
Rhossili Village Christmas Magazine

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[Jubilee Beacon]

These are your serving Community Councillors elected in 2022

Chair: Ian Button **Deputy Chair:** Gill Boulding **Responsible Finance Officer:** Stephen Walmsley
Committee Members: Tom Higgs, Maggie Kirk, Lesley-Anne Nolan, Nicola Rees, Sally Thomas

Message from Ian Button, Chair of Rhossili Community Council

I would like to welcome our new councillors thank everyone on the council for really pulling together as a team, particularly in the absence of a council clerk. The learning curve for me was to embrace a new way forward with a 360 camera, zoom meetings and relocating to the main hall. This allowed us to enjoy having local villagers at our meetings with the added space available. We are proud to present the years Rhossili Village Magazine and hope you will enjoy the many varied contributions from across the community. And would like to thank Tom Higgs and Jenean Bailey for their hard work in putting the magazine together.

As 2022 draws to an end with the stormy conditions, we forget the heat wave of the summer, queue to the car park as the village slowly moves forward.

The last two years of long spells of an empty village and fields with no picnics, BBQ'S or tents and the Coastwatch just watching seals, it was so good to embrace visitors back, even though there seemed less children but more couples and older families. Finding local staff seems harder with local children growing up and cost of travel. It's always good to welcome new residents to the village and I would like to thank Steve Parry and Gwyn for installing new kissing gates in the village and all their hard work keeping footpaths open and easy to use.

With the village being developed, the local planning authority tries to keep any character that's left on properties but still allowing people room to grow within their homes. There's always the tussle between being able to keep a mix of homes, as we have very few new properties in our community.

If you would like to receive emails from the community council, please email rhossilicc@gmail.com and we will add you to our mailing list. Also please look out for further information and updates on Rhossili Community Council's monthly minutes, and on the community notice boards. If you would like further information on how you can become a councillor, please contact us. Our monthly meetings are every second Tuesday at 7.15pm at Rhossili Village Hall or on Zoom.

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RHOSSILI VILLAGE HALL AND BUNKHOUSE 2022

In March this year, we saw the lifting of the last of the pandemic restrictions and the re-opening of the Village Hall for more general community events. The first meeting was a 'Drop in' Café for people to meet and socialise and was a great success. Since then, the events have gone from strength to strength, and it was great to see the Hall being used by the community once again.



Finances over the last four years have proved challenging due to the disruption caused by the pandemic. Despite this, we have still managed to improve the Hall facilities and maintain the Hall and Bunkhouse to a high standard. We have done this by using our savings, taking out loans and, whenever possible, undertaking the maintenance work ourselves. Over this period, we spent £77,658 on major projects (eg Hall roof replacement, Hall lighting upgrades etc) and £11,576 on general maintenance (eg painting, fixing plumbing, fixing wind damage to Bunkhouse roof etc). This year things have greatly improved as we received a very generous donation of £10,000 from the Bowen Richards Trust. This donation allowed us pay off the loan we took out, two years ago, to stop us running out of cash. We are hugely grateful for the donation as it allows us to continue to improve the facilities rather than put things on hold until we were able to repay the loan.

This year the Bunkhouse was able to trade normally. The re-configured, self-contained bunkhouse accommodation has proved successful as the demand for 'staycations' remains a popular option across the country. Unfortunately, one of the legacies of the pandemic is that people using the bunkhouse accommodation prefer to remain separate from the hall

users and vice versa. To help with this, we decided to create an alternative side entrance for bunkhouse users and install separate kitchen and toilet facilities in the Hall. This will allow the Hall to be available for small groups to use when the Bunkhouse is occupied. We applied for, and were successful in being awarded, a 'match funded' Tourism Support Fund grant to help us carry out the proposed changes. This grant will allow us to install a refreshment area and toilet solely for use by Hall users. An added bonus of the Bowen Richards Trust donation is that it has allowed us to free up funds that we can use as 'matched funding'. For larger Hall events we will continue our 'Community first' policy by not allowing the bunkhouse to be booked ensuring all the facilities are available for community use. This will mean a degree of forward planning in the scheduling of large events, but we are determined to make this happen.

We still intend to make more changes to the Hall and its surrounding storage facilities whenever funds allow. Improvements planned include: creating more Hall storage space, replacing the stage curtains rails, installing a ceiling mounted projector and installing more appropriate lighting for the carpark and internal corridors.

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in October with several interesting proposals being made by community members. The feasibility of incorporating these proposals into our development plans is currently being assessed by the Trustees and they will become part of the facilities we offer if at all possible.

Mark Provis stood down as a Trustee this year. He has contributed to all aspects of our activities (eg the website, business re-structuring and maintenance) and provided well thought through insights to many of our discussions. We were sad to see him go. The current Trustees are: Jo and Jeff Higgins (Chair), Vicki James (Secretary), Derek O'Brien, Marian Potts, Linda Shaw, Sarah (Vice-Chair) and Steve Walmsley (Treasurer). We are always looking for new Trustees so, if you think you would be interested in joining us, please contact any Trustee who will be able to give you an insight into what we do.

Finally, we would all like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we all look forward to you joining us at the Hall events in the coming new year.

Jeff Higgins and Steve Walmsley
Directors of RBH Ltd and Trustees of RVH
www.rhossilibunkhouse.com

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News from Pitton Chapel



Our remote, rural location limits what we can do as a Chapel but thanks to the financial generosity of our congregation we continue to support a number of charities both at home and overseas. We were very pleased that our own charitable status enabled the Rhossili Hwb project to successfully acquire a substantial number of sim cards for their upcoming training sessions.

This year we have also opened the grounds of the Chapel, added some planters and provided seating for walkers who may welcome a short respite. We hope to expand on this in due course.

We have a number of forthcoming services in Chapel to which you are most warmly invited.

Tuesday 6th December 6:30pm Carol Service with St Mary's and Llandewi & Knelston WI.

Our Christmas Day service will be at 11am. Our minister, the Rev. Andy Walker, will be leading both of those services.

On behalf of the congregation of Pitton Chapel may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and send you every good wish for the New Year.

Selina Taylor



St Mary's Church Rhossili



Church life was finally able to return to normal now we have passed the period of lockdowns and restrictions and we have welcomed a steady stream of visitors throughout the year. Some come to enjoy the peace of the church, to leave prayers or to add messages to our Tree for Ukraine. It was heart-warming to see how touched visitors from Ukraine were to see the extent to which they are in our thoughts and prayers. Services are held on the second Sunday of every month when we are joined by fellow worshippers from the United Parish of Southwest Gower. It is always good to meet up and enjoy time together on these Sunday mornings with refreshments after the service. The August service was particularly special being the last one with Revd Justin before he and Heather move to his new role in Central Swansea. This was well attended by the many people keen to thank them for everything they have done during the few years with us and to wish them the best of luck for the future. We are very sorry to see them leave and look forward to meeting the next incumbent when they are appointed (this is not likely to be before Easter 2023).

In May the whole church community of Southwest Gower combined forces to raise money for the Ukraine. A plant, craft and cake sale were held at Knelston Rectory kindly hosted by Revd Justin and Heather. Thankfully the weather was fair and event well attended raising over £2,700 for distribution amongst the five families from Ukraine currently living on Gower.

During the year a new information panel has been installed in the churchyard to welcome visitors and draw attention to the distinctive features of St Mary's. Provided by grant funding as part of the launch of the Gower Pilgrimage Way, it has attracted plenty of interest. There are also a new range of postcards available for sale in the church. September's inaugural Pilgrimage Way festival was a week of guided walks and talks covering all 17 churches across 50 miles. Pilgrims

a-plenty trekked around the route including an enthusiastic gang of cyclists intent on completing it in a single day. Congratulations to David Stockwell being the first person to receive a fully stamped Pilgrim Passport having walked the full circuit.

Our September service took place shortly after the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and was an opportunity to commemorate her life of Christian service. Attended by parishioners and visitors paying their respects this was a thoughtful service which ended with an uplifting rendition of the National Anthem - God Save the King!

Sadly, there have been several funerals this year with Jose Beynon, Doreen Jones and Kaye Beynon as well as the burial of Gill Tucker's ashes in their family grave and Gaynor Morris' whose service took place at Morriston. St Mary's was pleased to host three baptisms and two weddings this year for families coming to the church from outside our community. These were days of joy and celebration which are always a pleasure to share

The maintenance of our ancient building is an ongoing project, and we are grateful to everyone who helps with these tasks whether physically or financially. December storms put a hole in the roof and ruffled up whole rows of tiles pulling nails from the battens until repaired by the excellent roofers. After the delays imposed by covid we have at last scheduled the internal decorating for early in 2023 and will be very happy to see the church looking its best once again.

As we draw closer to the end of another year, we would like to thank all those people who contribute to the smooth running of the church to ensure it is available for both our community and visitors. In particular thanks to Gill Wales and Steve Campbell Kelly who open and lock the building every day and carry out a myriad of vital but unseen tasks. Carl for his fantastic musical contributions both playing the organ and leading the choir and Caroline for her constant reliable organisation.

The dates for Christmas services are not yet available and will be circulated as soon as we have details. However, we look forward to 16th December when the village hall social committee have arranged music and mince pies in the hall, with Salvation Army band playing a selection of seasonal carols at 6.00pm followed by the launch of the Community Hwb. As one of the stakeholders St Mary's are keen to support this initiative which will help to promote and coordinate the many events and activities that take place throughout our community. We look forward to seeing many of you

there and wish everyone the very best for a Happy Christmas and Peaceful 2023

Vicky Charles



The Gower Pilgrimage Way



In Spring 2022

Rhossili Church was the venue for the launch of a new family-friendly pilgrimage route linking 17 historic churches on the Gower Peninsula, attractive to visitors both from local communities

and from far afield.

The Gower Pilgrimage Way is a new 50-mile walking and cycling route. It combines the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Gower's wonderful natural environment while discovering the rich heritage of the Gower churches, which have their roots in the age of the Celtic saints and continue to serve as places of faith and worship today.

An upsurge of interest in pilgrimage routes and spirituality, both in the UK and around the world, makes this route an exciting new addition in our locality. It was conceived by local man David Pope and the then vicar Rev Justin Davies, in a 'Dreams' church focus group in Southwest Gower, whose purpose was to consider Christian relevance in modern life and society, in a post-covid world. Such journeys certainly provide a chance for contemplation, fellowship, reflection and meaningful conversations.

The route – developed by the Church in Wales – includes coast and countryside, open moorland and wooded valleys, taking in churches, several chapels and other Christian sacred sites. It runs from Penclawdd in the north-east, around the peninsula, to St Teilo's in Bishopston in the south-east, and has been carefully divided into five manageable journeys, with way marker signs to give direction. Emphasis on walking and cycling, together with encouragement to use public transport, aims to promote sustainable tourism in Gower, and provide a boost to local businesses. Significant grants were awarded, of which several applications were positively supported by letters from Rhossili Community Council and others.

A booklet with maps and route details is available in the Gower churches and from tourist

outlets. It contains a 'Pilgrim Passport', that can be stamped at each church visited, with each stamp having its own unique design. And for children, a booklet about Arthur Bear's journey is also available, and includes a bear hunt around the churches in search of hidden teddy monks and nuns. The first 'pilgrim' to complete the whole 50 mile walk and have his Pilgrim Passport stamped was our very own well-known walker David Stockwell – congratulations on his historic achievement!

In September the first Gower Pilgrimage Festival took place to coincide with CADW's Open Doors month, offering a week of guided walks, with the churches open to visitors along the route for refreshments, information and activities. At the end of each day a pilgrim-themed event took place in the churches, including a Celtic Christian Meditation, a Compline service led by Brother Titus from Caldey Abbey, a talk on Pilgrimage by Rev Sam Aldred, in Port Eynon a play for voices on the life of Saint Cattwg, and a closing Cymanfa Ganu service (Songs of Praise) in Bishopston.

Television and radio presenter, Adrian Chiles, has kindly agreed to be Patron, and since its launch in May, the Pilgrimage Way has steadily gained recognition through five comprehensive monthly articles in The Bay magazine each covering a section of the walk; by Radio Wales in its Country Focus program; and recently in a recording for S4C's Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol, broadcast on 20 November and available on BBC iPlayer.

Bishop John of Swansea and Brecon says: 'Whatever your own reason to begin this pilgrimage, whether you are a person of faith or none, I think one thing we can agree on is that to journey is to change'. To find out more or to embark on your own pilgrimage visit 'Gower Pilgrimage Way' or 'Llwybr Pererindod Gwyr' on Facebook or the Gowerpilgrimageway.org website.

Rhossili is part of the 11 mile Section 3 of the walk starting in Llangennith, coming over Rhossili Down into the village, before going back up the Down to journey along ancient byways to Old Henllys and Llandewi Church, and completing at Port Eynon. It makes for a very enjoyable afternoon!



Caroline Johnson, Gill Wales, David Pope (centre) and David Stockwell at the new Gower Pilgrimage Way information panel in St Mary's churchyard.



Pilgrimage launch event in May at St Mary's Church From left to right: David Pope, Anne Pope, Tonia Antoniazzi - MP for Gower, Rev Justin Davies – Ministry Area Team Leader, The Lord Lieutenant for West Glamorgan – Mrs Louise Fleet, Adrian Chiles (our Patron) and The High Sheriff of West Glamorgan - Stephen Rogers.

Caroline Johnson





WhatsApp Groups in the Rhossili Community

Why Use WhatsApp?

WhatsApp is not just another messaging platform, it's a way of life, originally acclaimed for its easy-to-use, secure, instant messages. However, it's more than that as it also includes the ability to send photos, animations, videos, documents, and voice bites. You can also engage in both personal and group video calls. What's amazing is that all this is available globally and free of charge as long as you have a smartphone and an internet connection. A number of Groups in the Rhossili Community use WhatsApp to communicate regularly.

The Keep Fit Group

Through the years the Keep Fit Group has evolved from circuit-based training to belly dancing, line dancing, salsa, pilates and walking.

In 1956 the Gower Peninsula became Britain's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and since then Rhossili has received so many accolades.

It has been named as one of the:

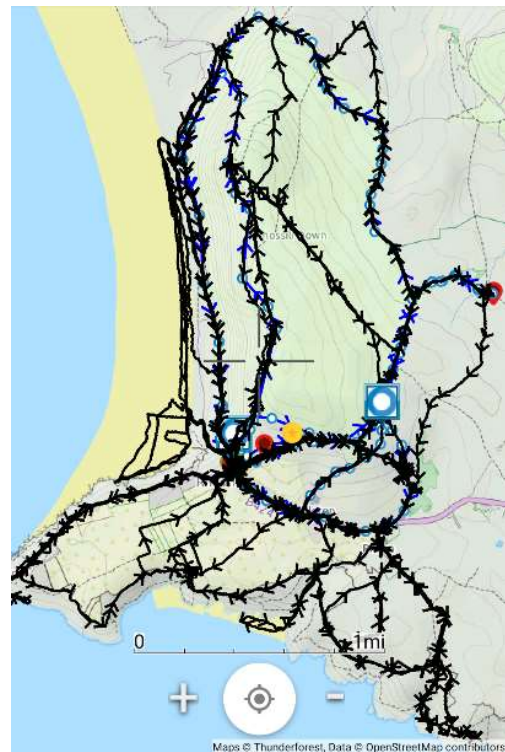
- Top 10 beaches in the world.
- Best beaches in Wales for surfing.
- Best sunsets in the world.
- Best picnic spots or Picnic paradises.
- Top 10 UK walks.

It really isn't surprising that walking has been a popular activity through the decades that the Group has been in existence.

Twice weekly walks started shortly after COVID began. It was a great way to meet up with other locals and socialise albeit within the COVID rules.

We walked through the seasons. We took photos of that amazing meandering path lined by bluebells. Then there was the stunning gorse, followed by the thistles and the foxgloves and then the heather. Not forgetting, of course, the landscapes, the archaeology (seen the megalithic tomb at Sweynes Howes?) and the geology (simply amazing rock strata at The Knave) and the list goes on.

We tracked our paths on a mobile app until it became like spaghetti junction.



Currently we meet on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9am for walks of around 1.5 hours in duration. The walks are announced weekly on the WhatsApp Keep Fit Group. The exact location of the starting point varies depending on the rain, wind direction, wind strength and tide times. All are welcome as long as you are able to keep a reasonable pace. Dogs need to be kept under control.

The Yoga Group

Started in 2018 and meets in the Rhossili Village Hall on Tuesday mornings during school term time.

The Book Club Group

We meet monthly, mostly in a member's home, to discuss a wide spectrum of books. During the pandemic we've managed to meet, within the regulations, in members' gardens as well as the village hall garden, socially distanced of course.

Rhossili Chat Group

Eventually, there was so much chit chat on these Groups that it was hard to see the wood for the trees. As a result, Rhossili Chat was set up in August 2019.

There was an influx of new members joining at the beginning of the pandemic and that brought along new problems. At times there was an overload of messages and an amazing wave of both fake news and jokes. If your mobile had audible notifications set for the arrival of new messages, then you were probably driven to distraction by it. Something had to be done else it would become a victim of its own success. It was

at this point that the task of moderating began. The key purpose of Rhossili Chat is to convey information that is salient to the whole Group and not ironically, chat socially. In order to facilitate the moderation of Rhossili Chat, it became necessary to introduce the Noticeboard.

The Rhossili Chat Noticeboard



This online Noticeboard is easy to access and contains handy links to essential information.

The Guidelines

These contain a brief list to establish some protocol and policy for sending messages to Rhossili Chat.

The Best WhatsApp CHAT TIPS

These tips are a combination of tools to use WhatsApp effectively plus other CHAT tips that could be extremely useful. All tips are documented and include step by step instructions for both Android and Apple smartphones.

Currently the following tips are available:

[Chat Noticeboard](#)

[Manage WhatsApp efficiently and effectively](#)

[Reply privately to a group message](#)

[Search a group chat](#)

[Save your favourite messages in a separate folder](#)

[Send important news / announcements](#)

[Share your live location](#)

[React quickly to WhatsApp messages](#)

[Prepare to lose / find your phone](#)

[Prepare for lightning](#)

Joining a WhatsApp Group

Both the Yoga Group and the Book Club Groups have limited memberships and rarely have vacancies. Priority is given to those living in Rhossili. However, if you would like to join or should I more realistically say, join a queue, then please email our contact below to express your specific interest.

If you are a keen walker and are able to keep a reasonable pace, please email our contact below with your request to join the Keep Fit WhatsApp Group.

If you live or work within the Rhossili Community or have a second home in the area then please request to join via email. Contact Vicki.james@gmail.com

Maureen Symberlist
Administrator and Moderator of
WhatsApp Rhossili Keep Fit, Chat and Yoga
Groups





Jubilee Beacon Tart



The tart, based on an original idea from Jean Stephens from Hampshire, from Country Women Country Wide. Ingredients representing all 4 nations of the UK:

England: Cheddar Cheese

Northern Ireland: Potatoes

Scotland: Smoked Salmon

Wales: Leek

Average cost of ingredients per tart, between £3.75 and £5.00. The following quantities will serve TEN people.

Pastry:

140 g (5 oz) plain flour

35 g (1 ¼ oz) margarine 35 g (1 ¼ oz) vegetable fat

About 1 ½ tablespoons cold water

Or use ready-made shortcrust pastry

* 20 cm (8") loose-bottom flan tin

* Baking beans

Filling:

100 g (4 oz) Smoked salmon (trimmings or chopped small)

50 g (2 oz) leek

100g (4 oz) cooked potatoes

70g (2 ¾ oz) Cheddar cheese (grated)

200 ml (7 fl oz) single cream

2 large eggs (beaten)

1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley

Black pepper

Butter or oil

Instructions:

1. To make pastry – place flour in bowl add the fats and rub in lightly with fingertips until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add enough cold water to bind to a soft dough, knead briefly and shape into a ball. Wrap and chill for 30 minutes.

2. Roll out the pastry and use to line the flan tin. Prick the bottom of the pastry with a fork. Line pastry shell with foil and fill with baking beans. Place tin on a heated baking tray and bake in preheated oven at

200°C Fan (Gas 7) for 10 minutes, remove foil and baking beans, return to the oven for a further 10 minutes.

3. Reduce oven temperature to 160°C Fan (Gas 4)

4. Scrub potatoes and place in a pan of lightly salted boiling water to cook for 15 minutes. Drain and allow to cool before removing the skin and then slicing thinly.

5. Finely chop leek. Heat a little butter or oil in a small frying pan, add chopped leek to the pan and cook over a low to moderate heat, stirring occasionally, for about 10 minutes until soft but not coloured – allow to cool.

6. Mix together cream, beaten eggs, chopped parsley and plenty of ground black pepper. Layer filling in pastry case; spread smoked salmon over base of tart followed by cooked leek and then 50 g (2 oz) grated cheese (keeping remaining 20g (¾ oz) to sprinkle on top). Top with thinly sliced cooked potatoes. Sprinkle remaining grated cheese over the top then gently pour cream and egg mixture into the tart.

7. Bake in oven for 30 – 35 minutes until filling is set and golden. Serve cold.

NB These quantities also make 18 small tarts using 8cm (3 ¼") plain round cutter and lining patty tins. When making small tarts there is no need to blind bake the cases first. Bake small tarts at 160°C Fan (Gas 4) for about 30 minutes until filling is set and golden.





Night Skywatching in Winter

If the sky is clear at night, there's a lot to see from the dark skies of Rhossili. One of the most difficult aspects when you start stargazing is to orient yourself with respect to the sky, and this is made harder if there's partial cloud cover. A really useful aid is a handheld planisphere, like the one shown here, and this article includes a link to a site by Dominic Ford, which describes very straightforwardly how to make such a device from environmentally friendly materials. The planisphere allows you to set a date and time, and it then displays which celestial objects can be seen.



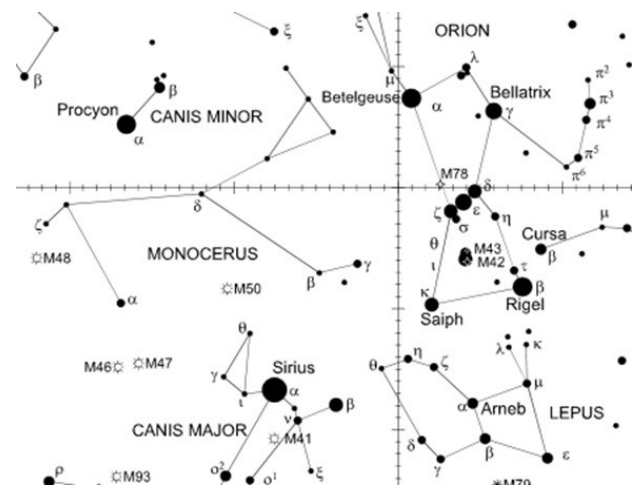
If you have a computer, another good way to find out what's visible is to use planetarium software – see the links below. The planisphere is easy to use and requires you to know roughly where north or south is, so do that before going out in the dark! In fact, it's good to do the initial setup indoors, so you can identify the objects of interest on the planisphere and then when you go out you've already located the direction in which to look. Don't forget to use a red coloured light outside, so you keep your night vision intact. It's best to locate the constellation you are interested in with the unaided eye and then if you have them, use 10 x 40 or 10 x 50 binoculars to look at particular objects. Binoculars are best used with a support, so if you have a photographic tripod, use that, but an upturned broom on a box works just fine. With such an arrangement you can get a really nice steady view of Jupiter and its moons.

Just in case younger astronomers start to use binoculars more widely, it is of course important to warn that any telescope (no matter how small) or binoculars, must never be pointed at the sun.

What's to see?

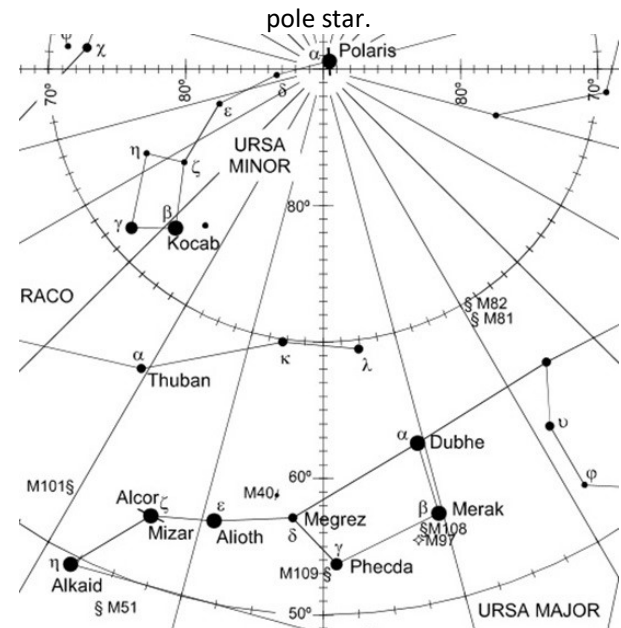
Here are some ideas of what to look for:

December



The big square of Pegasus (The Winged Horse, shown above) is due south, and if you scan the sky in the region shown in the image, you can find our nearest neighbour galaxy – Andromeda. Some people can see the object as a faint fuzz with the naked eye, and a pair of binoculars gives better definition.

Also prominent in December in the northern sky, is a well-known constellation The Plough or Ursa Major, shown here together with Ursa Minor and the pole star.



Polaris, which is an area of sky rich in galaxies, but these are beyond the capabilities of our binoculars. However, a very interesting feature is the star named Mizar, which has a fainter companion named Alcor. If your eyesight is good, you can see them with the naked eye. The two stars form a binary pair which rotate over a very long period of time.

Mizar is itself a binary pair and when viewed through binoculars or a small telescope, may be resolved into two stars - Mizar 'a' and 'b'. If you want to

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locate the pole star, draw an imaginary line between the stars Merak and Dubhe and follow it to the pole, which is quite a diminutive star! The constellations in this area of the sky are called circumpolar, and because of the earth- sky geometry, they never set and accompany us all year round.

Around Christmas day in the southeast, is the famous constellation of Orion (The Hunter) and this is really one of the most spectacular sights in the night sky, viewable until mid-April.

Orion contains Sirius, the brightest star in the northern hemisphere and also probably the best-known nebula - the Orion Nebula (labelled as M42 in the diagram), which is located on the 'belt' stars, just below them and to the left on Orion's Sword.

The nebula is an easy naked eye object which you can see as a fuzzy area below the leftmost belt star (Alnitak), and if you have a steady support for your binoculars, it's an amazing sight. Another interesting feature of this area of sky to the left (east) of Orion, is the strongly coloured star named Procyon. If the sky is clear some people can easily detect the colour.

During the first half of December, there is also some more 'local' interest, in that the planet Jupiter is visible in the evenings in the southwestern sky, easy to find as it's brighter than anything else. This is an excellent target with a pair of binoculars and a good support. If you can view it on consecutive nights, it's easy to see that the positions of the moons have changed.

Arguably, one of the most spectacular objects in the night sky is the moon. With binoculars, viewing can be really good, but it can be very bright and make your eyes get tired quite quickly. A good tip for moon watching, is to avoid a full moon and for best contrast and visual detail, view the area called the terminator – this is the boundary between light and shadow as in the photograph here. The moon is so bright that if you have a DSLR camera, telephoto lens and a tripod, it's easy to get some great images with quite a short exposure time.

Links

1 Make your own Planisphere from card - this is easy and perfectly serviceable:

<https://in-the-sky.org/planisphere/>

2 Sky charts used in this article are from SFA:

<http://observe.phy.sfasu.edu/SFAStarCharts/SFAStarChartsPro.pdf> with

acknowledgement and thanks to SFA Observatory, www.observatory.sfasu.edu

3 Free planetarium software for use on your computer: Cartes du Ciel: <https://www.ap-i.net/skychart/en/start>

Stellarium: http://stellarium.org/en_GB/

Happy viewing and happy Christmas!

Paul Kirk



BEACH CLEANS 2022

"It is now clear our actions are having a significant impact on the world's oceans. They are under threat now as never before in human history. Many people believe the oceans have reached a crisis point." -David Attenborough.



Looking back over the year at snapshots of our community beach cleans, it has reminded me not only of the vast amounts of litter that we have removed from the beach but the wonderful individuals and families that have turned out to help. Whether a resident or a visitor we all share a common cause to look after our beach and prevent further litter and waste entering or returning to the ocean. The younger generation have been the most impressive with their knowledge and determination to clean up, protecting the environment they love whilst proudly dressed in their 'No Planet B' T shirts. Well done to those parents and grandparents for instilling a love of the natural world and our beautiful planet and the resolve to do something about it. Personally, I have always found beach cleaning to be a very positive experience, despite that it has opened my eyes to the wide-spread problem of plastic pollution. It can also stir up feelings of anger too 'what kind of person would just leave that there?' or 'why can't they take home what they bring down?' plus 'what is happening to our local seals or dolphins in the bay?' But the satisfaction of seeing an area cleared and the rubbish taken off the beach makes us feel energised and a reminder that we are making a positive difference, however small. I would like to offer a very big thank you to all those who have spent time cleaning

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the local beaches and footpaths, whether in an organised group or as an individual. These efforts have not gone unnoticed and are greatly appreciated by residents and visitors alike. A special mention must go to the Steve, Simon and their team at the Lookout who have enthusiastically supported every beach clean over the last of years also generously providing prizes for the sandcastle competition which celebrated the Queen's Jubilee. Titled 'A Castle for a Queen', there were some marvellous entries.

With upwards of 5000 individual items of plastic pollution per mile of beach in the UK, the need for beach cleans has never been greater. With that in mind, the final beach clean of the year will be Wednesday 28th December at 11am followed by festive mince pies and drinks at The Lookout.

Please do consider joining in and working off that festive fayre!

Our grateful thanks also go to Ali, Steve, Geraldine and Megan at the National Trust for their help in facilitating the beach cleans. Keep a look out for 2023 beach clean dates!

Lesley-Anne Nolan



Jubilee Beacons

Long before thoughts in the village had turned towards 2022, there were plans being formulated elsewhere in the United Kingdom to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, and messages were sent out to every type of Council across the four Nations, including our own Rhossili Community Council.

As Clerk to RCC, all the mails and messages came to me first and I read them all; it was well-advertised and help was available to organise specific events. A Jubilee Tea was proposed by The Village Hall for the week-end, but what of the actual date of the Coronation, June 2nd? I asked the Community Council if there would be support for a beacon on Rhossili Beacon on that day because the whole country was asked to light beacons to mark the occasion. RCC Councillors were enthusiastic in their support so I then offered to co-ordinate a response.

A straw poll revealed that most people would have preferred a huge bonfire as a beacon, but this presented a multitude of problems to try and overcome – I failed. Who knew that a rare lichen had colonised up there? Rhossili Down is a

Site of Special Scientific Interest, so any activities on it have to pass scrutiny, not only of the owners (The National Trust) but also Natural Resources, Wales, who have to award the Licence. Although Buckingham Palace had provided a huge and detailed plan of a Beacon Bonfire, it wasn't enough for NRW, so I changed tack and went for the Gas-powered alternative and with support from Alan Kearsley-Evans of The National Trust, NRW issued the Licence to proceed. More thanks are due to Pitton Cross Camping and Caravan Site for supplying the gas cylinders necessary.

The effort to involve as many people as possible from all parts of Village life culminated in a lovely gathering at The Causeway, The Lookout and The Worms Head Hotel on a warm, sunny evening on June 2nd, with The Phoenix Choir of Wales entertaining villagers, tourists and visitors, families and members of NCI Worms Head and our own HM Coastguard Cliff Rescue Team. Huge thanks to them all are due, but I'm very sorry that the Chef didn't get the message about the Jubilee Pie, so it arrived a day too late! The setting of the picnic tables with families seated round, other people on the grass or just wandering past, all listening to the choir and then chatting to each other created a lovely atmosphere. It was so nice that some people thought that maybe other events could be organised there on other summer evenings, with all the local venues joining in. We shall have to wait and see!



As darkness fell it was time to think about lighting the beacons – we had two for people to go to, one at the NCI Watch Station and the other sited on The Beacon at the triangulation point. They were to be lit at precisely 9.45pm and we did it! Both Beacons were lit at exactly the same time and in all there were over 200 people to witness the occasion. On Rhossili Down, at The Beacon everyone looked around to the horizon to see if there were any more being lit and the air was clear enough to see one on the north Devon coast and another in Somerset. Thank you, Steve L and the Rhossili Coastguard for lighting it and being our

“fire marshals” for the evening, where Rhossili Beacon lived up to its ancient name once more.

In just a few short months, HM Queen Elizabeth’s long reign came to an end, but maybe we will light it again for the new King Charles, or maybe a visit from the Prince and Princess of Wales; maybe we can create a new tradition and light it on a newly designated Rhossili Day!

Jo Scott





Mari Lwyd

Mari Lwyd is a tradition that appears around December to mid January - Welsh old new year - surrounding an ancient horse ritual. As this tradition evolves into the 21st century, the importance of keeping the original message of old true has become an important part of Welsh education. With generational storytelling and many potential origins, the story continues to be a mystery but brings joy and optimism for the future every year.

What does Mari Lwyd do?

The Mari Lwyd would try and gain entry to houses via song. The merry men would explain why they needed to enter and the occupant of the house would sing why they can't be let in. This would go back and forth until the occupant didn't have any more reasons to not let them in. When inside, Mari Lwyd and the Merry men would eat food and drink ale. When leaving, the Mari Lwyd would wish everyone a happy new year.

To see the Mari Lwyd approaching a home, Inn or pub is to be seen already as good luck. Many owners still welcome the tradition, even though they initially have to deny her entry. It's seen as a blessing to witness the movement and to be a part of the songs. She brings an air of optimism for a positive and fortuitous new year.





Recycling Stock and Terracycle

It has been a few years now that we have held recycling items here at the campsite for the local area. We are a stockist for recycling bags – single use pink and pink reusable bags, green bags, food waste bags, little kitchen green bin and the curb side green bin. We have been given a small stock of garden waste bags which are £2 and only 1 per person, if you require more than this please order from the council.

Please remember to request more items with the white tags but make sure that you let the council know if the driver does not leave any replacements.

This helps to keep us as a stockist.



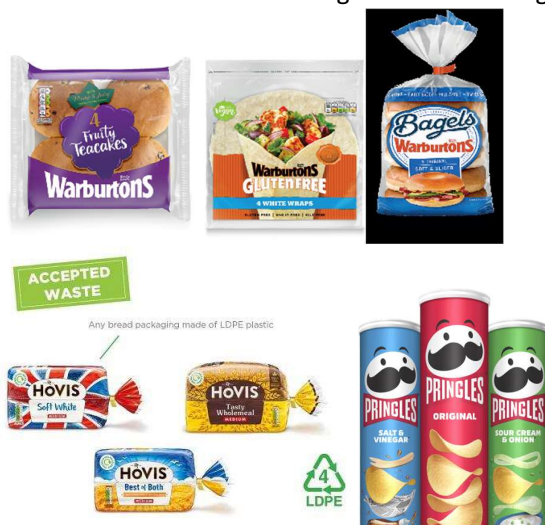
Not only do we provide the recycling bags etc., from the council but we are also a public drop off for Pringles and bread bags which we send off to Terracycle UK who turn in to items like garden furniture, posts and much more.

For each item that is collected it is turned into cash and we have nominated Knelston Primary School to receive the funds raised from this.

There are two other drop offs in the area: Knelston Primary School and The Sports Club in Scurlage.

Please help us to lower the landfill and do our bit for the world.

The campsite shop is open from 9 am to 4 pm daily or you can drop into the information room where there are two bins there for the Pringles and Bread Bags.



Merry Christmas and we wish you all a Happy & Prosperous New Year for 2023 from us all at Pitton Cross Caravan Park.

Tracey Button
Pitton Cross Caravan Park



Weekly Food Bank Collection

In 2018, the Rhossili Village Hall Social Committee started what is now a firmly established regular collection for the food bank.

The routine stuttered when Covid hit because it was unclear where/when we could drop off any goods, we collected but it wasn't long before frequent headlines announced how badly the lock-down situation was hitting food banks.

Around the same time, Sally discovered the Lamplighter Cafe in Bishopston (a Christian non-profit retailer of local and fair-trade gifts) who opened for an hour a day throughout the Covid restrictions to meet community needs. One of their services was acting as a drop off point for food bank contributions which their dedicated team of volunteers delivered on to the Trussell Trust.

So, we (Sally, Lesley-Anne and Helen) got together to experiment with a weekly collection/delivery, using the School Lane bus shelter as a collection hub.



We were seriously dubious that we could expect or sustain a weekly commitment from the community at a time when everyone's life had become more challenging (and not many people were doing their own shopping).

But our concerns were absurdly unnecessary. Our wonderfully caring and generous community threw

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itself whole-heartedly into the project. People just kept on giving and the contributions grew every week. And we've never looked back. We still make a weekly delivery to the Lamplighter. It won't be news to any of you that the demand for food banks is greater than ever and our contributions are more valuable than they have ever been.

There was a staggering set of statistics published earlier this year:

There are 1,300 branches of McDonalds in the UK and 2,600 food banks. I find that shocking and cheering in equal measure. 1437 of the food banks are Trussell Trust, the most experienced and well-organised Food Bank network in the country. There are eight Trussell Trust centres in Swansea (on different days, in different areas, in church halls and community centres). This enables them to pool and distribute the different categories of produce they receive, as the need balances out.

So, we continue to collect anything that anyone can give. There is a plastic lidded collection box in the corner of the bus shelter at the bottom of School Lane in Middleton. We clear it regularly and deliver the goods onwards every week. Nothing is wasted. Everything you give is much needed and gratefully received. Occasionally we might tell you, on WhatsApp, that some items are in especially short supply but, in general, basic hygiene and sanitary products are always needed as are any non-perishable foodstuffs (but please remember to check best-before dates - they aren't allowed to give out anything that is out of date). This is such an important and valuable (but often overlooked) cause and we are endlessly impressed by, and grateful for, your enduringly generous support. Our community in Rhossili already 'makes a difference'. If you haven't given before, please consider doing so. If everyone could give just one item each week, we could make even more of a positive impact on the difficult lives of disadvantaged people living not very far away.

Thank you to everyone who already contributes and makes our task such a rewarding one.

From Helen, Sally and Lesley-Anne.



OUR YOUNG FOLK IN RHOSSILI



Ty Hafan

On Sunday 3rd April 2022 at Rhossili Village Hall we were finally able to hold our Ty Hafan Cake Sale and

Coffee Afternoon having not been possible for the previous two years due to the Corona Virus.

It was a really successful event, raising almost £1,000 for Ty Hafan Children's Hospice. Ty Hafan provides comfort, care and support to children with life shortening conditions.

We also had a range of craft and local produce stalls at the cake sale, Shepherds fruit and veg, Spirit of the lamp, Bright ideas plants and Easter crafts.



We were most grateful to all the local businesses who generously donated raffle prizes following a very difficult couple of years of trade. The event was very well supported by our friends, family and the

Gower Community and we would like to thank you all very much, it's very much appreciated. Mum and I are busy planning our next fundraising event for early 2023.

Wishing you a happy and healthy Christmas

Isabel Thomas Age 14



Knelston Primary School



This term so far has been a busy one with lots going on. There is a new curriculum in Wales which is very exciting. We have been preparing for this for a long time in Knelston and recently shared with the community some of the things we are most proud of at a 'Curriculum Sharing Event', led by the pupil voice groups. The children talked about the Areas of Learning and Experience, and how they are involved during the planning stages and influence the curriculum in Knelston. We are blessed with outdoor learning spaces, and purposeful learning in the outdoors is a real strength of the school. We work collaboratively with Dawn Thomas @Nature Days to enhance these experiences for the children.



Our younger learners have been involved in an exciting enterprise education project 'The Bumbles of Honeywood' which is helping them develop new skills and be lifelong learners. This term the session was linked to being kind. This is also allowing us to form links with local businesses, and this project has been funded by Fairyhill.

Some of the Year 6 children represented the school at the Celebrating Diversity Conference in the Swansea.com stadium. This was an opportunity where lots of schools came together to discuss and raise awareness of equality and fairness. This is something we value at Knelston Primary School.

We enjoyed a very informative assembly with the Gower Seal Group and in addition to our prestigious 'Ocean Guardian' status, the children are now Mini and Junior Seal Ambassadors. The school has supported a number of charities over the last year. The children plan events and suggest ideas on what they would like to do, and who we will support. These charities include the Ukrainian Fund, a Foodbank collection, Children In Need and most recently the DPJ Foundation (The DPJ Foundation was set up in July 2016, supporting those in the agricultural sector. The mental health farming charity has grown and covers the whole of Wales with all areas of support.)

If you would like more information about what is happening in Knelston Primary School visit our school website and Twitter.



<  Gower Seal Group · Following 3 h ·

What a fantastic morning at Knelston Primary School, Gower where over 70 children became 'Mini and Junior Seal Ambassadors'. Lots of great questions being asked about 'Our Gorgeous Gower Seals'. We are so lucky to have another 70+ children protecting the furry beauties that visit Gower. 🐾 A HUGE thank you to ALL the staff for ensuring our next generation are so environmentally aware...it was a pleasure speaking to you 🙏 #knelstonprimary



<https://www.knelstonprimary.co.uk/>

@KnelstonPrimary



Knelston Primary School Ocean Guardians

Our Knelston Ocean Guardians are delighted that a little normality has now returned allowing us to continue with our fortnightly meetings once again following the disruption of Covid 19.

I currently have approximately 25 Ocean Guardians ranging from Year 2 to Year 6 pupils, all the children are passionate and dedicated to safeguarding our coast.



They've made it their quest to preserve and improve the places we love and live in. Our termly

whole school beach cleans shall be making a return in the New Year.

I'm currently busy planning Ocean School 2023 where we can welcome pupils from towns and cities to one of our amazing Gower beaches. When it comes to learning about the environment and coast, the beach is the most perfect classroom. Education plays an important role and ocean school is an immersive hands-on education programme designed by Surfers Against Sewage. It helps raise awareness and provides pupils with the opportunity to explore, investigate and respond to the environment they live in.

We recently held a Curriculum sharing event where The Ocean Guardians had the opportunity to share their achievements so far and their aims for the term ahead. The afternoon was a huge success and our visitors were most impressed with The Ocean Guardian's amazing attitude and all that they've achieved so far.

During the lead up to Christmas we shall be painting pebbles and driftwood which we have collected from Gower beaches with some important messages on so please keep your eyes peeled for some on a beach near you.

Sally Thomas



Freddie's Fresh Vegetables at Ship Farm



We've had another very busy year on the farm, we were blessed with a beautifully warm summer which was amazing for beach days but did prove tricky for the growing season.

Bampa, Dad and I planted the new potatoes in March this year, we used the rocket and swift varieties

as our first earlies. The rocket variety proved to be very tasty and produced a good yield however the swift variety was a little disappointing producing a tasty potato but a poor yield. We never use any fertiliser on our vegetables, we only use manure from our cows and chickens.

I was very lucky to be given the opportunity to sell my new potatoes at Tom and Jess Higgs, Gower Pick Your Own. They proved to be very popular, so I hope to grow a bigger crop in 2023 in order to keep up with demand. Other vegetables I have grown this year include: Peas, Broad beans, Beetroot, Lettuce, Carrots, Courgettes, Pumpkins, Parsnips, Leeks, Sprouts, Corn on the cob, Cucumber, Tomatoes and Butternut Squash.

I planted two different varieties of pumpkin this year, big max and Jack be little but due to the very dry summer the big max variety were not as large as we had hoped, however they proved to be very popular on my stall and sold out before Halloween.



I have recently bought a new Welsh Black ram to run with my Welsh Black ewes and I'm looking forward to the lambing season of 2023. Bampa and I will be scanning our flock mid-January so that we can prepare for the new arrivals. Lambing is my most favourite time of year.

My cows, Buttercup, Moon, Galaxy and their calves are doing well and shall be coming into the shed shortly for the winter months having spent their summer at Ivy Deane with Peter and Jo Scott.

My Welsh pigs are currently in my vegetable plot working very hard turning it over and fertilising it!!!! in preparation for the 2023 growing season.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas

Freddie Thomas (Age 12)



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Great Pitton Farm

We are in very bizarre times, with food costs increasing faster than most of us have ever seen, electricity prices shooting up, the horrific war in Ukraine and of course climate change once again being at the forefront of our minds.



The above has all impacted British farming massively – we, along with most other farmers, are looking into how we can get the most out of our land without using as much of the traditional nitrogen fertiliser we usually buy. Fertiliser costs have gone up over 50% this year! Here at Great Pitton Farm, we try and be as self-sufficient as we can - we grow various crops and to try and combat the price increases, we are:

1. using red and white clover which doesn't require extra nitrogen,
2. using our own cattle muck to grow cereal crops and also
3. Growing field beans which fix their own nitrogen and leave some for the next crop.

Beans are also a very good source of protein for our growing cattle. Ultimately, the best thing any member of the public can try and do in these uncertain times for farmers is BUY BRITISH.

This not only helps British farmers survive, who actually have the highest welfare standards in the world, but also helps the planet by cutting down the energy used. On a positive note, we had a wonderful harvest this summer, with incredible weather from start to finish. We weren't constantly trying to beat the rain, because there was sunshine on the forecast for days on end. Due to the extreme heat, towards the end of our harvest, we could only bale the straw early in the morning or late in the evening as the midday heat would deter the net from holding the bales together properly. When it came to harvesting the beans, which are used to feed the cattle, we had to harvest them very early in the morning as the extreme heat would just shatter the pods stopping them from going into the combine. All the early mornings and late nights did

mean we could all enjoy a few afternoons on the beach with the family – aren't we lucky where we live!

On the Pick Your Own this year, we yet again failed to keep up with demand, with record numbers of people visiting us! We started our season mid June, with plenty of beautiful first season fruit – we were open everyday, for at least 6 weeks, without being picked out. As the first heat wave began it did affect our second batch of plants as it caused them to go into shut down mode to survive, which meant the yields on the plants weren't as high as we would've liked going into the summer holidays – we had a few weeks of stop start, but when we were open the quality was A* which is very important to us. We ran a pre-picked service on the weekdays again this year, which was very popular amongst local people and we will be running it again next year for sure.



Our raspberry crop was record breaking crop, and the best we've seen since opening in 2019. They just kept ripening and were absolutely enormous – we hope you enjoyed them as much as we did! We have lots of plans for our season 2023 – we are always working on how we can maximise yields but keep the quality as high as possible, it is a very fine balance.

Our café was once again a massive hit, and Jess is constantly trying to keep it exciting with new products – the milkshakes went down a storm this summer. We hope to see as many of you next season as possible, and thank you so much for all your support!

Elsewhere on the farm, we are always trying to improve our efficiency with modernising sheds, keeping machinery up to date, and trialling new techniques and methods (even if they do not work every time)! We are currently being faced with a few challenges from the Welsh Government who would like us to put at least 10% of our land into woodland – this initially sounds a good idea, but doesn't work for all farms in Wales, especially coastal farmland where trees struggle to grow; we hope they will listen to our concerns and our

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proposals of other ways we can help the environment, such as planting wild bird food and wild flower strips? Overall, with everything that is going on in the world, we feel so grateful to be producing top quality food for people to enjoy and to work in an environment we love and care for.

No one knows what 2023 is going to throw at us, but we can all do our bit for the environment by buying local and checking our labels on supermarket food for the red tractor.

A very Merry Christmas from Tom, Jess, Izzy, Henry and Maggie at Great Pitton Farm.



Hay Meadows, update for 2022

This is the eighth year of our project in meadow development and maintenance, all documented in previous Newsletters. Although it seems to have been a long time to observe the small changes that have been achieved with only a low level of intervention, it has been so worthwhile from our personal viewpoint. We had nearly 200 orchids in the fields this year, having started eight years ago with just one. We have done nothing to propagate them or care for them, other than to graze the sward in the autumn and winter (Thank you Geoff and Freddie for lending us your sheep and cows) and to remove as many noxious weeds as we could. We were not very successful in keeping up with the rapid spread of Common Hogweed but have nearly eradicated the Ragwort and Japanese Knotweed.



Orchids, Plantains, Yellow Rattle and Eye-Bright

We were very pleased with the stunning number of Common Blue butterflies this year, and there was a good number of Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns, but we did not see many of the Peacocks, Red Admirals and Small Tortoiseshells of previous years, despite encouraging banks of nettles to grow alongside

the hedges. Early in April we were pleased to see Orange Tip Butterflies flitting around in Slade Acre.



The excellent protective effect of the hedges, especially along the Western edges of the fields, enabled us to keep grazing through the summer on the one field, Little Park, that is not part of the project. The shade provided by the “neglected” hedgerow prevented the grass from burning off in the bright sun, and new mum “Galaxy” and her bull calf were often nearly invisible under the over-hanging branches.

We have always been interested in the historical aspect of hedges and have begun trying to date them to see how old they may be. Generally, hedges are usually grown using one species, sometimes two, that will discourage animals from breaking through. Around here it would appear that the favoured hedgerow species are Hawthorn and Blackthorn. It has been documented over time that a new local species will colonise a hedge every hundred to a hundred and ten years and the method of counting woody species within a 30 metre length of hedge is now used all over the country to identify ancient hedge boundaries. Our fields were once owned by Pam and Mark Keegan to grow their vines, and Pam was very keen on planting trees around the boundaries, to help protect the vines from the wind and salt, so we have had to be very careful when trying out the dating technique on our hedges.



Betty's Daffodils in Kiln Hay

Fortunately, Pam planted her trees inside the fields, rather than in the hedge line so once we knew this, we could carry on with our research. We are looking forward to welcoming some visitors from the Gower Meadow Group during this winter so that we can share the results. On the Western boundary of Little Park, we have Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Goat Willow, and Elder; in the Western boundary of Slade Acre we have the addition of Hazel and Field Maple but only one section with Willow. Using the accepted formula over a 30-metre distance, this would give an age of 400 years for Little Park and 500 years for Slade Acre. Kiln Hay, adjoining Slade Acre only has two species within the boundary hedges, which matches with its history as the last field to be enclosed into The Vile, sometime between 1810 and 1841. From old maps of The Vile, the early ones don't show a field in that part of the cliff, but there is a dotted line where a new boundary wall was going to be built; later maps ever after show the wall is complete. Kiln Hay has a dry-stone wall all the way round, and only two species of hedge material, Hawthorn and Blackthorn, but where it abuts Johnny's Garden, Pam Keegan planted Forsythia and Buddleia, as well as a spinney of Sycamore, Ash and Silver Birch and gooseberry bushes (which the birds get to eat long before we can pick them!).

We hope that we have been good guardians of our meadows, keeping them healthy and secure.

With the other projects being undertaken over the last many years by other conservation-minded landowners, we hope that we have added a section to the Wildlife Corridor that is being developed across Gower and look forward to seeing new species colonising and thriving in the fields.

Jo Scott



Rhossili Village Hall Social Committee

Our first event after the restrictions placed on us by the pandemic was a Drop-in Café on Wednesday 9 March where we discussed the possibility of these events going forward and collected £80 for the Ukraine appeal through the sale of plants, cakes and books. Since then, we have been holding these Cafés mostly on the second Wednesday of the month. These events were intended as an opportunity for us all to meet up again on a regular basis and have also turned into an opportunity to hear local people talk about their interests. Starting with a talk from the Gower Seals Group. So far, we've also hosted Gower Flax, Coastwatch and a talk on The Lost Lanes of Gower. At this latest event, Gill Wales brought her knitted goods to sell and contributed half the money from the sales to

the Ukrainian appeal and half to the Village Hall. Thank you for your generosity, Gill! We look forward to more speakers in the new year. Roger Button has kindly helped in sourcing many of our speakers and the new monitor provided by the Hwb team is a hugely useful asset for these talks. We look forward to more speakers in the new year and we are still collecting money for Ukraine from the sale of books at our events.



Our first evening event was another of Roger's very enjoyable Quizzes held in September. This was followed by the Harvest Supper event with the Backroom Blue Grass Band on the 29th of October, which was enjoyed by all, particularly the dancers at the back!



Gower Flax Talk

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The pot-luck supper worked very well. This year several local businesses contributed produce-related raffle prizes. Many thanks to Gower Gin, Gower Pick Your Own, Helen Sinclair, the National Trust Shop, Paviland Farm, The Bay Bistro and Wyld Clwb. Joan's flowers, two beautiful sheaves of flax lent us by Arwen of Gower Flax and many pumpkins from Paviland Farm contributed to the lovely atmosphere. As we go to press, events so far planned for the rest of this calendar year are:

- Games Night with Beetle Drive and Curling on Saturday 19 November
- Carols Around the Tree with the Salvation Army Band followed by launch of the Rhossili Community Hwb on Friday 16 December
- New Year's Eve Party

We circulate posters of these events via Rhossili Chat, email and our noticeboards. If you would like to be added to Rhossili Chat and/or our email list for circulation of these events, please contact vicki.james@gmail.com.

If anyone would like to join our small, friendly band of volunteers, please also contact Vicki or any of the other committee members: Vicky Charles, Joan Davies, Jo Higgins, Jess Higgs, Marian Potts, Mary Provis, Lynda Shaw, Helen Sinclair, Gill Spencer.

Finally, if you have any ideas on events you would like or if you would like to run an event yourself, please also get in touch.

Thanking you and looking forward to seeing you in the Hall!

We all wish you a very happy festive season and best wishes for 2023.

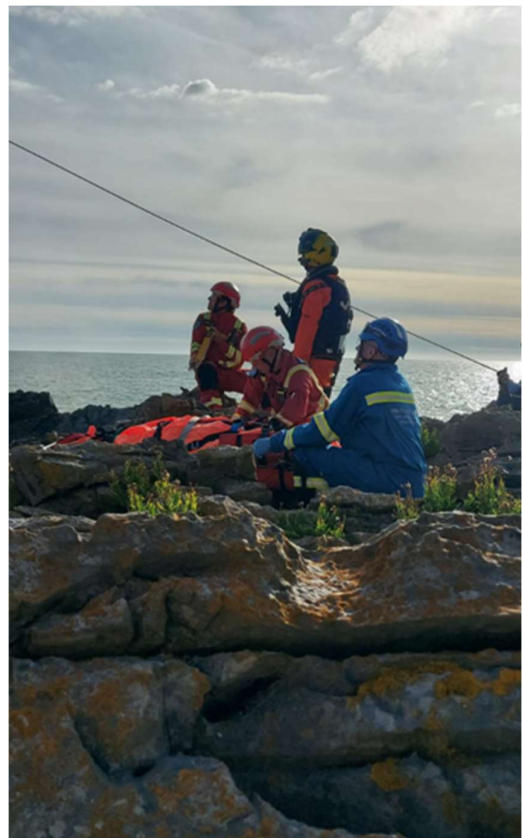
Rhossili Village Hall Social Committee



RHOSSILI COASTGUARD

The year of 2022 has seemed to be a quiet one for team members although we up on incidents from the previous year. To date we have responded to 63.

These incidents have come across the duration of the year with us having a relatively quiet summer period considering the volume of visitors we experienced again between June and August.



As a team during the year, we have maintained our compulsory training requirements plus continued to voluntary train as and when we can to ensure we are all competent to carry out the necessary tasks when required.

We have welcomed 2 new recruits to the team in recent weeks Ian and Lyndon, which is great to have some new faces. They are both carrying out their induction training with other new recruits from across

South Wales and will hopefully be equipped to go live with us on the team in Rhossili from April 2023.

We have attended all sorts of incidents during the year but have highlighted a few below:

We were tasked to a fisherman who had sustained a suspected compound fracture on the causeway. The casualty was found lying in a rock pool by a doctor who just came across him while out walking luckily enough. The fisherman had been swept off a rock by a freak wave and suffered an injury and somehow had managed to pull himself out of the tide and into a nearby rock pool.

On arrival it was evident that the casualty had suffered a compound fracture to his femur and we were so grateful we had a doctor to support us. This incident went on for some hours and the casualty had been alone for some hours before the doctor came across him. As well as being in severe pain, the casualty was also suffering from extreme hyperthermia.

As with many incidents these days we are often told there no ambulances available or at least 3 hours wait. For this job however, we had clearance that our Coastguard Helicopter had been made available from Cardiff which was pleasing. Although they experienced some technical problems prior to take off so we were back to the drawing board. During this time the casualty still had not received any pain relieve.



After a brief pause, we were then granted a Coastguard Helicopter from Newquay, Cornwall which was great news but obviously a longer wait. Time was against us as the casualty's condition was deteriorating rapidly and the doctor was very concerned. We took the decision to move the casualty which we didn't initially want to do due to the nature of the injury. Soon after we did this air support arrived with a paramedic and importantly pain relieve for the casualty. The casualty was comforted and transported to hospital. We believe the guy spent some time there and has undergone 3 operations to date. We would hate to think what would have happened if the doctor didn't come across him while walking and could have been a much different outcome.

Another incident we were tasked to a cliff faller to the west of Pavaland. On arrival to the incident the air ambulance was already present which is always pleasing due to the nature of injuries a cliff faller can have. The paramedics had scrambled to the base of the cliff and were already working on the young male.

Due to the location of the casualty and his injuries additional air support was requested and came in the form of our coastguard helicopter from Cardiff.

This incident required a lot of teamwork between different emergency services in order to get the casualty to hospital as quickly as possible.

We understand the casualty and his friend were doing a bit of climbing and taking photos and he dropped his tripod and reached to grab it over the cliff edge when he fell around 60ft straight onto rocks at the base of the cliff.

Unfortunately, we didn't hear anything further on the casualty's condition following this incident.

On behalf of the Rhossili Coastguard Team, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Steve Lancey
Station Officer



'Rhossili through visitors' eyes'

I did grow up on Gower at Blackpill but left in 1974 so these days I count as a visitor though my wife and I have been back regularly since.

We love Rhossili for its bleak openness so look after the walls but don't plant any trees. I think Wales is already disappearing under scrub and unwanted trees anyway.

Was there a Rhossili sign welcoming us when we arrived by the green? Can the way to the sea behind the Hotel be improved please.

The NT car park seems to get ever larger, so I hope the CC gets grants etc. from the NT for local projects.

What can you do to reduce bracken on the downs and encourage heath there and elsewhere. I am worried it's going to vanish from Gower

The NT shop is fine but very little if any mention of the locals and especially never the farming community.



We were impressed by the young boy at Middleton and his vegetables. In my case especially his potatoes. I hope he continues as there seems tragically no food grown anymore apart from lamb.

I attach a picture of potatoes being planted at Overton in 1973 by me! I think it's Mr Jones. Can anyone help? Also 2012 caulis going but sadly no more. I am hoping to write about Gower early potatoes for the Gower Society and any help or photos appreciated.

I worked briefly in Gower for The Potato Marketing Board in the early 70's then moved with them to The Fen Country.

Best wishes
Chris Jones – Bedford



NCI – Worms Head



It has been a bit of a Roller-Coaster year for NCI Worms Head this year, one way and another as we continue to develop and thrive in our role as a member of the Search and Rescue organisation. For instance, the Lookout building has taken a bit of a battering and last

January's storm, with winds of over 94mph during a Watch, lifted the roof covering the porch, leaving a very

cold watchkeeper, Tom Scrimgeour, struggling to secure it in a Force 8 gale and wind chill of minus 3!

Back in 2014/15, the Lookout was renovated by the National Trust with a grant from the Gower Society and all was well until this year when the exterior woodwork was seen to be rotting and the rainwater goods rusting very badly and that storm, together with this November's weather hasn't helped! However, we're still there and still able to carry out our mission – to Spot, Plot, Report and Respond.

During the year several Watchkeepers received long-service awards, for 15 years, 10 years and 5 years of volunteering. However, we have also lost some for a variety of reasons, and this makes the roster very difficult to maintain. We have steadily recruited more volunteers to become watch-keepers and we have recently added 10 fully trained observers to our number. Fortunately, several of the experienced Watchkeepers who have turned in their epaulettes, have wanted to stay connected and involved and have become Veteran Watchkeepers, assisting in fund-raising, Open Days and other social events. We still support ourselves in maintaining the Lookout, replacing equipment when it wears out, needs up-dating and we had two Open Days in the summer to raise needed funds. Over the year we have received donations from a local business, grateful individuals and families for our assistance and we were very grateful to receive a legacy from a past watch-keeper's family to help us carry out our contribution to the safety and well-being of our many visitors.

Visits to the Operations Centre at Milford Haven have resumed after the two-year break because of Covid. We were invited to go to Milford in March to celebrate their 200 years of service, but because Milford Haven is "twinned" with Uman in Ukraine, it was felt inappropriate to celebrate in view of the war unfolding in Ukraine. Three NCI WH representatives joined them for their delayed celebrations later, in July. We also passed our Declared Facility Status examination, with flying colours, so we are maintaining the high standards expected of us. One of our watchkeepers, Tom Scrimgeour, has been appointed NCI Sector Manager for South Wales as well as the Exhibition Manager for NCI at the Southampton Boat Show and has given interesting talks to several local groups which have been well-received.

We were pleased to join with the community of Rhossili on 2nd June to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth, although the Phoenix Choir never made it down to our beacon at the Lookout, preferring to stop at the hostelry in the village! It was amazing to see both beacons lit at exactly the same

time and to have so many people attend the celebrations on a lovely, sunny and warm evening. It hardly seems possible that a few short months later we were lowering our flag to half-mast as we marked the death of Her Majesty.

There have been several incidents during the year, starting with a horse trapped on the rocks below Tears Point on Boxing Day, and then the usual strandings on the island when the tides caught out the visitors and several injuries to people that required medical attention. There was a serious incident in September, when a fisherman fell and sustained a compound fracture of his leg in the early hours, before the Lookout was manned. Thank goodness his cries for help were heard by an off-duty doctor some hours later. The doctor's mobile phone had no signal so he ran to the top of the cliff, to the Lookout where the two duty watch-keepers were getting ready for the day. Having alerted the proper authorities, the doctor and a Watchkeeper went back down to the casualty to help stabilise him until the Rescue services arrived. The incident was reported by "Wales on-line" in some detail but missed out a very important detail – NCI had repeatedly reported from June in the summer that the Emergency Phone on the outside of the Lookout was not working but it still hadn't been replaced when this incident occurred. Had NCI Worms Head not been there, with access to the Emergency Services and qualified Watchkeepers, the doctor would have had to run the mile up to the village to raise the alarm, and the outcome for the casualty may not have been as good as it has been.

Watchkeepers are often asked by visitors, "So, what are you watching?" to which the reply is usually, "Anything that moves." We have been able to work more closely with other organisations like the Gower Seal Group and Gareth Richards has given us information to pass on to the members of the public so that they can treat the resident seals with the respect that they need and deserve. We have also been involved in Operation Seabird, a combined South Wales Police and RSPB initiative to help protect the bird populations around our coast and stop the disturbance of the birds, especially in nesting season.

As I said at the beginning of this report, it has been a Roller-Coaster year for NCI Worms Head. We have come through difficult times, but our community is strong and committed to the safety and preservation of life along our coast and at sea.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Safe New Year and look forward to welcoming you to our Station at Worms Head when you visit.

Andy Bowen
Station Manager



National Trust Gower

Wildflowers in the Vile



This year the Gower rangers, along with the dedicated team of volunteers, worked to develop and maintain the wildflower meadows in the Vile. Work has been undertaken to improve the field boundaries with new fencing and the creation of hedgerows. Within the boundary of Priest Hay blossom trees (including wild cherry, bird cherry, crab apple, and rowan) were planted and are thriving. Many of the old metal gateways have been replaced by more aesthetic solid oak gates throughout many of the fields of the Vile and around Rhossili Down.

Through the externally funded "Coast to Commons" project, a seed harvester was purchased and a haybarn was constructed at South Pilton Green. This project is funded by the Nature Networks Fund and delivered by the Heritage Fund, on behalf of the Welsh Government. "Coast to Commons" focuses on improving the management of some of National Trust Cymru's protected sites, making them healthier, more wildlife-rich and climate-resilient. The project has also funded the post of our Land, Outdoors and Community Participation Officer (LONPO) who has been sharing some of the harvested meadow seeds with local schools in the production of mini wildflower meadows. The haybarn has increased our capacity to store diverse, seed-rich hay that has been distributed locally for hay-meadow development and livestock feed; next year we hope to increase the quantity of seed harvested and distributed across Gower. The LONPO has arranged several community events, including a Bilberry Bumblebee hunt and an introduction to Apps for Citizen Science wildlife recording. In August, the Dog Day,

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provided dog-owners with the opportunity to chat with experts and learn about some of the impacts that dogs can have on livestock and ecosystems. Throughout the year, we have welcomed school groups and members from a range of organisations, including Crisis (Crisis Swansea | Crisis Skylight | Crisis Wales and The Sunflower Lounge (Sunflower Lounge - Home). They have participated in beach litter picks and wildlife walks. Here it is appropriate to thank the magnificent efforts of Gareth Richards from Gower Seal Group (Home | Gower Seal Group) for sharing his excellent knowledge. Thanks also go to Lesley-Anne Nolan and all community volunteers who have worked tirelessly to help keep Rhossili beach clear of litter. Events at the Rhossili site have been plentiful throughout the year, and the NT shop has had a face-lift, enabling teas and coffees to be served for the hardy visitors to enjoy in the small outdoor seating area.

Two further additions to the Gower NT team have been the two Swansea University students, on their work placement year. Alongside their own research into the biodiversity of the Vile, they have been learning the roles of the rangers and delivering engagement activities. Managing some of the most iconic landscape in Gower, for the benefit and enjoyment of all, is an honour and a privilege and one that all the Gower NT team recognise cannot be done without local community support and expertise. We thank all the graziers, farmers and contractors who have worked with us this year.



Trialling the seed harvester



Rhossili Community Hwb: One year on

In last year's newsletter, we ended our report from the Community of Rhossili Support Group with

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'Watch this space!' We were referring to the collaborative funding bid we had put in with Rhossili Community Council and Rhossili Village Hall, to be able to develop a new interactive website for the community, which we named the 'Hwb.' Our bid to the Prince's Trust had been unsuccessful but we were determined not to give up. Well, the persistence paid off here we are, nearly 12 months later, with two successful linked bids to develop our Rhossili Community Hwb.



'Rhossili Community Hwb: Connecting a Community' has been funded by Swansea Council's Rural Development Programme (RDP) via the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

This initial funding is to support the creation of the website through employment of a professional web developer and to support IT skills training through purchase of equipment to enable us to deliver the support sessions (including the lovely new monitor in the village hall!).

But wait, there's more! We were then invited to apply for top-up funding so that we can install the 'Vocaleyes' facility on the website. Vocaleyes provides a way for people to take part in suggesting ideas online for their community, learn about the ideas of others and vote on the ideas they think are best – so everyone can have a chance to have their say. Pennard Community Council has been using it and it looks like it could be very useful for us too.

There are two aspects to the Hwb. The first is creating the Hwb itself - essentially an easy to use, one-stop shop website that offers a central source of locally

relevant information and provides a platform to share ideas, interests or ask for help. We also think that having a flexible website set-up that can support rapid exchange of information in times of crisis is very important for our rural community.

On the home page you can click to visit six different sections of the Hwb: Community events; Health, wellbeing & environment; Local people at work and play; Get to know Gower; Rhossili Community Council website and Rhossili Village Hall website.

Originally, there were going to be just four sections, but following the two workshops we held in September, one for local residents and one for our local businesses and organisations, there were so many ideas we had to expand the site! We had some great suggestions, the most popular being for a calendar of events. Our Hwb rainbow also allowed participants to indicate their preferred colour scheme for the Hwb.

At the workshops, we used a new online polling system with people using their mobile phones to respond to questions posed. This allowed us to gather views about the project and we also gleaned some interesting insights from local people on different aspects of community life – such as shown in the two images below!



The second aspect of the Hwb is the Hwb project itself, which is about more than 'just' the website. It's about the community working together to create something of value for our community and for our visitors.



It's also about supporting people to gain skills and confidence to use computers and the internet safely. We want people to feel confident in using the Hwb and in using computers to help with everyday activities, like ordering online, using email or Zoom. In January 2023 we'll be offering informal Computer Cafés as part of the IT for the Terrified support sessions, tailored to what people want help with. As part of this, we'll be offering free loans of laptops and internet-enabled smartphones or tablets for people to try them out at home and practise skills picked up in the sessions. This free loan is also made possible thanks to Pitton Chapel's successful bid for SIM cards from Vodafone's Connected. Communities scheme. Watch out for more information about these session. The Hwb project has a relatively short timescale. We started in early August, and we have to report back to RDP by the end of February 2023. So, we've been very busy, working with the web developer, looking at all the ideas from the workshops and getting information, articles and images from all our contributors (thank you!) as well as feedback from our 'critical friends' who have volunteered to give us constructive feedback about the site as it develops. We'll be launching the site at our annual Carols around the Tree on December 16th, but this won't be the finished product. We expect the Hwb to continue to develop as more content is posted up, features are further refined, glitches are ironed out and you tell us what more you'd like to see. Watch out for more information about these sessions –and please see the short survey included in this newsletter. Let us know what help you would like (or can offer) in relation to growing skills and confidence in using computers in everyday life.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the website so far and for your enthusiasm and support for the project. If you are not on our email list and want to keep up to date with information or get involved, please contact us via rhossilihwb.cymru@gmail.com.

Diolch o galon a gobeithio gweld pawb yn y lansiad am Rhagfyr 16 eg .

**Maggie Kirk on behalf of the project team:
Isobel & Colin Everett, Steve Walmsley, Gill
Boulding, Paul Kirk and Vicki James**



Wyld Clwb

Hello, I'm Jasmin and we are Wyld Clwb. I created Wyld Clwb from my love of two things: nature and community.

Wyld Clwb is based on the Gower peninsula, an area of outstanding natural beauty. we are surrounded by nature: beaches, fields, hedgerows, cliffs, hills, heathland, woods, salt marshes and grassland. the wyld environment around us is the inspiration for our experiences.

Our clwb is our community. everyone is welcome. whether you live here or are visiting, you are our family and we want you to connect with the wyld here on Gower through our experiences.

We use seasonal plant-based, gluten free, organic, locally sourced Welsh produce. our experiences are elevated using foraged + wyld ingredients and pop-up locations on the Gower peninsula. we offer supper clwbs, cooking classes and day retreats.

The feedback I had about my food and the event has had me smiling ever since and I'm so excited for the future of Wyld Clwb and the people I will connect with.

I really hope to see you at an event with us soon.
"we live in an area of abundance; all we need to do is to connect to it, and to each other"



Foraging is a fundamental part of Wyld Clwb and is the inspiration behind many of our dishes as it means you can really taste the seasons and connect with the landscape. Gower provides such a vast array of foraging opportunities due to its diverse terrains.

Some rules to follow when foraging:

- Only forage what you need.
- Be considerate to wildlife.
- Use multiple sources of identification and only eat something if you are 100% sure.
- Confirm you can legally forage in an area before doing so.
- A great identification resource is: www.wildfooduk.com.

Foraging is a beautiful and mindful experience, and part of a journey with the plants that you have collected. we share this magical land with them, so take time to thank them for their gifts. you can also give back by leaving an offering or collecting litter whilst you forage. If you have any questions, please get in touch:

hello@wyldclwb.uk



Supper Clwbs

November saw the soft launch of our first supper clwb. I'm still so over-whelmed by the love and support from the guests who attended on 19th November. my heart is bursting with gratitude. I feel so honoured to have shared a wonderful evening with such lovely people.

Sharing food that you have created is like sharing a part of you and I felt excited but vulnerable. I was so grateful that the people truly embraced the experience and became a community of friends in the process, which was one of my aims when setting up Wyld Clwb.

Winter // alexander leaves.

When most over plants have finished for the year alexanders are just getting going! All parts of alexanders are edible. aromatic, with a smell similar to myrrh. winter is a good time to add a few bright green leaves to a winter salad. they are abundant in the Rhossili lanes and fields. the rest of the year you can forage the

stems for steaming or candying, or the seed heads as a black pepper alternative.

Spring // cleavers, or sticky willy.

Grassy herby and fresh like spring. they shoot up when we need them and provide lots of vitamin C and calcium. they also improve the function of the lymphatic system. just what we need as the days start to get longer and we need a refresh after the winter months. I love to infuse the young green stems in filtered water overnight in the fridge and sip on the infusion throughout the day, your skin will be radiant! you can find these everywhere, they are abundant in my garden if you ever need any! (Caution: some people may react to cleavers. do not use if you are on blood thinning or high blood pressure medication).

Summer // elderflower.

The smell of summer and abundant in hedgerows all over Gower. in folk tales elder trees are seen as a gateway to a magical realm and should be treated with respect, there must be lots of magic on Gower! sprays of fluffy white flowers arrive between May and July, and are totally delicious made into cordials, wines, fritters, infused into ice cream or jelly. (Caution: only eat the berries, flowers and flower buds, the rest of the plant is toxic. the berries need to be cooked or fermented before eating).



Autumn // blackthorn sloes.

Blackthorn is abundant on Gower as it has been used to make hedges for hundreds of years. sloes are super astringent and full of tannins which makes them a great substitute for olives. you can preserve them in a 10% salt solution (10g of salt for every 100g of filtered water) with some garlic cloves and fresh bay leaves, and within a couple of weeks you'll have local 'olives' to munch on. (Caution: blackthorn spines are extremely sharp and can cause severe swelling. collect with care).

Jasmin

www.wyldclwb.uk



Rhossili Oil Consortium

The Rhossili Oil Consortium (ROC) exists to secure the best possible price for its members who live in or around Rhossili. We have about 50 members who place orders for home heating oil through the consortium. By ordering together we are able to negotiate a group discount, and usually the orders are delivered together too, which is kinder to our planet. Although we combine for discount, members' orders are dealt with separately by the supplier: each member has their own supplier account, pays their own invoices, and is free to order outside of our two-monthly order cycle.

Energy prices were severely disrupted this year due to Russia's war on Ukraine. For oil, we went from 39.6 pence per litre in March 2021 to 117 pence in March 2022, and it has now steadied at about 90 ppl in the last few months. While there is relief from Government for gas and electricity prices, home heating oil has seen no protection, and we are at the mercy of the markets for now.

New to Rhossili – you are welcome to join in and benefit from organised ordering and competitive pricing for your oil deliveries. Already a member - if you have suggestions to improve the consortium, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Happy Christmas everyone.

Caroline Johnson 391775

RhossiliROC@gmail.com



Llandewi with Knelston WI

It has been an unusual year in the W. I. what with the aftermath of covid and lessening of restrictions.

We have enjoyed being able to meet in person again. There is a much better atmosphere when we can see and speak to our friends.

Our President, Daphne has been very busy. She has been appointed to the board of Trustees, won prizes in the Royal Welsh show, and spent a couple of months in Canada with family. All this, and still our President. We enjoyed an evening/afternoon tea at our AGM in March, presided over by Margaret Maguire from Upper Killay W.I.

2 of our members went to The Glamorgan Experience and learned some Japanese craft. 2

members went as delegates, representing 4 Gower WI, to the National Conference in Liverpool.

We enjoyed a lovely trip to Tetbury with a tour of the lovely old Manor House in Chevenage where Poldark was filmed.

We toasted the Queen in her jubilee year, Thanks to Richard in Scurlage shop for the Prosecco.

The Committee put in a last minute entry for the Co-operative section at the Gower show. We were delighted to win 1st prize.

Sue Morris, won 1st prize in the Glamorgan show for her beautiful poem on Queen Elizabeth. Sue is a very talented lady.

We are now looking forward to reviving our monthly walks starting with short walk from Rhossili Bunkhouse to Mewslade, Fall and back.

We are also planning to resume our monthly lunches.

An overnight trip is being planned, as is a trip to the Pantomime in Swansea.

We have enjoyed good speakers throughout the year on a diversity of subjects from women's health to being prison warders.

New members are always welcome.

Contact Daphne on 390754 or Marian on 390473

We are looking forward to Christmas lunch at Parc le Breos and a joint Christmas Carol service with Pitton Chapel and St Mary's Church

Marian Potts

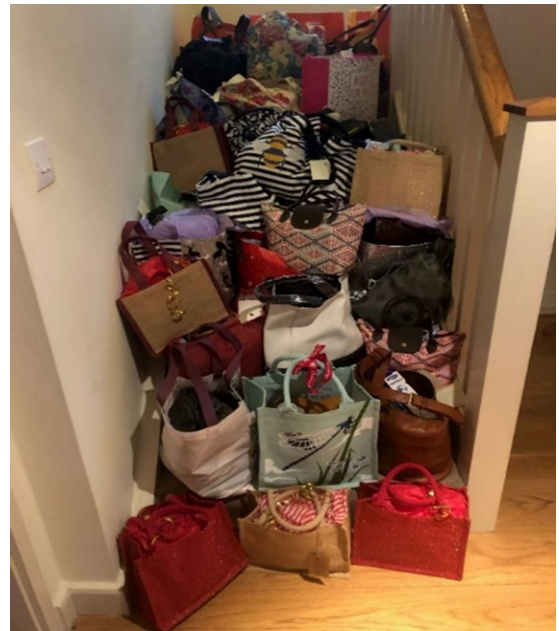


IT'S IN THE BAG!

Some of you may remember that I wrote an article about this campaign last year. I thought I ought to update you about the outcome. 'It's in the Bag' is an initiative set up by Sian Jones, who used to be known locally as 'Sian Indoors' when she worked for The National Trust. Several of us from Rhossili met Sian when we were members of The Ospreys Supporters' Choir. At that time, Sian was collecting shoeboxes of Christmas goodies for the mothers at local domestic violence refuges. By now the scheme has morphed from shoeboxes to used handbags in good condition or reusable shopping bags. About seven years ago Sian became aware that, whilst the children in local refuges were well supported by other schemes at Christmas time, the mothers were not. Bear in mind that mothers and children can arrive at the refuges with barely more than the clothes on their backs. 'It's in the Bag' involves donors providing a bag with four essentials – toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo and soap/shower gel. In addition, other items such as new, used items in good condition or unwanted gifts can be included. These could be toiletries, confectionary, jewellery, hats,

scarves, gloves, toilet bags, make-up, make-up bags and so on.

Last year, Sian collected over 300 bags altogether. It is with great pride that I can report that about 10% of them came from our small community. The refuges in Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot and Llanelli needed about 200 in total. Sian has reported that the additional bags went to young people who had just left care, families coping after the Skewen floods and the homeless. I am full of admiration for Sian's ability to co-ordinate all this work during such a busy season and so grateful to those in this community who have supported the initiative. I have used the wonderful 'Rhossili Chat' to garner support again this year and, by the time we go to press the collection will have been completed (due in around the 22nd November). As a reminder I am enclosing a photograph of our 'stash' from last year.



Mary Provis



**Nadolig Llawen
Happy Yule
Seasons Greetings
Merry Christmas**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our 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 – ensuring that this magazine will find its way to our doorsteps in good time for the festive season.

Rhossili Community Council

Season's Greetings

- *We are so glad to be part of this close knit and supportive community. Best wishes for the festive season and the year ahead. Isobel & Colin Everett, Elmsbrook.*
- *From Carl and Caroline Johnson: To all our friends and neighbours in Rhossili we wish you a very happy Christmas and all the best for the year ahead.*
- *Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi gyd oddi wrth Mark a Mary, Pitton Cottage. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all from Mark a Mary, Pitton Cottage*
- *We wish all our friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2023. Yvonne and Ken.*
- *Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year from Diana & Ed, Fallbay Cottage*
- *May all that is meaningful, beautiful and brings you joy, be yours and your family's this Christmas season and throughout the year. Love and Peace, Peter and Jo Scott*
- *Wishing everyone a wonderful festive season and a peaceful and happy 2023. Vicki James and family, Crud yr Awel*
- *Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all our friends and neighbours. Eaton and Karen Tarrant*
- *Please wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and cheerful New Year from Lynda and Sam Shaw, and from Lewis*
- *Wishing all our friends & neighbours a merry Christmas & happy, healthy year ahead. Dave & Barbara Powell*
- *Hope all my friends and fellow villagers have a super Christmas and a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year. Love and Best Wishes from Dave in Post Cottage*
- *To all my good friends and neighbours, I wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Nadolig Llawen from Marian Potts*
- *Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, good health and a happy and fulfilling New Year. Sarah and Steve Walmsley*
- *Steven, Lesley and the Campbell-Kelly family send, Season's Greetings to all in Rhossili Community. Wishing you all Good Health, a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year for 2023!*
- *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all friends and neighbours. Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda I chi gyd. Regards, Dai Cann*
- *Sending greetings for a happy Christmas and good health, peace and contentment in the new year to our friends and neighbours across this lovely community. Nadolig llawen ac iechyd da, heddwch a bodlonrwydd yn y flwyddyn newydd. Maggie, Paul, Mairwen, Bryn, Laura and all other animals (Pitton Mill Cottage)*
- *A happy Christmas and very best wishes to all friends and neighbours - Gill and Mike Boulding and Dylan*

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The quiz master Roger Button

A to Z

- A The death of this bird brought the curse upon the Ancient Mariner
- B Breed of cattle with a white band around their middle
- C The canal that connects Fort William to Inverness
- D The hardest naturally occurring material
- E What Americans call a lift
- F Embarrassing wind
- G A rather yellow plum
- H Composed the Water Music suite
- I Natural native population
- J These berries put the flavour in Gin
- K This city at the confluence of the Blue and White Nile
- L Acidity testing material
- M Captain Scarlet's dreaded foes
- N This prophet of Doom lived in the 16th century
- O The code name for the D-Day landings
- P This is considered to be the thief of time
- Q Set out the rule book for Boxing tournaments
- R Former Archbishop of Canterbury
- S A very crinkly type of cabbage
- T Island state of Australia
- U In the words of Sir Thomas More an idealistic society
- V These 3 aircraft made up Britain's V Bomber force
- W The Gnu is more commonly called this
- X The unreasoned fear of something that is perceived to be foreign or strange
- Y This alpine plant thrives on the Gower cliffs
- Z Robert Mugabe rules this African country

General Knowledge

1. Which bird allegedly sang in Berkley Square?
2. In terms of area what are the three largest countries?
3. Who were the 3 elderly ladies who frequented the snug in the Rovers in the early days of Coronation St?
4. Who was Popeye the sailors girl friend?
5. Which mop wielding actress was born Minnie Higginbottom?
6. What does PVC stand for?

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-
7. What Roman numerals represent 2022?
 8. CO₂ puts what into H₂O?
 9. There were only ever 3 Queens in succession on the English throne.
 10. Who played the King of Siam in the film version of the King and I?

Beach Anagrams

1. Veer not more
2. Pretty noon
3. North
4. Chow xi
5. Flirt chefes
6. Nellan thing
7. Edam wels
8. Mags rover
9. Miles lead
10. We calls
11. Nang llad
12. Hearts loder
13. Belt race
14. Candy bover
15. Ballyfa
16. Horsi lis
17. Lobo lupe
18. Pickl ball
19. Daviplan
20. Ratboy
21. Borntough



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Past Times

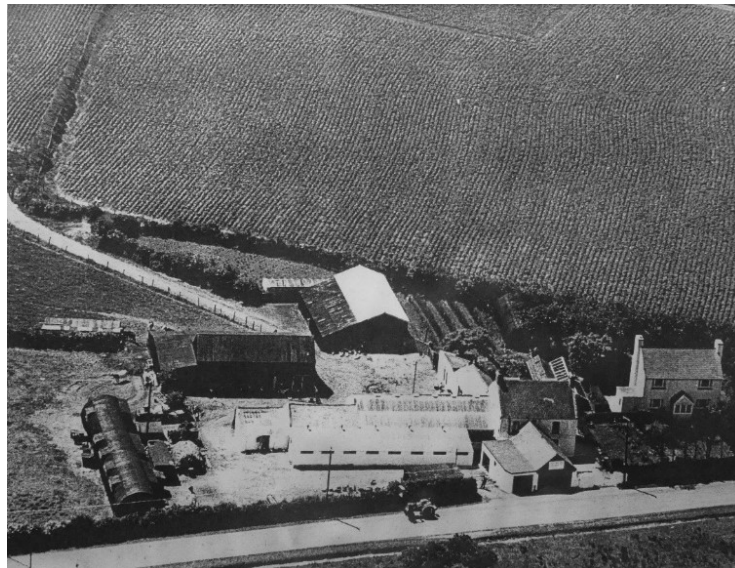


*Most lovely situation in
the Gower Peninsula*

RHOSSILLY
**The WORMSHEAD
COTTAGE**
PRIVATE HOTEL

BATHING
FISHING
RAMBLING

Overlooking the famous Worms Head and the
beautiful Rhossilly Bay. Every convenience. Two
Dining Rooms (separate tables). Large Lounge.
Twenty Bedrooms
RESIDENT PROPRIETOR - - G. THOMAS



Piton Cross



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Roger's Quiz Answers

A to Z Quiz: A. Albatross B. Belted Galloway C. Caledonian D. Diamond E. Elevator F. Flatulence G. Greenage H. Handel I. Indigenous J. Juniper K. Kharthoum L. Litmus paper M. Mysterons N. Nostadamus O. Overlord P. Procrastination Q. Marquis of Queensbury R. Rowan Williams S. Savoy T. Tasmania U. Utopia V. Victor Vulcan Valiant W. Wildebeest X. Xenophobia Y. Yellow Willow Grass Z. Zimbabwe

General Knowledge: 1. A Nightingale 2. Russia, China, Canada 3. Minnie Caldwell, Martha Longhurst, Ena Sharples 4. Olive Oyl 5. Kathy Staff alias Nora Battly 6. Poly Vynyl Chloride 7. MIXXX1 8. The fizz or sparkle 9. Lady Jane Grey, Mary Tudor & Elizabeth 1st 10. Yul Brynner

Beach Anagrams

1. Overton mere. 2. Port Eynon. 3. Horton. 4. Oxwich. 5. Threeciffs. 6. Llangennith. 7. Mewslade. 8. Ramsgrrove. 9. Limeslade. 10. Caswell. 11. Langland. 12. Rotherlade. 13. Bracelet. 14. Brandy cove. 15. Fall bay. 16. Rhossili. 17. Bluepool. 18. Blackpill. 19. Paviland. 20. Torbay. 21. Broughton

We are asking our members of the local community if they enjoy having the annual magazine through the door, would they rather a digital copy only or if people would like both copies.

Please indicate which you would prefer by ticking one of the boxes below, then detaching this page and dropping it into Pitton Cross Caravan Parks shop.

☐ Through the door only

☐ Online only

☐ Through the door and online

If you prefer, you can also email us your reply at
rhossilicc@gmail.com. Thank you.

