Bay already did not meet the targets (it is currently on a catch-up plan), and would meet the targets even less with the Lagoon in place; the Lagoon was given the first exemption in the whole of Europe from the Water Directive. At the end of the day, the choice is between power and a clean Bay - the sad failure is that of the local press to inform people of the choices.

Having been granted planning permission, there are currently a few hold-ups. The Welsh Government has been trying to decide who should have jurisdiction over the Lagoon as it stretches out into the sea. The Welsh Government / NRW still has to grant a marine licence for development, and there is concern about possible unexploded ordnance. But probably the biggest hold-up is in London over agreement on the Contract for Difference (CfD) - the price to be paid for the electricity generated: conventional power generation costs 55p per ‘unit’, nuclear costs 92p, offshore wind 155p; it is
thought the Lagoon developers want 185p – and this for the next 120 years. Plans to begin construction are currently postponed until 2017.

Carl Johnson
Rhossili Working Group
1st December 2015

Should anyone wish for further information on the Group’s activities and interests or wishes to know more about the environmental status of the Outer Bristol Channel please contact Carl or email rhossilicc@gmail.com

DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

Rhossili Community Council arranged two (re)training sessions for the use of defibrillators (AED’s) which was held in September this year with the training provided by Anthony from CARIAD. Despite publicity, support for the courses was disappointing and not as well attended as the first courses arranged a few years ago.

Anthony is one of the founder members and with one of his colleagues provided an entertaining, informative and enjoyable presentation which involved the use of the more up to date versions of AED which are more likely to be found in public places.

Rhossili Community Council have contracted to CARIAD to look after the existing defibrillators where they are responsible for the monthly servicing of the current two units in Rhossili Village (outside Rhossili Village Hall by Main entrance and outside the National Trust Shop both by main entrance doors to each building) replacing expendable items as when used or the useful life has expired.

Access code to the bright yellow cabinets is C 159 X (it may shortly change to C 999 X or even be just unlocked for enabling prompt and easy access).

The Community Council is also looking at increasing the numbers of AED units situating them throughout the whole Rhossili Community. There is a cost attached to these even though a certain amount of grant funding should be available for each. Consideration is for up to a total nine at a cost of around £200 for each to maintain, the cost of which is hoped to be borne by local businesses and Community Council.

The process is in the early stages at present but definite locations considered are the NCI Lookout, Rhossili Beach slope, Rhossili Gallery, Pitton Cross Caravan and Camp Campsite, with the probability of others at Mewslade/Lower Pitton, YHA Rhossili Bunkhouse and a location in South Pilton Green.

The aim is to provide a defibrillator ideally within reach of 150m maximum (approximately 300m apart); thus reducing the ‘delay’ time in providing any possible cardiac recovery support time, to a minimum – every minute saved improves the chance of a quality revival.

The Community may need to run a course of Charity events in support of this.

In view of our more elderly community than most, Rhossili Community Council is in the very early stages of looking at the feasibility of First Responders receiving training and qualification in the Port Eynon, Scurlage and Rhossili district in providing additional support to our ailing Health Service response times. If anyone can assist in this area, is interested or wants further information, please contact one of the RCC committee.

Steven Campbell-Kelly

GOWER LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

Unfortunately a contribution for the latest work was not received in time before going to print.

It is hoped that this will be included in the January minutes of Rhossili Community Council.
For more details on the Gower Landscape Partnership or any of our projects please get in touch with,
GowerLandscapePartnership@swansea.gov.uk or 01792 390275.

Rebecca O’Dowd
Gower Landscape Partnership Project Officer

NATIONAL TRUST

Litter picks
As usual the National Trust arranged eight ‘monthly’ litter picks of Rhossili beach on the following dates:
25 March, 4 April, 2 June, 4 July, 9 July, 25 Aug, 19 Sept, 3 Oct. The event on the 19th Sept was part of the nationwide Marine Conservation Society beach clean initiative.

I would like to thank Jo and Peter Scott for all the help helping trying to keep the beach clean in 2015 carrying out a regular patrol with their quad bike and trailer and they have regularly brought back a trailer full to South Pitton Green.

We will continue these through the winter as and when it is necessary.

Events
We have held a few more events than usual in 2015 at Rhossili to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Operation Neptune campaign.
Walk to the Worm – 8th March
Easter egg trail - 4th April
Big Picnic – 4th July
Archaeology event at the old village – 23rd to 26th Sept

Conservation
The National Trust has continued their annual conservation tasks on the National Nature Reserve which largely consists of cutting and removing gorse.

Cutting and removal of gorse on Rhossili Down this year, funded by the fire brigade, in an attempt to prevent illegal unconsented burns from occurring and causing widespread damage to the area. There was one unconsented burn in the Rhossili area in 2015 near to the NCI lookout building, however this fortunately didn’t catch fire and the area of damage was small.

We have already started this winter’s work which will be ongoing until late February.

The walls surrounding the Vile have been given a boost by the GLP who paid for a contractor to reinstate sections of Gower style wall.

Car Park
The purchase of the car park was completed shortly before Easter. We have changed the way the car park is operated (pay and display machines rather than pay on entry) to prevent the build-up of traffic through the village which by and large has been successful. We have also introduced infrastructure to prevent anti-social behaviour in the car park (largely joy riding) which has been an instant success. Incidents of joy riding in the car park have dropped hugely compared to previous years. We have also installed CCTV cameras for the car park to help support this.

The plans have now been submitted for the work to subtly redesign the car park to be more attractive and more in keeping with its surroundings.

Alan Kearsley-Evans
National Trust Property Manager

PITTON CHAPEL

Pitton Methodist Chapel Report
We have welcomed our Minister, Rev Andy Walker back from his sabbatical which lasted from July to the beginning of November. He spent some time in the Iona Community, immersing
himself in the life and work of this inter-denominational group of people.

The year started off in January, with a Memorial Service for Doreen Leighton who died at the age of 92. Doreen had moved to Exeter 12 months before and her funeral was held in Sidmouth, and several Chapel members went to share the service. In spite of the terrible weather the Pitton Chapel was full of friends and family as memories were shared of her.

During May we held a Sugar Craft Fund Raising event in aid of the 2015 Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit Project which was for the Amelia Farm Trust which supports under-privileged children and children excluded from school for whatever reason.

We were delighted to welcome 100 young people from the Aldridge Youth Group in the West Midlands to the Chapel in July. They join us every year during their annual camp at Pitton Cross and they take part in the service and provide the music with their guitars and drums. A truly uplifting experience.

In August, we hosted the Accreditation Service when Selina became a Local Preacher in the Gower and Swansea Circuit, and this was another wonderful experience.

Every month on the 2nd Thursday an Ecumenical Fellowship Meeting is held in Rhossili Hall from 12 until 2 p.m. where we share discussion and prayer followed by a light lunch of soup and a roll but during Advent this has been replaced by a meeting each Wednesday from 11 until 12, once again in the Hall.

Following on from the success of 2 years ago, the Stable Trail will be returning to Reynoldston Village Hall on Saturday 12th December starting every 10 minutes from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A warm welcome is extended to the joint Carol Service with St Mary’s, Rhossili on Thursday 17th December at 7.30 in Pitton and to the Christmas Morning Service at Pitton at 10.45 a.m. Both of these services will be led by our Minister, Rev Andy Walker.

Carolyn Jenkins

Christmas 2015:

- 8 December – Carol Service: St David’s, Llanddewi at 6.00pm
- 17 December – Joint Carol Service: Pitton Chapel, Rhossili at 7.30pm
- 12 December – Stable Trail: St George’s, Reynoldston at 10.30am – 12.30pm, 2.00pm – 4.00pm
- 18 December – Carols Evening: St Illtyd’s, Oxwich at 6.00pm
- 20 December – Carol Service: St Cattwg’s, Port Eynon at 3.00pm
- 20 December – Nine Lessons & Carols: St Andrews, Penrice at 4.00pm
- 21 December – Carols on the Green: Lower Green, Reynoldston at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve:

- Children’s Service: Dressing the Crib, ST George’s, Reynoldston at 5.00pm
- Holy Eucharist: St Illtyd’s, Oxwich at 5.00pm
- Holy Eucharist: St Cattwg’s, Port Eynon at 6.30pm
- Carols & Holy Eucharist: St Mary’s, Rhossili at 11.00 for 11.30pm
- Holy Eucharist: St George’s, Reynoldston at 11.30pm

Christmas Day:

- Holy Eucharist: St David’s, Llanddewi at 09.00am
- Holy Eucharist: St Andrew’s, Penrice at 10.30am

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RHOSSILI CHURCH
South West Gower Benefice

A good year, with joyous wedding and wedding blessings celebrations. Church attendance is still low, but the Church remains open every day from approximately 9am to 5pm, and this arrangement is still very popular with visitors whose numbers continue to increase, even in bleaker weather.

The rearrangement of the Deanery to a Ministry Area is under way, and even though the number of priests is less, we have been extremely lucky to be able to welcome Revd Carol Davies (newly resident in the Rectory, Knelston) as our Priest for the six Churches in the South West Gower Benefice.

Come along and meet her at one of our services – ALL will be made most welcome!

Peter Venables

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A note of thanks to Jim Harford of Print Partnership, who provides a great printing service to so many people on Gower. His company always demonstrates professionalism and quick turnaround – meaning that this newsletter will find its way to our doorsteps before Christmas.

RCC
Season’s Greetings

Dave & Barbara Powell: “Wishing all our friends, neighbours & members of the oil consortium a very merry Christmas & happy, healthy 2016. Our sincere thanks to all of you who have offered your help & support over the last few months. We really appreciate it. Donation to the British Heart Foundation”

Marion Potts: “To all my friends and neighbours, thank you all for your cards, messages and help during my recent ‘indisposal’, I don’t know how I would have managed without you. Nadolig Llawen a Blwydden Newydd Dda i pawb.”

Vicki and Nigel James: “Wishing everyone in Rhossili a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year. All the best”

Gaynor and Trevor Morris: “wish all their friends and neighbours a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.”

Audrey Frank: “To All my Friends, Greetings for Christmas and the Best Wishes for New Year with Love from Audrey”

June Thomas: “June sends Christmas Greetings to you all and sincerely hopes that we all have a Peaceful 2016”

Jo and Peter Scott: “Jo and Pete Scott wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year.”

Mark, Mary, Dyfrig and Huw: “Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! With our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy 2015 from Mark, Mary, Dyfrig and Huw (Pitton Cottage) xxx”

Carl and Caroline Johnson: “Wishing our friends a happy and peaceful Christmas and all the very best for 2016.”

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Steven, Lesley and the Campbell-Kelly family at Rhossili Gallery wish to send our, “Season’s Greetings to all in Rhossili Community. Wishing you all Good Health, a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year. (A donation will be made to the Welsh Air Ambulance)”

Helen and Terry Sinclair: “Festive greetings to our friends and neighbours, wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy year in 2016. XXX

Dai Cann: “A Merry Christmas to all my friends and neighbours, with best wishes for a Happy New Year.”

Jo, Charlotte and Josh Higgins: “Wishing all our lovely friends and neighbours a very healthy and happy Christmas. With lots of love from Jo, Jeff, Gerry, Charlotte, Josh, Ben and Zak xx”

Ian, Tracey and family, Eira and Roger Button: “wish all friends and acquaintances old and new a Very Happy Christmas and Every Best Wishes for 2016. Instead of sending Christmas cards we will make a donation to the homeless charity Crisis at Christmas - Crisis.org.uk”

Sarah and Steve Walmsley: “To all our friends in Rhossili, wishing you all a Happy Christmas and an enjoyable and fulfilling New Year”

Selina Taylor: “Wishing everyone all the very best for Christmas and the New Year”

Gill Evans: “To all friends in Rhossili, I send my warmest good wishes for Christmas and the New Year!”

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Olive Beynon: “I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy healthy New Year. I would also like to thank everyone who has been so kind and helpful during the last year which was rather difficult because of my health problems. Please have a lovely Christmas.”

Sue and Paul, at the Bay Bistro would like to, “wish everyone a very Merry Christmas”
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