

MONTGOMERY

APR-MAY 2020 LLAIS
TREFALDWYN

LLAIS TREFALDWYN CRIER

Need some help?

Feeling a little isolated?...



COVID-19 COMMUNITY HELP AND INFORMATION

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If you are self-isolating because of Covid-19 and need a little support, see inside for information about Montgomery Neighbourhood Angels and to find out who your Angel is. They can either help you directly or put you in touch with further support.



MONTGOMERY
NEIGHBOURHOOD
ANGELS

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DIARY

As far as the Crier team are aware, all events have been cancelled for at least the next month.

Deadline for May 2020 Crier [special monthly edition]: 15th April

REGULAR EVENTS

Most regular events are suspended for at least the next month, except those shown in black (at the time of publication).

Bell Ringing: C

Monday evening: 18:30-20:00

Chatterbox: DH

3rd Thursday: 14:30

Coffee Mornings: TH

Saturday: 9:00-12:00

Dance Academy: AC

Tuesday: 20:00-21:00

Wednesday: 15:40-21:00

Thursday: 15:00-21:15

Friday: 15:40-18:20

Saturday: 9:00-13:40

(term time only)

Fire Station Practice Night: FS

Every Wednesday: 18:30-20:30

Flower Club: AC

3rd Wednesday: 19:30

(except Jul, Aug & Jan)

Gardening Club: AC

2nd Monday: 19:30

(except Dec & Jan)

Harry Ray Auction: TH

Wednesday (occasionally):

10:00 (Viewings: Tuesday

before the auction: 14:00-17:00)

Live Music: DH

1st Friday: Live band

3rd Friday: Open mic night:

20:30-22:45

Market Day: TH

Thursday (Saturday morning

Fruit & Veg Stall only)

MCCP Lunch Club: DH

Last Wednesday: 12:00

Mini Montys: AC

Tuesday & Friday: 9:30-11:30

Open throughout the year

(except Christmas holidays)

Montgomery Beavers: AC

Wednesday: term time only

17:00-18:00

Montgomery Cubs: AC

Tuesday: term time only

17:30-19:00

Montgomery Energy

Group: AC

3rd Monday: 19:30

Movie Club: DH

Every other Thursday: 20:00

(see programme)

Pilates (Seated): AC

Thursday 13:30-14:30

Pre-school: AC

Mon & Thu: 9:00-15:00

Tue, Wed & Fri: 9:00-12:00

term time only

Quiz night: DH

3rd Thursday: 20:30-22:30

Scrabble Club: IH

Every other Thursday

Snooker Club: I

By arrangement

Tai Chi: TH

Monday 11:00-12:00

Town Council: TH

4th Thursday: 19:15

Trefaldwyn Ladies Club: AC

2nd Wednesday: 19:30

Trefoil Guild: FS

1st Monday: 14:00-16:00

Walking Group: CP

3rd Wednesday: 10:00

Welsh Clwb Coffi: AC

Last Monday: 13:15-15:15

(usually)

Welsh Lessons:

Tuesday evening:

15:30-17:30 & 18:00-20:00

(must register first)

Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger Units are no longer permitted to advertise their meetings. Please enquire for times and places (see Contacts page).



MONTGOMERY NEIGHBOURHOOD ANGELS

The idea of Montgomery Neighbourhood Angels was floated via a Facebook post on the evening of 15th March. By the evening of 20th March, cards had been printed and were being delivered to every house in Montgomery, Hendomen and Caerhowel by volunteer Neighbourhood Angels, while Shopping Angels had already received their first requests for assistance. Once again, Montgomery showed that it is a community which cares for its neighbour and stands up in a crisis.

With all of us now confined and the places we normally meet all shut, the Angels network is even more important. Neighbourhood Angels can help with small tasks which are hard to manage when you are isolated at home, and they can access information and tap into wider support. But maybe the real benefit is that everyone in our community has the reassurance that somebody cares, and is just a phone call or an email away.

Do call your Angel, introduce yourself if you haven't met and let them know how you are managing. Already we're all making new friends across the generations and connecting with people we didn't even know a few weeks ago, as we try and work things out together in these difficult times.

See the following pages for names of the Angels covering *your* neighbourhood.

MONTGOMERY MEDICAL PRACTICE is open but personal visits must be kept to a minimum. All routine appointments will be conducted by phone. Blood tests etc will go ahead as normal. Patients are asked to come into the Surgery foyer one at a time and to wait outside for your turn.

Telephone appointments call: 668217 • Repeat prescriptions call: 669036

Your Neighbourhood Angel has access to up to date information for health services and support: please ask.

Road / Area Covered		
Name	Phone No.	Email Address
Arthur St, Castle Walk, Rows Terrace, Plough Bank		
Emma Upshall-Truman	669683	emmaupshall@yahoo.co.uk
Arthurs Gate, Forden Rd, Verlon Close, New Rd		
David Wilson	07821 076780	davidwilsonmsc@hotmail.com
Broad St, The Square, Back Lane, Well St, Castle Terrace		
Sarah Francis	07742 574430	slfrancischef@googlemail.com
Caerhowel (Forden Rd, Severn Close)		
Camilla Ibison	07943 424092	camilla.jones123@btinternet.com
Caerhowel (Harrison Dr, Caerhowel Meadows)		
Jessica Hodgson	07855 058468	jessicahodgson1990@hotmail.com
Castle St, Gt Weston, Montgomery S		
Deb Wildsmith	07914 406741	debwildsmith@gmail.com
Michelle Nash	669616	michelle.nashk9@yahoo.co.uk
Chirbury Rd (Brickys to Lymore), Alexandra Terrace, Lymore		
Shirley Owen	668301	shirleyowen06@aol.com
Chirbury Rd (Pound to Brickys), Chirbury Gate		
Sue Cusack	668066	sue.cusack@btopenworld.com
Church Bank, School Bank, School Lane, Lions Bank		
Julie Perrin	669841	julie.perrin14@hotmail.com
Corndon Dr, Hendomen Dr		
Miara Rabearisoa	668326	miararabearisoa@yahoo.fr
Llandyssil Hill Road, Cwminkin		
Josette Gresty	668195	speaktojosette@gmail.com
Hendomen to Pool Rd, Montgomery N		
Becky Henderson	668908	caerffynnon@gmail.com
Hendomen to Station Rd, Montgomery NW		
Donna Bishop	668189	donge90@aol.com

Kerry St, Kerry Gate		
Mike Cummings	668481	m.cummings@outlook.com
Kerry Rd, Montgomery SW		
Georgia Dickinson	07760 992366	dickinson.georgia@googlemail.com
Lymore View		
Rhian Cadwallader	668950	rhiancadwallader@gmail.com
Maldwyn Way		
Ruth Moucharafieh	07870 159840	ruth.moucharafieh@gmail.com
Angharad Medi	07828 269792	angharad_medi@yahoo.co.uk
Mortimer Rd 1-25		
Emma Leah	07826 865591	emma@rvwpugh.co.uk
Mortimer Rd 26+, Ernley Dr		
Lydia Bassett	07948 623022	lydia@lbarts.co.uk
Pool Rd, Cross Houses, Gaol Rd, Station Rd		
Clara Bright	07963 315339	clara.a@hotmail.co.uk
Princes St, Buck Bank		
Julie Bennett	07943 208244	julie.arthur@hotmail.co.uk
Tan y Mur 1-25		
John Taylor	668892	tigertayloruk@gmail.com
Tan y Mur 26+		
Janet Lewis	668295	j.e.lewis@hotmail.co.uk

We are looking for more Angels, as we'd like to have a pool of Reserve Angels to draw on. Please let us know if you're willing to be an Angel at angels@montgomery-wales.uk. (An active email address and telephone number are necessary to enable you to fulfil this role.)

Further volunteer opportunities can be found at:
<https://powys.volunteering-wales.net/profile/COVID-19-Powys>

Just a short note, for obvious reasons. Non-critical County Council operations have been suspended or reduced, freeing staff for those which are vital. Social Services are facing huge challenges, whilst the schools service is working flat out to organise educational provision for children of essential workers. Committees are meeting (if at all) via remote links, whilst all planning decisions have been delegated to officers. I am on the end of a phone or email if you need more information.

Spare a thought for the staff of Montgomery School as they meet the

education needs of children confined at home; and also for Rev. Alexis and other clergy, continuing to provide pastoral care to all who need it when weddings, baptisms and even funerals are being curtailed.

And I see Montgomery folk caring for the vulnerable, looking out for neighbours and generally demonstrating what real community is all about.

Good acts shining amid the darkness!



01686 668545 • cllr.stephen.hayes@powys.gov.uk

MONTGOMERY LIBRARY & INSTITUTE

BOOK 'EM

In order to help limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus, The Library and Institute will be closed for the foreseeable future. However, if you would like to still borrow books, find which title(s) you would like at the link opposite, email your choice(s) to the Library (or leave a message on the phone). We are no longer receiving weekly deliveries from Powys, so they need to be books held in our own library.

Your Neighbourhood Angel will deliver your selection to you.

Powys Libraries catalogue is available at: https://wales.ent.sirsiidynix.net.uk/client/en_GB/powys_en/search/results?te=&lm=POWMON

Any queries, please contact us.

Lesley Williams *Library Co-ordinator*
Montgomery Library 01686 668937
library@montgomery-wales.co.uk

01686 668937

GARDENING CLUB

At our February meeting David Thornton, Fellow of the National Vegetable Society, spoke about growing and exhibiting vegetables, sharing his extensive knowledge and taking the audience on a journey through soil types, fertilisers, timings and varieties. Club members found plenty to spark their enthusiasm: sources of good seed, techniques for getting vegetables ready at the right time for shows, or making the best use of greenhouses and polytunnels.

Although shows come and go in a flash, the work of growing the best vegetables is year-long. We learned that onions were a highly competitive class in shows, and David shared detailed tips on growing and preparing onions for exhibition. He also encouraged everyone to consider entering local shows. Beetroot, a

popular vegetable to grow, is a good place to start, and winning a prize in a popular class is all the more rewarding.

In March, the Club welcomed back Malc Mollart, whose talk *Bordering on Obsession* amused all of us as he shared the common and less common gardening obsessions. Malc, an enthusiastic gardening blogger with a wide interest in planting and garden design, entertained us with talk of *plantaholics* and less well-known obsessions such as *pteridomania* (fern fever). He enthused the audience with his detailed observations on human behaviour and the quirky touches that help gardens to reflect the personalities of the gardener.

Due to concerns over the spread of the Coronavirus Covid-19, it is with regret that the Club has cancelled the talk scheduled for 6th April.

CRIER GOING MONTHLY...

Crier special monthly editions: for the duration of the Covid-19 crisis the Crier team are planning to produce a smaller version of the Crier more often – probably monthly – to help everyone keep in touch, especially those who need to self-isolate.

The next copy deadline is therefore 15th April 2020.

Please send us news and any other contributions you think our community would be interested to read.

TENNIS CLUB

John Billington, our Chairman for over 20 years, has now stepped down and I have been elected as new Chairman. I have a hard act to follow, but I will endeavour to continue the good work.

We have two hard floodlit courts behind St. Nicholas' Church with panoramic views and a shared clubhouse with the Bowling Club. We have a strong commitment to junior coaching and have been playing social tennis all through the winter months, albeit with many layers of clothing!

Our season officially commences on 1st April but this will obviously be delayed to the current Coronavirus situation.

We are a well-established club and new members are always made welcome. Our membership rates are

very reasonable, and we now offer Online Registration through our website. An official contractor will shortly be re-painting the courts.

Tennis and Coronavirus

The current government advice is clear and communal places should close, so unfortunately tennis is out of bounds for the time being. In addition, all junior coaching has been discontinued, all local tennis leagues have been cancelled and our Open Day on 11th April has also been cancelled.

We will all bounce back within the coming months and let's hope that we will be playing on the courts before too long: make sure you and your family stay safe.

Richard Macdonald *Chairman*
richardmacdona@gmail.com

MEG - MONTGOMERY ENERGY GROUP

As with all other public meetings, MEG meetings will not take place until the Coronavirus situation is under control. Just at present, preventing the spread of this virus should be the first priority of everyone in society. Once it is under control, we will resume our work in raising awareness of Climate Change,

which will not go away, and is just as serious a threat for our children.

Politicians are rightly saying that they are following the advice of their scientists about Coronavirus. Let us hope they start to do that about Climate Change too.

Jeremy Thorp

PRESCRIPTIONS

For repeat prescriptions call: 669036

Please collect prescriptions for others where at all possible. When coming to the Dispensary, as with

appointments, please come into the Surgery foyer one at a time and to wait outside for your turn

Montgomery is looking at putting a system for group prescription collection and delivery in place.

MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Soon after setting up Montgomery Community Gardeners, a call went out for suggestions for a suitable public space for growing. A neglected, overgrown and odd-shaped little field, where the Newtown and Welshpool roads meet, was identified. Powys County Council who own it agreed to let us to use it, and with advice from the Community Land Advisory Service, work on an Orchard began.

Facebook has been an excellent way of keeping members informed of activities and events; we currently have 118 Facebook Followers. If you use Facebook, please find and follow us. As well as the Orchard, some members have taken on smaller, decorative growing projects around the Town.

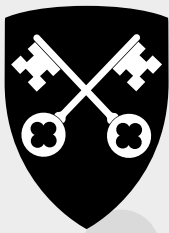
Fundraising events have included live music at the Dragon Hotel and a Coffee Morning at the Town Hall. Money raised was used to buy fruit trees and soft fruit bushes. Public events at the orchard have included *Have a Grow day*, and a *Grow Wild day*.

We also opened to the public for the Montgomery Open Gardens Day.

Residents have made kind donations including a picnic table, water butt, pallets for a composting area, grass seed, and an apple and a pear tree that had outgrown their pots! They have joined the original five *Rare Welsh Fruit Trees*: eating and cooking apples, pear, plum and damson. The first soft fruit bed has three gooseberry, five blackcurrant, and eight raspberry bushes. Ongoing work by volunteers includes grass and hedge cutting.

From a forgotten and neglected corner of Montgomery, the Orchard is becoming an attractive public green space. Please do visit and use it and help yourself to the fruit.

The agreement with PCC was that in the very unlikely event of major road alterations at the hairpin bend, we would have to vacate. Let's hope that it never comes to that and that Montgomery Community Orchard will keep growing well into the future.



ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH IN WALES

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Dr Alexis Smith
Website: <http://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/a196/churches-en/>
Also check our Facebook page Montgomery, Forden, Llandyssil Church
Telephone: 01686 641992 **Email:** smith.sparrowssong@gmail.com

On the evening of Monday 16th March, the Prime Minister advised that all non-essential social contact and all unnecessary travel should cease. During questions in the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care confirmed that the guidance relating to non-essential social contact includes faith groups and religious gatherings.

In response, the Church in Wales has decided, "all church services and gatherings for public worship should no longer take place. This includes regular Sunday services and weekday services, as well as occasional offices."

This means that all services and gatherings for St. Nicholas' Church will cease until further notice. As of 17th March, the Bishop's office is stating that this may be until 31st July.

The Church in Wales has now resolved that all of its places of worship should remain fully closed while the measures designed to address the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be in force. This means that St. Nicholas' Church

building will not be accessible from now on, until we are notified that it can be brought back into active use again.

Do check our Facebook page for updates.

We encourage all to continue to sustain a life of prayer and devotion. We especially need the prayers in this time of uncertainty.

For more information about how the Church is responding, please see the St. Asaph Diocese website. All material will be updated as frequently as required. In addition, the St. Asaph Diocese website has a message from Bishop Gregory and a list of spiritual resources available at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/coronavirus/>

If you need support or have questions, you can also contact me on 01686 641992 or smith.sparrowssong@gmail.com

Pray for all who suffer, including at this particular time those infected by the new coronavirus Covid-19 around the world, for those who care for them, for health specialists and authorities who are combatting the spread of infection,

and of course for all who at this time are feeling anxious, especially for those with friends and family in areas most at risk.

May Christ,
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life this Easter and always.

Alexis Minister

CANDLELIT DINING

St. Nicholas' Church hosted a successful evening of dining and good company recently to raise funds. 54 people, including a couple from London who were visiting the area, and spotted the opportunity, enjoyed a delicious meal of Greek salads, fresh bread and coq au vin or vegetarian wellington, followed by Montgomery's usual incredible selection of puddings.

Volunteers from the church did a wonderful job of cooking, serving and making everyone welcome, and the event has raised around £1,000 towards the running costs of the church.

Church committee member Lydia Bassett said, "it was wonderful to welcome so many people over for dinner and to have the church filled with happy diners and great conversations to a piano accompaniment."

Look out for the children's Easter trail in church every day during the Easter holidays and remember that church is providing a quiet space for reflection during VE Day.



SPRING NEWS FROM WALKERS ARE WELCOME MONTGOMERY

Despite the appalling weather conditions of the last few months, the volunteer footpath maintenance team carries on regardless improving access to our Rights of Way network.

Offa's Dyke Path

All types of work are carried out and we always need people to help with lighter tasks such as vegetation clearance or being a footpath 'warden' who checks if there are any problems on a certain route. Walkers are Welcome Montgomery are now assisting Rob Dingle, Offa's Dyke Path Officer, by being wardens for the stretch from Forden to Mellington and we would welcome new volunteers. Please get in touch if you would like more information: jill.kibble@montgomery-wales.uk

Funding Success

We have been awarded a small grant from the People's Postcode Lottery Fund for this year which is great news



as it will enable us to purchase more waymarks to help walkers find their way and fund further production of ever popular Montgomery Walking Trail leaflets.

Path closed

Please note that a large bridge has been washed away near Burnt House (Chirbury) on the Cross Offa Trail and this section is presently impassable. Shropshire Recreation and Leisure are aware.

WALKING FESTIVAL 2020

2nd to 4th October

A great selection of seven new walks with our leaders. These will vary from a Friday evening stroll before OktoberFest at The Cottage through the popular 5-mile heritage themed walk to an 18-mile Challenge. Fabulous views and sunshine guaranteed (well, the views, anyway). All walks are FREE but booking is essential and opens 1st May at www.montgomerywalkingfestival.co.uk

Festival Supper and Music on Saturday 3rd October from 7.00pm at the Activity Centre (£8 or £6 for walkers): reserve your places now by calling 01686 669730.

UPDATE: We remain hopeful the Festival will be able to go ahead.

Quaker Meeting



As I write, Coronavirus has been categorised as a worldwide pandemic and we all are facing difficult changes to our daily lives. However, the changeless presence of God is always with us to support and encourage.

The 34th Psalm is appropriate for such times and forms the basis of the hymn of which this is the first verse:

*Through all the changing scenes
of life,*

In trouble and in joy,

The praises of my God shall still

My heart and tongue employ.

Although Quakers do not have a formal creed, we do have a booklet of Advices and Queries which encourage, support and challenge us in our daily lives.

Advice 10 says this about worshipping God especially when we are unhappy and worried.

“Come regularly to meeting for worship even when you are angry, depressed, tired or spiritually cold. In the silence ask for and accept the prayerful support of others joined with you in worship. Try to find a spiritual wholeness which encompasses suffering as well as thankfulness and joy. Prayer, springing from a deep place in the heart, may bring healing and unity as nothing else can. Let meeting for worship nourish your whole life.”

In times like now I have found that in the quiet the above is very true.

We have suspended our Meetings for Worship in the Activity Centre but are continuing to 'meet' in silent worship in our individual homes at 10.30am on Sundays.

Alan 01686 668745

Please do book your places from 1st May. The Festival Supper and Oktoberfest will be kept under review.

The countryside is open*: just remember to observe social distancing and we recommend not walking in groups of more than two or three. (*As at the time of writing.)

WaW have a brand-new website being built thanks to Rosa Stephenson. It will shortly have a weekly post with walk ideas, quizzes and fun for children, photograph quizzes, news and walk updates and much more, see: www.montgomery-waw.org.uk

VE DAY MEMORIES

Greg Tanner of Montgomery has kindly sent a picture of his father Arthur, returning from Germany in May 1945. Greg is a nephew of the late Ivor Tanner, he of the Dragon Jazz ensemble and one-time band leader. Arthur was also a feature of the Wednesday night jazz sessions, playing both cornet and trumpet.

Arthur was in the Royal Welch Fusiliers and was captured in July 1944, imprisoned in Stalag 21D near Poznan in Poland, then moved to Stalag 8B in southern Germany as the Russians approached. Released by the Americans in 1945, he was flown back to the UK arriving home on 12th May. Arthur told that British prisoners did not get much

to eat, but were treated better than German soldiers held by the Russians, as some of the Germans were shot.

The picture was taken outside his Burdett home, with Mayor Ray Jones addressing Arthur, surrounded by (left to right) sister Iris, mother Selina and father William. Modestly in the background (top right) is Joan Aston, later to become Arthur's wife.

Subsequently there was a May Homecoming Party in the Town Hall, a picture of which hangs in the Crown. Arthur is on it: top left of the second row. Go and have a look. Can you recall anyone in these pictures?

Bruce Lawson



WELSHPOOL INNER WHEEL

The President Mrs Margaret Pepper and International President Mrs Di Crocker would like to thank the people of Montgomery for their generous support at the recent Coffee Morning held to support The Railway Children Charity, especially given the dreadful weather and storm Ciara.

Railway Children was one of I.W. International charities, but now

supports more children in the UK than in other parts of the world, which is a sad indictment that many vulnerable young people can be placed in dangerous situations here in Great Britain.

Welshpool Inner Wheel welcomes members, and encourages friendship and service.

MONTGOMERY TOWN MARKET (FOOD STALLS)

The market will be open for business as usual every Thursday (unless the government decrees otherwise) thanks to the dedication of our stallholders who want to ensure the community has access to produce close to home. Many of the traders are

able to take orders which can be collected on the day, or delivered in some cases. As far as possible up-to-date information will be available on the Montgomery Wales Facebook page and website What's On, detailing which stalls will be attending each week.

MONTGOMERY C IN W PRIMARY SCHOOL



Science Week

Tuesday 10th March was a very busy day at Montgomery School as their regular enrichment day coincided with their science presentation day for Science Week.

Children presented science projects to mixed age groups of their peers and headteacher Miss Griggs said, “thank you to the children and parents who developed some wonderful science experiments and presentations. The children were excellent at explaining the scientific processes.”

The groups of children spent the day following a circus of enrichment activities which also included meeting inspirational Welsh commonwealth athletes Jaz Joyce and Hannah Jones (Rugby sevens); Cymraeg; a press gang producing alien wanted posters and newspaper reports using ICT; and building dens.

Sportswear for Sport Relief

Montgomery School children showed their support for Sport Relief on Friday 13th March by dressing in sporty gear instead of their usual uniforms, and making donations to the charity. This fundraiser was organised by the *bronze ambassadors* group of pupils, who discussed Sport Relief and chose to support the cause in this way.

RSPB Enrichment Day

Janet from RSPB visited Montgomery School during an enrichment day to talk about feeding birds during the winter and to make some bug hotels with the learners. The participants also developed their bird names vocabulary *yn Gymraeg* too.

Other enrichment day activities for groups included making bird feeders using fir cones, cheerios and popcorn, which were then placed around the school grounds.

CRIW CYMRAEG VISIT IVY HOUSE

by junior correspondent Owen Weston age 7

On Monday I went to the Ivy House with Criw Cymraeg. Criw Cymraeg is a group in Montgomery School which speaks Welsh to people and does Welsh assemblies.

Our job is to encourage more Welsh because Montgomery is a school in Wales and we are proud to be Welsh. I enjoyed wearing my Criw Cymraeg badge, but I don't know where it is right now.

At the Ivy House, I ordered a hot chocolate in Welsh. I said to Denice, “dw i isio siocled poeth os gwelwch yn dda.” Martha sat at my table and she said, “ga i ysgytlaeth mefus,” which

means, “may I have a strawberry milkshake.” Lots of the Criw had strawberry milkshake!

Denice chatted with us in Welsh and tested how much Welsh we knew. She's going to do that every term. Every half term a different group of pupils who have done well with their Welsh will go to the Ivy House.

Miss Griggs said, “diolch Denice a Tŷ Eiddew. We hope to make this a half-termly treat for Key Stage 2 children who are working hard to promote Welsh speaking and listening around our school.”

ROCKET DAY

Myrick Training in Hendomen was the venue for aspiring rocket makers as a Rocket Day took place, organised by Mid Wales Manufacturing Group.

The day was arranged to support the Futureproofing Engineering Skills Provision in Powys Project, which aims to ensure the future growth and development of the manufacturing and engineering sector in Powys by helping to address the skills and

training barriers being faced by the industry, which employs over 5,000 people in Powys.

The young engineers designed, constructed and launched their rockets across the skies and learnt about how to build a strong but light frame, design their own aerodynamic body prototypes and explore mechanics.



WORLD BOOK DAY

On World Book Day, Thursday 5th March, children in Montgomery were delighted to discover gifted books hidden around the town to celebrate the day. The books were hidden by a Montgomery family and each included a note to let the finder know they could take the book home to read and enjoy.

The books were hidden by young cousins Megan, Harry and Sam. Megan, age 10, said, “we enjoyed hiding the books and hearing about them being found. We thought that it would be a nice surprise to share our love of reading for World Book Day.”

Many of the finders were in fancy dress, as Montgomery School children all dressed as aliens, with their theme for the day being the Julia Donaldson

book *The Smeds and the Smoos*, chosen by teacher Mrs Regan.

Foundation Phase researchers found words from the text and wrote in rhyme; years 3 and 4 created clay aliens and green screen aliens who spoke in Welsh; and years 5 and 6 wrote their own alien adventure stories to read to younger children.

Headteacher Anna Griggs said, “diolch Mrs Regan for inspiring us with such a rich text and fab theme. We can’t wait for World Book Day 2021!”



1ST MONTGOMERY BROWNIES TAKE ACTION

Our Brownies have been doing lots of activities from the *Take Action* theme of Girlguiding, which has included earning their *Making Change Stage 3* badges, their *Speaking Out* badges and fundraising by a sponsored walk.

The girls, all 7 to 10 years old, learned about different types of charities and voted on which local charity to support. They chose the Lingen Davies

Cancer Fund, because several girls had friends and family who had been supported by the charity.

The Brownies then walked a section of the Montgomeryshire Canal, completing fun moon-themed science activities along the way, and raised sponsorship money for completing the challenge. They later presented a cheque for £171 to Mrs Owen from Lingen Davies.

NEW PLAY PARK PROVISION FOR THE TOWN

Plans are being developed by a group of local parents, as a volunteer Friends Group, and Montgomery Town Council, to deliver an exciting new play park for Montgomery at the recreation field by the car park.

The existing two playgrounds have been maintained but not fully updated for decades and, while surrounding villages and towns have revamped theirs, Montgomery has been rather left behind. With an expanding family population in the area, alongside its growing tourism, it is time to change that and create something truly unique for our Town.

The project is in its infancy, so there will be plenty of opportunity for residents and users of the town to put forward their thoughts, with the first phase of surveys starting in the next month or so.

There is a lot of planning to do and significant funds to be raised by the Group through trusts, foundations, sponsorship and specific fundraising activity. The Group hopes that these can be in place by May 2021 and physical work can begin soon after.

More details to follow soon. For any early enquiries or information please contact Jill Kibble jill.kibble@montgomery-wales.uk or Alex Boyd Jones alexboyd@yahoo.co.uk



Although Brownies cannot meet in person at the moment, they are carrying on as MontyBrownies@Home with activities they can do at home, either on their own or with family members.





Jesus' Words from the Cross tie together what Easter is all about, and apply not just to the people of His day but to all of us.

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing," (Luke 23:34). We all need that forgiveness as we struggle with the Christian life.

"Today you will be with me in Paradise," (Luke 23:43). Jesus said this to the penitent thief on the Cross beside Him, but it is a promise to all of us that we can look forward to life eternal with Jesus and the Father at the end of our days.

"Here is your son ... here is your mother," (John 19:26-27). Jesus was entrusting His faithful disciple John to care for His mother, but it reminds us that as Christians we are all one family, the family of God.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me," (Mark 15:34)? These words remind us of all that Jesus had

to go through for our sakes, not only the physical pain of the Cross but separation from His Father.

"I am thirsty ... it is finished," (John 19:30). Here the task is completed, Jesus has paid the price to ensure that we are put right with God.

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," (Luke 23:46). Here there is the sense of relief as Jesus returns to full communion with His Father once again, and we will next hear about Him in His Resurrection appearances and ascent to be with His Father in Heaven.

Have a happy and blessed Easter,

Diane Minister

All services have been cancelled and the Weekly Bible Study and Upper Room Fellowship have been postponed until further notice because of the Coronavirus Crisis.

Best wishes to all. Keep smiling!

MONTGOMERY SHOW

It is with regret that due to the current situation we have decided that we must cancel Montgomery Show 2020, and all associated fundraising and

events. We shall hope to have a bumper show in 2021 and look forward to seeing you there.

Chris Boundy Chairman

POSTCARD COMPETITION

Destination Montgomery recently set a challenge to design a postcard image for the town, either by producing a work of art or by submitting a photograph, which would be reproduced as a postcard for sale throughout Mid Wales.

The competition attracted almost fifty entries and Katrina Collins from Destination Montgomery said, "we were thrilled to receive so many good entries." The entries were judged by Mayor Haydn Andrew, who was very impressed with the high standard, and that we received entries from our school children, our senior citizens and all ages in between. He found it a really difficult job to select the final ten images.

The team also received one image which showed from Winnipeg in Canada enjoying Montgomery. They were here to visit relatives and learn more about their family history, as their grandfather had been a doctor here in Montgomery in the early 20th Century.

The ten entries selected as winners will be printed as postcards, and all the successful entrants will be invited to a presentation, where they will receive a complete set of all ten. The postcards will go on sale in Montgomery and throughout Mid Wales.

Mayor Haydn said, "these interesting chosen images will act as a lovely reminder for visitors of the best of Montgomery, and I'm sure local people will enjoy sending them to friends and relatives further afield as well".



ALEX'S NEW ARTISTIC VENTURE

Alex Boyd Jones from Montgomery has recently begun a new venture, called *lark & line*.

Alex, who has worked in the arts in public galleries and museums, and who now works with individual practitioners across the UK, has rekindled her own artistic and creative interests to launch this new venture.

Working with natural materials and in response to the environment, Alex is

creating objects using macramé knots, with natural cord, wood and other materials, to make household and outdoor items. She said, "making work in this way is about slowing things down, and linking traditional and ancient skills used in fishing, hunting and agriculture to create beautiful and useful objects."

The work with knots sits alongside a series of drawings and paintings that

Alex has been working on, extending her practice outdoors, observing nature and the way we live alongside it. She is planning to not only sell her work but also to share her expertise with others through workshops.

Alex's work can be seen, and she can be contacted, on Facebook and Instagram @larkandline



MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY CARE PROJECT

Luncheon Club and Chatterbox are cancelled until further notice.

Main Project

As stated in previous Crier unfortunately we still have no information to report. We thank everyone for their patience and support.

Luncheon Club

It is with great sadness that we report the death of one of our members, Mrs Pam Moore.

Pam was a volunteer when we provided lunches in the Town Hall, and later was able to relax with the rest of her friends and enjoy a lunch being cooked and served by the very pleasant Dragon staff. She was a

lovely lady who was respected and loved by everyone who knew her. She will be greatly missed.

Our lunch on 26th February was a special occasion as we were able to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs Fleur Douglas-Orr. Fleur was also a volunteer when, in the early days, we provided a lunch fortnightly (meaning sometimes there were three in a month). This was quite a commitment and would not have been possible if not for the help of our volunteers. Happy Birthday Fleur and many thanks for all the help you gave us in the past.

Paulene Jones Secretary
paulene.jones@btopenworld.com
01686 668691

BUNNERS STAFF STEP OUT FOR CHARITY

Staff at Bunnors took up the *Walk All Over Cancer* challenge, aiming to complete 10,000 steps a day throughout the month of March, to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. With this averaging 5 miles, each member of staff will have clocked up 155 miles over the month, and there was quite a bit of competition hotting up between them!

Ann at Bunnors said, "most of us are not finding it too difficult when we are working in the shop, as we are up and down the steps and in and out of the different shop areas, helping customers all day long. But our days off, and especially Sundays, are going to be a real challenge for some of us." She added, "people have already been



very generous for this worthy cause, and all contributions are welcome."

To donate contact a member of staff, call Bunnors store on 01686 668308, or see the fundraising page link posted on their facebook page at fb.me/BunnorsMontgomery

TREFALDWYN LADIES CLUB

Trefaldwyn Ladies Club heard from Lori Whinn, proprietor of Coco Pzazz, at their February meeting.

Thirteen years ago, Lori planned to retire from the business world and start a rescue and rehab centre for horses. Her work at the time involved visiting food outlets and she saw the opportunity to create a luxury chocolate brand. She produced a few samples for a trade fair, resulting in very large orders; her producers could not cope, and the only way of fulfilling demand was to buy a chocolate-making machine and get to work!

Retirement abandoned, Lori became *The Accidental Chocolate Maker*. The group enjoyed hearing about this small company from Caersws, and were especially impressed by their tread lightly programme of minimum impact on the environment. Coco Pzazz has become extremely successful, enabling Lori to support two horse charities.

After Lori's talk came a very enjoyable chocolate tasting, sampling six different chocolates, trying to guess sugar and chocolate content.

Many are familiar with Powis Castle, the beautiful gardens and historical

artefacts, but perhaps not so knowledgeable regarding its past residents, especially the women. Stephen Parry, volunteer at the Castle, talked about *The Strong Ladies of Powis Castle* at the March meeting.

Hawise the Hardy had enormous courage. Her uncles did not accept her inheritance of the castle and aged 19 she travelled to London to petition King Edward III. He advised her to get a champion. She found John Charlton, an army was raised, her uncles were defeated and she married John; the family went on to rule for the next 200 years.

Another determined woman was Winifred Herbert, who travelled from Scotland to London in extreme weather, and disguised her condemned husband as a woman and smuggled him out of the Tower of London.

In light of current situation and Government advice, our programme has been suspended until further notice. Hopefully our summer trips can be rearranged, depending on how long the crisis lasts.

Julie Perrin

MONTGOMERY FACES & PLACES

MONTGOMERY'S MARATHON MAN

Trefor Pugh was born and brought up at Lymore Park, with his farming grandparents living in one side of the house, and his own family, including his brother Brian, in the other.

Educated at Montgomery Primary School and Welshpool Grammar School, Trefor went on to train as a teacher of Physical Education at Loughborough. A member of the OTC at university, he then served in the RAF during his national service before taking up his first teaching post at Llanfair Caereinion.

He then moved to teach at a college in New Zealand, where he also served in the Hauraki Territorial Regiment, and was selected to play football for New Zealand, against a Football Association XI, with players from what was then called the English First Division (now the Premier League).

Trefor then began his travels in earnest. The photograph shows his first passport photograph, and the passport is stamped with evidence of visits to places as diverse as the USA,



Australia, Papua New Guinea, India, Fiji and Nepal.

After a varied career, teaching in different locations, including Sydney Australia, Trefor returned to the UK in 1982, with his wife and stepson Neil Howells.

He was moved to enter his first marathon, the London Marathon, in 1993, after losing his wife, and in order to raise funds for ovarian cancer, after which he vowed, "never again". This was followed by a further 120 (!) marathons and half marathons, on every continent including in the heat of Kenya and the cold of Reykjavík. When asked which was the most challenging, Trefor stated, "Kathmandu, because of the pollution. Twenty-six miles in smog was very difficult."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ▶

A NEW B&B IN STORE FOR MONTGOMERY

The Old Stores, on Arthur Street, is planning to open for luxury Bed & Breakfast. We have two fabulous bedrooms with spacious bathrooms and rain showers. Our breakfasts will be fresh, delicious, and made using local ingredients from quality local suppliers. In our rooms you will find gorgeous handwoven Melyn Tregwynt throws and toiletries from Cole & Co to celebrate our Welsh heritage.

We are excited to be joining others in Montgomery working in the hospitality sector, and so looking forward to welcoming our first guests. For further information



please contact Ruth at hello@theoldstoresbnb.co.uk, find us online.

Due to the current Covid-19 situation our opening is very unfortunately delayed.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23 ▶

It was more of a challenge to name the most memorable, but seeing the Millennium in by running a marathon in Hamilton New Zealand, starting in one century, at the end of 31st December 1999, and finishing in the next century on 1st January 2000 comes near the top of the list.

Fourteen years ago, Trefor set up the Neil Howells Memorial Race in memory of his step-son, who died

tragically young. This race, based around the steepest terrain in Montgomery, is the last in the annual series of races supported by Maldwyn Harriers, and attracts both local 'fun' runners as well as serious runners from far and wide. It is always run on the Friday evening before Montgomery Show, and enjoyed by many spectators.

Trefor told the Crier, "I've travelled all over the world, but I love Montgomery, and this is where my heart is".

Please contact us if you are interested in a large print copy of The Crier – we produce these on request for those of our readers who find the current size a bit challenging to read.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE LITERARY FESTIVAL 2020

With huge regret, Monty Lit Fest has made the decision to cancel the Festival for 2020.

As the scope and scale of the CV-19 epidemic unfolds, it has become clear that we have no other option but to put the safety of our speakers, audiences, volunteers and partners ahead of any other concerns.

We are all, of course, extremely disappointed. The community in Montgomery has welcomed us so warmly, and, together, we created a programme of events which promised a truly wonderful literary weekend.

The plan is that this is a postponement, with the Festival and all the Fringe events re-scheduled for the same time, same place next year: add the dates 11th-13th June 2021 to your diaries now. Keep in touch via the Lit Fest website at www.montylitfest.com or through social media at #montylitfest. We are planning a series of book-related events for Montgomery in the run up to next year's festival.

We will be back bigger and better than ever in 2021!

Montgomeryshire Literary Festival Trustees and Committee



Design-a-Bookmark Competition

The Monty Lit Fest Committee would also like to thank all the children who entered the Design-a-Bookmark Competition.

Many imaginative and colourful entries have been received, so it will not be easy to choose a winner, however, the Competition will be judged and the winner and runners-up will be informed via email. Due to the Festival postponement, the wait to see the winning design reproduced as a bookmark will take rather longer than anticipated, but an interim prize will be awarded to the winner.

Thank you again to everyone who took part.

MAYOR'S NOTES

With the Covid-19 virus now taking a strong hold, we must all follow the advice we are given from the various sources, which are changing day to day.

I feel sorry for the organisations that have had to cancel or postpone their events in the wake of this virus. I understand it is disappointing, but hopefully it will not be too long before we can all get back to our normal lives.

If you need assistance there are telephone numbers on the inside back cover of the Crier of all the business and services, many of which offer help in home delivery etc.

Hopefully, the Trust will be taking over the running of the Town Hall in the near future. The lease is in its final preparation stages.

I would like to thank everyone for their offers of help and good wishes during my recovery of my knee replacement. It was greatly appreciated. The replacement knee is almost fully recovered with thanks to the RJAH hospital.



Haydn Andrew Mayor



POWIS MONUMENT: RENOVATION UPDATE

I do feel like the monument at the base of the Conduit could do with a proper name: strictly, the Conduit is the connecting road from Market Square to the Castle. *The Powis Monument? The Well Memorial? The Well Head?* An educational plaque might also be appropriate, as the stone structure, and the setting beneath the dramatic rise of the hill and forest behind, is unique. Please be in touch with any suggestions for a name or ideas for the content of a plaque.

The restoration of the monument and the creation of a new garden behind it is well underway. The first step was stripping back the vast amount of vegetation which had grown out of the hedgerow, revealing a substantial and partially-collapsed dry-stone wall. The area feels much larger, and has opened up a view at the top of the path to Bank House.

The Memorial itself is partly collapsing: the left-hand side will be rebuilt this spring, and the right-hand side will be repointed. The sandstone shield and front aspect will be repaired by a specialist stone mason, probably in the summer. As part of the excavations for repairing the rear of the wall, a range of unusual cast



iron implements has been discovered, which hopefully will find their way into the Old Bell Museum.

The lamp structure, in terrific condition given it is around 150 years old, has been taken down to be sandblasted, to take a century of paint off, and for the rusted parts to be remade and replaced. The lamp itself appears to be a modern replacement in poor condition and will be remade so that the Square can be lighted once more.

Longer term the area will be enclosed with a yew hedge and turned into a private garden borrowing designs from Vita Sackville-West's Sissinghurst in Kent.

Oliver Lewis *Castle Terrace*

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT: THE CRIER COFFEE MORNING RAISED £261

We were very grateful to everyone who supported and turned out in the throes of storm Ciara. Also for the cakes, raffle prizes and donations, which were very much appreciated. NB: we still need sponsors and as yet only a few sponsorship contributions have been received for the 2019/2020 year.

Wendy Beaven *Treasurer*



CONTACTS

Please let us know if any information on this page is incorrect.

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www.montycourses.co.uk

Fire Station The Office: 668560

Flower Club Laura Brown
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Football Club Pete Mills
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Forest School & Outdoor Learning Frances Louise
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Gardening Club Mary Bunner • 668658

Greyhound Rescue 668601
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Model Car Museum Bruce Lawson • 668004
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Walking Group Jeny Heard
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www.facebook.com/montgomerypowys

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www.montgomeryinstitute.co.uk

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www.nigelpughmotors.co.uk

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Sally Gartell Academy of Dance 01938 561211

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Serenity Health & Beauty 668945

Spar 668224

sprout.uk.com 668848

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The Arts Society, Mid Wales & Borders

(Formerly NADFAS)

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The Crown Inn 668533

The Dragon Hotel 668359

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UPDATE

We were not due to start operating until April or May but due to the Coronavirus we see now more than ever that people are in need of food delivered to their door. Delivery of fresh milk and local food basics will be available from 1st April. Online ordering and payments will be ready very soon. Thanks for being patient we appreciate your support.

Katrina and Pip

We will be covering Montgomery, Llandyssil, Caerhowel, Hendomen and Forden.

If you are interested please let us know by email montgomerymilkmaids@gmail.com or text 07740947311.

Look us up on Facebook
Montgomery Milkmaids

CRIER DEADLINES

15th April 2020, 15th May 2020
and every month thereafter until
further notice.

INFORMATION

Collection points

By email to crier@montgomery-wales.co.uk
By hand or post to Melford, Arthur's Gate.

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Design: Keith Williams, crier@sprout.uk.com

Editorial submissions and diary. The actual details are taken from the Town Hall diary (online) and from submitted articles.

All Crier articles are included on a first-come, first-served basis. Articles may be edited; the author will be consulted about any major changes. If there are more articles than available space (even before the copy deadline) they will not be included. You will be informed as to the reasons.

The Crier is normally limited to 32 pages. Submissions are not censored. Though they can be critical, they must not be libellous or demeaning to any person or organisation. They must be legibly signed and have an address.

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