

# Village Green



A Community Newsletter for the  
Selattyn, Pant Glas, Hengoed, Wern and  
Racecourse neighbourhoods

Spring 2024

## Spring and Easter at St Mary's Church

As I write, the first spring bulbs are shooting up in their colourful display. Being a somewhat disorganised gardener, some of my spring bulbs have not been in the ground very long so will be coming later on. These poor plants have not much time to burst into life if they are to join in the bursting colour of spring flowers. Yet in this there is some encouragement for us.

I sometimes meet people who feel like these bulbs spiritually. They think it would be good to seek life in God but feel that perhaps they are a bit late to get started now. But just as the coldness of Winter bursts into new life in Spring, so

Jesus Christ welcome any of us and transforms our lives with his life and light. This season heads towards our celebration of Jesus' resurrection life which is now offered for all who come to him.

Jesus said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them" (John 7:37-38)

*You are warmly invited to join us at...*

**Maundy Thursday Communion, 28th March**

7pm, All Saints' Gobowen.

**Good Friday Activity Service, 29th March**

A family activity service with crafts, songs and snacks.

11am-12pm, All Saints' Gobowen or 4-5pm, St Mary's Selattyn.

**Good Friday Meditation, 29th March**

2pm, St Mary's, Selattyn.

**Easter Sunday All Age Celebration Communion, 31st March**

9:30am, St Mary's, Selattyn and

11am, All Saints', Gobowen.

**Selattyn Village Fete, Saturday, 11 May, 12-3pm**

A fun day for all ages with lots of stalls, food, craft and fun. Our local charity that we will support this year is Connect For Life in Oswestry: <https://www.connectforlife.co.uk/>

All are welcome to get involved, so if you can help, please get in touch with Kath Pimble [pimble@outlook.com](mailto:pimble@outlook.com)

## Selattyn School News

WE ARE continuing to grow and flourish in our caring and nurturing school. The children are receiving a rich and broad curriculum which involves learning in different ways both in and out of the classroom. Our new curriculum provides a modern and fresh look to learning providing the children with many opportunities of developing their knowledge, understanding and skills working either individually or collaboratively with others. We have built strong links with outside providers including the music service, Christian Distinctiveness advisor and a new P.E. provider which ensures high quality physical education lessons and extra-curricular events are at the forefront of everything we do.

The children are regularly getting out into the community by taking part in services in the Parish Church. Regular trips are organised to compliment learning and the older children have once again had the opportunity to visit Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre where all had a great time taking part in a range of outdoor pursuits. The whole school visited the theatre in December

which was enjoyed by all especially those who had never seen a live production before.

We continue to update and improve the facilities a new library and intervention space has been created and a program of repainting commenced last year which is due to be completed in the Summer.

We were proud to be awarded the Eco Green Flag and were given excellent feedback after our recent Safer Schools assessment. All these have involved the children taking ownership and working together with the staff and governors. Our Eco, School Council and Worship Committee continue to play and active part in school life. We do have pupil vacancies across the school. If you are interested in your child joining Selattyn School, either for reception in September 2024 or 2025 or to transfer into other years, please contact the school office for further information and to arrange to look round the school. Contact us on 01691 659744 or [admin@selattyn.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@selattyn.shropshire.sch.uk).  
*Ross Shepherd, Headteacher.*

Free

**SHOW SCHEDULE FOR 7.9.2024**

**SECTION 1 - Vegetables & Fruit**

- 3 Runner Beans
- 3 French Beans
- 3 Potatoes
- 3 Onions
- 3 Carrots
- 3 Courgettes
- 3 Beetroot
- 1 Cucumber

Collection of Salad Vegetables on a Dish or Plate

- Longest Runner Bean
- 3 of any other vegetables
- 3 Standard Tomatoes
- 3 Cherry Tomatoes
- 5 Shallots

Basket of any Mixed Vegetables (see additional rules)

- 3 Apples
- 1 Wonky Vegetable
- 3 Plums
- 3 Pears

Small Basket of Autumn Fruits

Vase of 5 Herbs

- 3 Eggs (in a container lined with straw or shavings)

**SECTION 2 Flowers & Pot Plants**

- Dahlias (single variety)
- Single Rose in a Vase
- 3 Stems of Japanese Anemones
- Vase of Mixed Flowers
- 6 Stems of Sweet Peas
- 3 Hydrangeas
- 1 Foliage Pot Plant (10-15cm)
- 1 Flowering Pot Plant (10-15cm)
- 1 Succulent Pot Plant (10-15cm)
- 1 Flowering Pelargonium in Pot (10-15cm)
- 1 Specimen Flower - Any Variety

**SECTION 3 - Flower Arrangements**

Golden Wedding Anniversary Arrangement:

Golden yellow flowers with any foliage in a vase or bowl.

Afternoon Tea: An arrangement in a teacup or teapot.

Cocktail Hour Arrangement: A fruit and

flower arrangement in a wine or cocktail glass.

Wreath Table Decoration: including a mix of flowers and foliage.

Take Eight: 4 foliage stems and 4 flower stems (no multi flora) in a vase.

*(NB: Please DO NOT attach labels to the bottom of any heavy pots/containers - see rule 7).*

**SECTION 4 - Cookery**

Decorated Focaccia

3 White Rolls

3 Brownies

Chocolate Sponge Cake (with or without cream)

8" Quiche

3 Sausage Rolls

**SECTION 5 - Jams & Preserves**

Labelled Jar of Jam or Jelly, (any fruit)

Labelled Jar of Lemon Curd

Labelled Jar of Marmalade

Labelled Jar of Chutney

Bottled Fruit Spirit (Any Flavour)

*(Sections 6 to 10 inclusive to have 'Highly Commended' awards)*

**SECTION 6 - Art**

Seascape Collage

An Old Building (in pen/pen and wash)

A Landscape - in or around Selattyn.

An Abstract Painting - using acrylic or oil paint.

Summer - Any medium

**SECTION 7 - Photography**

Furry Friend

Black & White Architecture

Food & Drink

It Made Me Laugh

Close-Up Image of an Everyday Object

**SECTION 8 - Craft**

A Decorated Bottle

Any Knitted/Crochet Item

Patchwork Item

Handmade Wrapping Paper

Handmade Greeting Card

**SECTION 9 - Woodwork & Metalwork**

Any Item from Wood

Any Turned Item

Any Item from Metal

**SECTION 10 - Children's Section (All Unassisted)**

Painted Pebble

Farm in a Tin

Greeting Card

3 Assorted Cup Cakes

*Class A - Under 5 Years Old*

*Class B - 5-7 Years Old*

*Class C - 7-9 Years Old*

*Class D - 9-12 Years Old*

*Ages as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024*

**JUDGING ADDITIONAL RULES**

**SECTION 1 - Vegetables & Fruit**

All exhibits should be on plates or dishes (unless otherwise specified). Beet and carrot tops restricted to 3" (7.6cm). Courgettes

should not exceed 6" (15cm) in length. Potatoes should be washed.

Contestants may enter max 2 exhibits in each single numbered category.

The basket for mixed vegetables should be no larger than 18 x 12" (46 x 31cm) with no items overhanging.

**SECTION 6 - Art**

Classes in any medium can include acrylics, watercolours, gouache, crayon, pastel, pencil and ink. Pictures must be mounted and do not need to be framed. Please ensure pictures have string firmly taped to back for hanging.

**SECTION 7 - Photography**

Photography may be digitally enhanced, except for wildlife photographs. The maximum size of exhibits is restricted to A4 (12 X 8"/30 X 20.4cm) for the photo proper or 16 x 12" (41 x 30cm) for the mount card.

No multiple photographs mounted on one large board, except where stated. Photographs may be given a caption. Please ensure that the mounts have strings firmly taped onto the back for hanging.



Everyone is welcome at any of our services each Sunday at 9:30am at St Mary's Church. For more information please get in touch on [stmarysselattyn@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysselattyn@gmail.com) or 01691 590 564. With our prayers,

If you'd like to be in touch, we'd love to hear from you,  
Steve Nicholson, Vicar

## From Betty Shaw

OUR CHRISTMAS events included Selattyn Primary School's Christmas services - a credit to the teachers. The children were excellent and a joy to watch. For our Carol Service we were lucky to have Gerry Howe to play the organ this year - always a treat. The Children's Service on Christmas Eve was well attended and our Christmas services ended on Christmas morning with our Holy Communion.

Sadly, we held a funeral service for Lillian May McKie. Lillian died before Christmas and we said farewell at her funeral on January 16<sup>th</sup> which was followed by cremation. On February 21<sup>st</sup> her ashes were laid to rest in St Mary's Garden of Remembrance, united with her husband Fred.

On February 6<sup>th</sup> we said farewell to Joyce Brenda Davies from Cross Lanes Farm, Lower Hengoed at her Thanksgiving service, followed by cremation. St Mary's was packed - Joyce was well-known and loved in the community and will be very much missed.

A few days later we said farewell to David Richard Evans from The Mount, Selattyn; another wet day and a packed church filled with his family and friends who gathered to pay their last respects. Burial followed in Hengoed Cemetery.

The day before Lillian's ashes were laid to rest, those of Peter Bell were laid to rest in St Mary's on 20<sup>th</sup> February. Peter was the husband of Christine Bell who has come to live in Selattyn and has become part of the community.

To Carl, Jill, Phillip and Jasmine McKie, to Ivor, Alan and Gary Davies, to June Evans, to Christine Bell and to all their families we send our deepest sympathy, love and prayers. You all know where we are if you need us.

St Mary's Church Café has opened again after the winter break so we would like to welcome you on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month during term-time from 2.30-4.30pm. Selattyn Mothers' Union continues to meet on

the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. From the end of March, St Mary's is an 'Open Church' again for visitors until the clocks go back in October. You are walking into history - come for peace in a hectic world.

## Lillian May McKie

1939 - 2023

LILLIAN AND Fred lived at Ivy House, Selattyn, with son Carl and daughter Jill. Lillian was a Mothers' Union member for over 40 years, and for a time, Branch Leader. Lillian was a Churchwarden of St Mary's together with Alice Eccleston (two indomitable ladies!). She was also Secretary of the PCC and W.I. Secretary and Treasurer. Lillian loved to be involved in all church events. A few years ago, due to ill health, Lillian and Fred decided to move to Heald Green, Cheadle, Manchester, to be close to their grandson Phillip. Sadly, within a few years Fred died. It was a great sadness to Lillian who used to come as often as she could to put flowers on Fred's grave in St Mary's Garden of Remembrance. She always said, 'it was like coming home'. Her last visit in November 2023 was to be her last. Carl and Phillip had brought her and we sat and chatted over a cup of tea. She was planning a visit before Christmas but on 18<sup>th</sup> December, Lillian died peacefully at her home. Her funeral was taken by Rev Steve - a thanksgiving for her life. Rev Nigel Coatsworth returned to give the Eulogy and Wendy and Doreen walked in front with the Mothers' Union banner, just as Lillian had requested. She was a lovely, warm-hearted, generous and caring person, much missed by all of us who knew her.

## Joyce Brenda Davies

1943 - 2024

JOYCE WAS born at Ysguborissa Farm, living there with her parents and sisters Frances and Alice. Joyce married Ivor Davies and they took over the running of the farm. They had two sons - Alan and Gary. When Joyce was young, she unfortunately suffered from Rheumatoid Arthritis which was a very painful life-long disease, but every time you saw Joyce, she always had a smile. Joyce and Ivor left the farm in the capable hands of Alan and moved to Cross Lanes, Lower Hengoed. One thing we in Hengoed remember were the Carol Services. Hengoed Church had closed in 1979 but a few years later, Joyce and

Ivor would welcome us to Cross Lanes for a Carol Service, always very well attended and very much enjoyed. The kitchen table would be full of baking that Joyce had done - lovely memories. Joyce celebrated her 80th birthday last October which was sadly her last. She died peacefully in hospital on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Her funeral service at St Mary's was taken by Rev'd Steve and the Eulogy was given by Mrs Joyce Sands, with a reading by Diane, Alan's wife. Her family and friends filled the church and donations were made for the Rheumatology Unit at the Orthopaedic Hospital. Joyce now rests in peace, free from pain. She was a lovely, friendly, generous and caring person much missed by all her family and friends.

## Step back in time

HAVE WE got any candles? Where are the matches? Get the torch please. These, and other similar questions would have been heard after the power cut to the surrounding area resulted in a total blackout in many places. The wary amongst us might have heeded the warning of the approaching storm and prepared for the sudden darkness. But I wonder how many homes carry a supply of candles - other than birthday cake ones - or other types of lighting which were the only ways of making the darkness retreat not so long ago.

The older generation will no doubt remember the flickering light of the good old candle, and the use of mirrors to amplify the amount of light produced, but it was a base level. Can you imagine trying to read a book or attempting other activities in such circumstances.

There was an alternative if you could afford it - fish oil. Hunters killed and processed many fish, and of course the whales, and the oil was used in a lamp with a wick, which soaked up the oil and allowed it to burn. No doubt an improvement on the little candle wick, but smelly and smoky. Fitting a glass chimney gave further improvement, and the development of refining mineral oil led to huge improvements in the quality of lighting as paraffin became available to the masses. Then came what was perhaps the best invention if using an oil lamp - the incandescent mantle. This was fixed above the wick



# Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council

**A**PRIL WILL bring with it some warmer and drier weather (hopefully!) and also herald the start of the Parish Council's next financial year. We have agreed our budget and projects for 2024/25 and a copy of our full budget was printed in the February 2024 edition of the Parish Roundabout magazine. If you have not received a copy of the magazine, details of the budget are also available on our website or you can request a copy by contacting the Parish Clerk.

There are a few new projects for 2024-25 including a Volunteers' week celebration and grants for D-Day commemorations. If you are planning a community event or another way to commemorate D-Day 80 please get in touch for information about grants and ways in which we can help you publicise your event.

We would like to celebrate the amazing contribution that volunteers make to our community. 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> June is Volunteers' week and the Parish Council would like to welcome all volunteers from across the Parish to a 'thank you' event at Gobowen Pavilion on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June from 11am - 12:30pm. Whether you litter pick, help organise local events, do your neighbour's shopping or volunteer in any other way, we hope that you will come along and join us for a cuppa and cake.

At our meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March, we awarded grants to organisations across the parish including Selattyn CE Primary School, Hengoed Community, Selattyn Show, St Mary's Church and Selattyn Burial Ground and we look forward to hearing all about the projects and events that the grants will be used to fund.

Forthcoming Council meeting dates are 10<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - we welcome parishioners to the meetings, whether you would just like to observe or if you would like to talk to the Council about any of the matters on the agenda.

Finally, on behalf of the Council, I invite you all to attend the Annual Meeting of the Parish which is being held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7pm at Gobowen Pavilion. The Annual meeting of the Parish is organised and chaired by the Parish Council but is not a Parish Council meeting. It is an opportunity to hear about your community and to raise and discuss local ideas and issues and we are also making arrangements for an interesting guest speaker. Full details of the meeting will be available on noticeboards and the Parish Council website from early May.

Erica Morgan, Parish Council Chairman

To contact the Parish Council:

Bridget Laraway (Parish Clerk), 19 Rhewl Lane, Gobowen, SY10 7XA  
Tel: 01691 886502, Email: [clerk@selattyn-gobowen-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@selattyn-gobowen-pc.gov.uk)

a crossbow bolt and then drowned. It is the body of a property developer, who had been seeking permission to build a large estate of exclusive houses near Wat's Dyke on the outskirts of Oswestry. Suspicion immediately falls on outspoken opponents of the proposal and an internet troll using the pseudonym Avenger Anarchist is top of the list. But there are others in the frame too, including a prominent church figure and members of the deceased's family.

*Bolt From The Black* is by Dave Andrews who lives on the Wern. It's the sequel to his first Inspector Probert mystery, *Each Slow Dusk*, in which a body is discovered at the foot of the statue of Wilfred Owen in Cae Glas Park.

'I've been taken completely by surprise by sales of *Each Slow Dusk*,

Dave says. 'Whenever you start a book, you can never know whether it's going to prove popular. But I've received a huge number of messages and comments from readers. As well as telling me how much they enjoyed it as a detective novel, most of them tell me how much they've enjoyed reading about places they're familiar with. Some even tell me that they've followed Inspector Probert's route around town as he was trying to solve the case!

'I've also had comments from former Oswestry residents now living in places as far away as Canada and New Zealand, who have said that *Each Slow Dusk* reminds them of home and their younger days. It's amazing and very pleasing, especially as one of my aims was to project a positive image of our town and the surrounding area.'

Dave is Reader/Writer in Residence at Oswestry library where he gives talks on various aspects of English and Welsh literature and offers advice to writers.

He is the author of twelve previous books, including *The Oswestry Round*, *Gobowen to Everest* and *Wilfred Owen: Poet of Oswestry*.

*Bolt From The Black* is available in Booka, Rowanthorn, Siop Cwlwm, Oswestry Library, Oswestry Tourist Office or direct from Dave at [daveauthor54@gmail.com](mailto:daveauthor54@gmail.com) £9.99.

## Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group (OBHAG)

**O**SWESTRY & Border History & Archaeology Group meets at the Methodist Church Hall, Castle Street, Oswestry and offers a programme which is a mixture of history and archaeology, covering topics specific to Oswestry and district, and to the world beyond - Shropshire and the West Midlands, and the Welsh border. Our new President, our fifth President since our group was established in 1977 (as the Border Counties Archaeological Group), is Tim Malim. A member of OBHAG for a number of years, Tim last spoke to us in July 2022, when he talked about Old Oswestry hillfort and his recent excavations there. He is currently Principal Archaeologist with the Clywd Powys Archaeological Trust and is also a director of his own company, Hampton Heritage Design & Consultancy.

Our Chair John Pryce-Jones, is a well known local historian and author of many books on Oswestry's history, including his latest, *'Oakhurst: the story of a country house'*; the Victorian country house on the outskirts of Oswestry. The book was commissioned by the well known entrepreneur and philanthropist Dame Stephanie Shirley CH, who lived at Oakhurst as a boarder whilst attending Oswestry Girls' High School.

We have a full programme of visits and talks planned for the rest of 2024, and details of all activities are posted on our website <http://obhag.org.uk>,



and as the flame of the wick was adjusted to give the best light, it heated up the mantle –the most fragile of things, made from a lattice work of thin cotton treated with a chemical, which became too bright to look at when in max output. The quality of lighting had moved on in leaps and bounds.

Then a development took place which is still widely used – a way was found to pressurise the paraffin in its container and heat it so it became a gas which burned readily and improved the luminosity of the light generated. The Tilley lamp had arrived. Such lamps gave out an incredible amount of heat as well as an incredible light, and when lit was accompanied by a hissing. This type of lamp is still widely used by night fishermen, and other outdoor types as it is so reliable and efficient.

Today's generation will look to LEDs and computer/phone/lights to help them out, if the power goes off, mine will probably have a collection of lighting through the ages, creating our own version of Blackpool. We even have a Rush light holder – check that on Wikipedia.

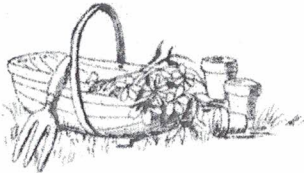
*Tony Betts*

## Garden Rescue

KNOW IT sounds extreme but I was browsing the TV schedules and thinking this is what we all need – not a costly make-over but a way of getting our gardens up together after months watching the wind and rain deflect us from the usual tasks. Looking back at previous articles in March 2018 we were waiting for a thaw and the soil was saturated. In Spring 2020 we were facing extreme weather again with waterlogged soil and soggy lawns and now in 2023/24 more of the same – serious flooding and damaging winds. Obviously this is going to be the trend for the future and we have to adapt to it.

However we have to be positive and turn to some of the mundane tasks that face us such as the seasonal pruning round of hydrangeas, wisteria and herbaceous plants and the lifting and dividing of border perennials as soil conditions permit. Useful for the Village Fete plants table in May if you have any to spare.

The first cut of our lawns will be a challenge as the grass and moss has



thickened up and will initially need the mower blades set quite high. Keeping the moss in check is another story and one we are unlikely to win whilst the present conditions continue. Improving drainage and reducing the level of shade are the remedies recommended by the experts but labour intensive and costly if taken to the extreme.

If you have any stored dahlia tubers check they are firm and not rotted off, pot them up and put them in a light frost-free place. Any left in the border may have survived depending on whether they have free draining soil – is there such a thing!

### Onslaught

For the vegetable enthusiast start off some of your seeds such as broad beans in the greenhouse to give them a head start and avoid them rotting in wet ground. Try growing some pick and come again salad crops in the greenhouse and if you have a heated mat so much the better.

Looking ahead to warmer weather we can expect a slug onslaught on our tender plants. I wrote in the Spring 2020 edition about a book I had seen entitled “Can anything stop slugs.” It concluded tried and tested remedies had their limitations and all we could do was to remain vigilant.

I have recently become aware that the RHS and the Wildlife Trust have joined together to encourage us to “make friends with the mollusc” rather than killing what they call “natures clean-up crew.” For those of us who endure damage to our tender plants this takes some believing. No doubt there are those who are sympathetic to this view but regarding them as a pet, as shown on TV recently, is a bit extreme.

Clearly slugs and snails are a food source for our wildlife and we should by now be aware of the harmful effects of slug bait used in the past. As long as they stay on my compost heap clearing up rotting plant material, I will be happy but leave my tender plants alone – some chance!

Hope you don't have a slug fest.

Happy gardening.

*David Wilton*

## Bolt From The Black

- the new Oswestry-based Inspector Probert murder mystery by Dave Andrews

**A** BODY IS found in the moat at Whittington Castle - first shot with

## Phoenix



The 2023 Phoenix year ended with a well-attended Christmas Party.

In January, we were treated to another of our Members' Talks, 'The Dolls' House' - a fascinating exploration of a 30-year partnership to create a 1:12-scale Victorian-era house... from scratch. Eve and her husband Derek began the venture as an activity that they could share in their retirement. Each brought their own particular skills to the project - Eve's love of sewing, embroidery and painting, Derek's intricate carving, turning and woodworking abilities.

In February, Natalie Cumming told us the moving and often harrowing story of a much-travelled violin which originally belonged to her Jewish grandfather, Abraham.

In 1917, Abraham and his family fled the Bolsheviks, and travelled, on foot, from St. Petersburg to Odessa and eventual safety in the UK. Abraham's daughter Rosa, Natalie's aunt, inherited both the violin and musical talent. In the late 1930s, she was playing with Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra when, despite her British passport, she was arrested by the Nazis on Kristallnacht and spent the duration of WWII in a series of concentration camps. She was freed from Bergen Belsen by the Allies and testified at the Nuremberg Trials, exposing the horrors of the Nazi death camps. On Rosa's death from TB in 1947, the violin passed to Natalie's father, following his death, it spent many years in an attic until it was restored by the BBC's *Repair Shop* team.

It now resides at the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music where it is played by gifted young musicians and used to help tell the story of the Holocaust.

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> April: 'Journey Into Space'; Shropshire Astronomic Society.

Fancy joining us? Membership is £20 a year, but you are welcome to come along to a meeting and try it out for free. For more information, contact Karen via: [selattynphoenix2009@gmail.com](mailto:selattynphoenix2009@gmail.com) or on 07801 096964



# Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council

**A**PRIL WILL bring with it some warmer and drier weather (hopefully!) and also herald the start of the Parish Council's next financial year. We have agreed our budget and projects for 2024/25 and a copy of our full budget was printed in the February 2024 edition of the Parish Roundabout magazine. If you have not received a copy of the magazine, details of the budget are also available on our website or you can request a copy by contacting the Parish Clerk.

There are a few new projects for 2024-25 including a Volunteers' week celebration and grants for D-Day commemorations. If you are planning a community event or another way to commemorate D-Day 80 please get in touch for information about grants and ways in which we can help you publicise your event.

We would like to celebrate the amazing contribution that volunteers make to our community. 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> June is Volunteers' week and the Parish Council would like to welcome all volunteers from across the Parish to a 'thank you' event at Gobowen Pavilion on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June from 11am - 12:30pm. Whether you litter pick, help organise local events, do your neighbour's shopping or volunteer in any other way, we hope that you will come along and join us for a cuppa and cake.

At our meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March, we awarded grants to organisations across the parish including Selattyn CE Primary School, Hengoed Community, Selattyn Show, St Mary's Church and Selattyn Burial Ground and we look forward to hearing all about the projects and events that the grants will be used to fund.

Forthcoming Council meeting dates are 10<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - we welcome parishioners to the meetings, whether you would just like to observe or if you would like to talk to the Council about any of the matters on the agenda.

Finally, on behalf of the Council, I invite you all to attend the Annual Meeting of the Parish which is being held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7pm at Gobowen Pavilion. The Annual meeting of the Parish is organised and chaired by the Parish Council but is not a Parish Council meeting. It is an opportunity to hear about your community and to raise and discuss local ideas and issues and we are also making arrangements for an interesting guest speaker. Full details of the meeting will be available on noticeboards and the Parish Council website from early May. Erica Morgan, Parish Council Chairman

To contact the Parish Council:

*Bridget Laraway (Parish Clerk), 19 Rhewl Lane, Gobowen, SY10 7XA*

*Tel: 01691 886502, Email: [clerk@selattyn-gobowen-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@selattyn-gobowen-pc.gov.uk)*

a crossbow bolt and then drowned. It is the body of a property developer, who had been seeking permission to build a large estate of exclusive houses near Wat's Dyke on the outskirts of Oswestry. Suspicion immediately falls on outspoken opponents of the proposal and an internet troll using the pseudonym Avenger Anarchist is top of the list. But there are others in the frame too, including a prominent church figure and members of the deceased's family.

*Bolt From The Black* is by Dave Andrews who lives on the Wern. It's the sequel to his first Inspector Probert mystery, *Each Slow Dusk*, in which a body is discovered at the foot of the statue of Wilfred Owen in Cae Glas Park.

'I've been taken completely by surprise by sales of *Each Slow Dusk*,

Dave says. 'Whenever you start a book, you can never know whether it's going to prove popular. But I've received a huge number of messages and comments from readers. As well as telling me how much they enjoyed it as a detective novel, most of them tell me how much they've enjoyed reading about places they're familiar with. Some even tell me that they've followed Inspector Probert's route around town as he was trying to solve the case!

'I've also had comments from former Oswestry residents now living in places as far away as Canada and New Zealand, who have said that *Each Slow Dusk* reminds them of home and their younger days. It's amazing and very pleasing, especially as one of my aims was to project a positive image of our town and the surrounding area.'

Dave is Reader/Writer in Residence at Oswestry library where he gives talks on various aspects of English and Welsh literature and offers advice to writers.

He is the author of twelve previous books, including *The Oswestry Round*, *Gobowen to Everest* and *Wilfred Owen: Poet of Oswestry*.

*Bolt From The Black* is available in Booka, Rowanthorn, Siop Cwlwm, Oswestry Library, Oswestry Tourist Office or direct from Dave at [daveauthor54@gmail.com](mailto:daveauthor54@gmail.com) £9.99.

## Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group (OBHAG)

**O**SWESTRY & Border History & Archaeology Group meets at the Methodist Church Hall, Castle Street, Oswestry and offers a programme which is a mixture of history and archaeology, covering topics specific to Oswestry and district, and to the world beyond - Shropshire and the West Midlands, and the Welsh border. Our new President, our fifth President since our group was established in 1977 (as the Border Counties Archaeological Group), is Tim Malim. A member of OBHAG for a number of years, Tim last spoke to us in July 2022, when he talked about Old Oswestry hillfort and his recent excavations there. He is currently Principal Archaeologist with the Clywd Powys Archaeological Trust and is also a director of his own company, Hampton Heritage Design & Consultancy.

Our Chair John Pryce-Jones, is a well known local historian and author of many books on Oswestry's history, including his latest, *'Oakhurst: the story of a country house'*; the Victorian country house on the outskirts of Oswestry. The book was commissioned by the well known entrepreneur and philanthropist Dame Stephanie Shirley CH, who lived at Oakhurst as a boarder whilst attending Oswestry Girls' High School.

We have a full programme of visits and talks planned for the rest of 2024, and details of all activities are posted on our website <http://obhag.org.uk>,



**CANTIONES CHOIR** are beginning the search for a new Musical Director from January 2025. Have a look at our website [www.cantiones.org.uk](http://www.cantiones.org.uk) for more information!

\*

### OSWESTRY LADIES CHOIR

With soloists

#### 'Opera for All'

Choruses and arias by Verdi, Puccini, Strauss, Wagner and Gilbert and Sullivan

**Sunday 12th May at 3pm**

**Oswestry Methodist Church**

£12/u-16 free (includes tea/coffee)

From members, at the door

or via Ann 01691 659712

\*

### ANOTHER CHANCE TO SEE THE AMAZING PERFORMANCE OF 'AGGIE' the story of Dame Agnes Hunt told in her own words.

This moving one-woman show performed by Alison Utting has been praised by many and now Alison is coming to perform in May for Trefonen WI and all are welcome to this performance.

**Thursday 9th May 7.30pm**

**Trefonen Village Hall SY10 9DY**

£8 on the door to include refreshments.

\*

### WHITTINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL 'Sound Images'

15 international musicians including Braimah Kanneh-Mason perform a wide variety of chamber music and a family concert - not to be missed!

Tickets are selling fast so don't delay.

**Thursday 16th - Sunday 19th May 2024**

**St John's Church, Whittington**

**SY11 4DF**

For full details of each concert and how to book, visit

[www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk](http://www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk)

\*

#### Cable alert!

BT have been reviewing the length of customers' land-line cables after several accidents have been reported, such as tripping over the extended cable and damage caused by the cable dangerously wrapping around glass or hot items.

From next month BT will be contacting their customers and asking for their cable length. Any cable over one metre in length will need to be reduced. This will be done free of charge.

\*

#### TIM KIRK has a 2-acre field to let.

Easy access, fenced and watered, for grazing. Free!

Call Tim on 653332

\*

#### CATS ON PATROL

Sunny (black with white tufts in ears) and Harvey (pale ginger oriental with blue eyes) often wander around Selattyn hoping

to persuade people to feed them extra food. **Please don't!** They have a home near the top of Bath Banks and are just trying to pull the wool over your eyes.

\*

#### The Poo at Corner House - with apologies to A A Milne

As you leave Selattyn and go towards the Glyn, you may have noticed at this time of year piles of plastic bags dumped in the gateway on the left. Those 'in the know' will clap their hands with glee as copious amounts of high quality horse manure become available to dedicated organic gardeners. It is amazing material, rotting down to produce a peaty compost which will improve the quality of the soil. People who once took a couple of bags now arrive in vans and trailers to get it while they can. So, would your garden benefit from an application? It is free! All we ask is that the bags are returned promptly for refilling.

**The Betts Family**

\*

#### TREE PLANTING AT THE SCHOOL.

In 2006 the school planted about 150 saplings of various species in three blocks on the meadow above the buildings. They thrived and have been a great success, helping several school activities, and provided a base for Forest Schools. Also shelter for wild life and a fine local effort to help combat Climate Change. But sadly a third were Ash trees that succumbed to Ash Die Back Disease and have been shedding branches, thus becoming unsafe for the children to play in, so they were felled at Christmas.

The ash have now been replaced by young Oak, Beech and Birch, all planted by school children, and done with great enthusiasm in groups of three. Digging holes was not easy with old roots and stones to contend with, but we all managed to plant the well rooted saplings and provide the necessary tubed protection.

The best group planted six! One of the supervisors, Sue Orritt commented that her daughter had helped plant the original areas, and she is now 24. We hope that the new "planters" will be able to see similar success in years to come! The Hanmer Morris Trust who are landlords on most of the school grounds, funded the felling work and supply of new trees.

**Tim Kirk**

For the Hanmer Morris Trustees.

\*

**SELATTYN PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW 2024 is on Sept 7th See the list inside! Get busy sewing, sowing, snapping and crafting NOW!**

## THE VILLAGE GREEN TEAM

Val Baty—Editor/Secretary  
679090

Lisa Jolly—Treasurer  
658514

Alan Jolly-Adverts Manager  
658514

Frank Griffiths-I.T./design  
773280

Jane Trudgill -Distribution  
650293

General messages and enquiries:

[villagegreen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:villagegreen@tiscali.co.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

Our next edition will be published in early June and the copy deadline will be:

**MONDAY MAY 20th  
2024**

\*\*\*\*\*

### GRAVEYARD TIDYING

The annual tidy up/maintenance of the "New cemetery below St Mary's, will take place on Saturday 13th April at 10 am - 12noon-ish.

Help keep this lovely village asset in a good state. All welcome. Young and not so young! Bring your own tools. Clearing ivy from the walls, weeding around graves etc. Bring your own refreshments.

Queries? Ring Tim Kirk on 653332

\*

## SELATTYN VILLAGE FETE

is on

**Saturday May 11th  
from 12 - 3pm**

Games, refreshments, stalls, barbecue - all the usual treats!

**Do come!**

