

The Rudry Recorder

News from Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry

Summer 2011



FINISHED!



That's it we have finished! By the time the Recorder is being distributed the contractors should be moving off site and handing over the rear extension. This gives us two meeting rooms (called the Waterloo and the Draethen), a disabled toilet/wet room and more storage. The grant obtained also funded the reshaping and tarmacing of the car park and completing the grass overflow car park outside the extension. These works were funded by the Community Facilities and Activities Programme (CFAP) administered by the Regeneration Unit of the Welsh Assembly Government. As always the amount of funding obtained was less than we required so we have to cut our cloth accordingly and we have ensured the basic essentials has been delivered and compromised on the *nice-to-haves*. The additional rooms will allow multiple, simultaneous uses of the Hall. We will be having an Open Evening on 7th July together with the AGM (see page 2 for more details) where you are invited to come and have a look at the new space.

It is a year since the refurbished Hall was handed back to us and we held the brilliant opening party. During the year Hall use has continued to escalate with a great array of different activities and uses. We have had four wedding parties to date with a further three booked in, Eco-explore, office away days, lots of regular classes such as yoga, choir and children's drama, the re-forming of the Rhydri WI and much, much more. The day-to-day running is now getting too much for volunteers so Jeanette Reece is taking over a lot of the daily administration, organisation, and most importantly the bookings. We are looking at getting this on a more business-like footing and looking to bring contact with the Hall within normal working hours – so Jeanette can be contacted on **07891 309295** between 9.00 and 17.00, Monday to Friday.

We received a generous donation from Ebenezer Chapel recently. The only request was to display a lovely framed photo of the Chapel before conversion. We also have a variety of photos that were previously displayed in the Hall waiting to be put back up. The Waterloo room has a massive amount of wall space and we are looking for further photos which show the evolution of the three villages through time. If you have any photos which you would like to donate or let us copy, please call me on (029) 2088 0975.

Whilst we have not applied for more grants recently, Biffaward, who funded the ground source heat pump scheme, have shortlisted our project within the renewable energy category of their annual awards scheme. We will be going to the Transport Museum in London for the awards ceremony and if successful will receive further moneys towards a renewable energy scheme. We would love to put some PV cells on the roof so that we generate our own electricity to power the ground source heat pump.

Finally, we are working with National Theatre of Wales (their last production was *The Passion* in Port Talbot with Michael Sheen) who will use the Hall for a week in October to rehearse and refine their latest production, "*The Village Social*". This is a musical production which will tour around Wales under the Night Out Scheme. The premiere of the show will be in the Hall on the 19th October with a second night scheduled the following evening, so it looks as if we will have to invest in some red carpet!

Robin Howard

Chair of Rudry Parish Hall Management Committee

There's lots more information on our website www.rudryparishhall.org

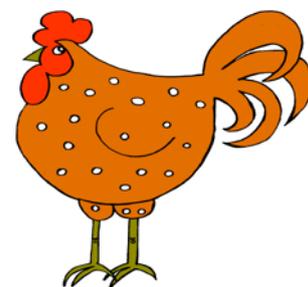
COME TO THE RUDRY COUNTRY FAIR!

This year's Rudry Country Fair will be held on Saturday 10th September 2011 and promises to be a fabulous day of fun and entertainment for the whole family not to be missed!

Indoor real ale bar, quality barbeque, stalls, games, crafts, bouncy castle, children's rides, coconut shy, children's activities, novelty dog show, homecraft competitions, local produce, Gwyn-y-Garth mini farm, Village Café, Lylac Ridge Animobile, BTM youth brass band, various displays throughout the afternoon. Ceilidh from 5pm and much, much more.

As well as the real ale bar, the Parish Hall bar will be open serving a full range of drinks. Food will be available in the evening as well as during the day

To book a stall or for more information, call Helen Lewis on (029) 2086 2091 or helen@welshkids.co.uk



ST JAMES AND PARISH OF RUDRY NEWS

Sunday Kids' Club We have now had several sessions that have been enjoyed by the children. Parents have taken part or have relaxed with a coffee. The children have drawing and puzzles, games, Bible story, short prayer and song then craft and more games if time allows. Next club will be at 10:30 am on Sunday 17 July at Rudry Village Hall. We are having a break in August and in September the club is replaced by the Living Churchyard Activity Day (see below). If you are interested in working with children why not start as a helper at the club and at our other children's activities. You should be sympathetic to Christianity but you definitely do not need a degree in theology. In the first place contact Philip or Margaret on 01633 440880.



The Three Blind Mice After a great deal of hard work by Tony Panes and generous donations from the community and other sources, the three bells at St James have been renovated and rehung after being blessed by Bishop Dominic at a service on 11 May. The service included music, poetry and readings and was followed by a glass of wine. A few weeks later after the bells had been hung, we were able to ring them for Nia and Tom's wedding.

Gloucester Cathedral Flower Festival - This festival a real inspiration for all flower arrangers, is only held once every 5 years and a coach to Gloucester has been arranged for 15 July. A few seats may still be available. Contact Margaret for details

Living Churchyard - This is continuing to develop with another Rake and Bake Day held on 4 June. Due to lack of bags on the day, there may still be some grass waiting to be bagged up if you feel like some exercise. We are also changing the layout of the paths in the wild flower meadow. Our Interpretation Board is in place just waiting for the interpretation. It was provided by Groundwork in recognition of work done by some congregation members from Rudry and Machen in clearing a nearby footpath.

On Saturday, 17 September we will be having a Children's Activity Day in the churchyard hunting for wildlife and other events. Children, parents and all others welcome to drop in during the day.

Easter - It was good to see so many of you at our Easter morning service making up for the disappointment of the cancellations at Christmas

St James Day Celebration 24 July 2011 - Join us at 9:30 am for the feast of our patron, St James; a glass of wine to follow! This is your parish and you are always welcome in God's house.

New seating - We have successfully sold all the pews to local people many with associations with St James who should treasure them in the future. New chairs are on order that will enable us to use the building more flexibly for meetings, children's and other activities. Those of us who are responsible for the well being of St James hope that this development will help our much loved church building to serve our community on into the future.

Curate	Revd David Collingbourne	01633 440321
Churchwardens	Margaret Jones	01633 440880
	Rose Llewellyn	029 2086 9506

Rudry Parish Hall Open Evening and Annual General Meeting

You are invited to the Rudry Parish Hall AGM at 7pm on Thursday 7th July 2011. Please come along and show your support for the hall.

As well as the formal business of the AGM, (during which you will NOT be roped in to anything that you do not want to!!), we will be having an open evening.

Come and see the new multi-purpose room (The Waterloo Room) and the new meeting room (The Draethen Room) and hear about future plans for the hall and its grounds.

The bar will be open and we hope to make it as much of a social evening as an AGM.

Please send any nominations for posts to be filled using the form on the right. Nominations may also be e-mailed to vitti_allender@yahoo.co.uk.

Hope to see you there!!

RUDRY PARISH HALL AND SOCIAL CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

Election of officers and Committee Members

Posts to be filled:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Social Secretary
- General Committee Members

Nominee _____

Post _____

Proposed by _____

Seconded by _____

Please return to Vitti Allender. Bryn Hir, Graig Llan, Rudry, CF83 3DE by Tuesday 5th July 2011



Aliens in Rudry

To a mouse on turning her up in a nest with the plough

Wee, sleekit, cowrin, tim'rous beastie,
O, what a panic's in thy breastie!
Thou need na start awa sae hasty
Wi bickering brattle!
I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee,
Wi' murdering pattle.



Robert Burns 1757-1796

In the immortal words of Corporal Jones of the Warmington-on-sea Home Guard platoon, "*Don't panic! Don't panic!*" startled reader. A spaceship has not landed on Twyn y Garth from which emerges a posse of skinny little green men with featureless faces and large luminous orange eyes, abducting parishioners, taking them back to the ship and submitting them to a medical examination that would make a Royal Marine's drill sergeant blush. This only happens in the United States of America, apparently. Frequently. Plus other experiments I can't describe as this may be read by children. The aliens I write of are found in our present day flora and fauna. Most are beneficial and enhance our daily lives. Some, however, are extremely detrimental to our environment.

Eleven thousand years ago a large part of the Northern Hemisphere was covered in ice. Climate change began a thaw. The ice was so thick it took around a thousand years to melt. At that time Britain was a peninsular of the European Continent. The melt water caused the seas to rise creating the British Isles. The flora and fauna that had moved north in the wake of the melt were now isolated in the naturally created pristine environment. It was to remain so for thousands of years. Behind the arrival of aliens to Britain are several factors, but always human activity unwitting introduction, escapes from captivity and deliberate releases. More of that later. Rudry would have been covered in trees, part of the wild wood that covered most of Britain. Stone age hunter-gatherers favoured costal areas. At Goldcliff, east of Newport, there are fossilised footprints made by adults and children in the mud of the sea shore. They were made eight thousand years ago. I don't know of any evidence of stone age people in the Caerphilly basin. One day I was walking on Mynydd Machen, I saw a man I knew digging a ditch for the owner of the land. He told me he'd found an old adze which he showed me. I recognised it as a bronze age axe head and told him that he should take it to the National Museum of Wales. It proved to be a bronze age palstave axe head, three thousand, five hundred years old. If there were people on Mynydd Machen then they were surely on Mynydd Rudry at the same time. The Rhymney river would be full of salmon and trout and eels. The marshes of its flood plain home to countless wild fowl. The stone age peoples, sophisticated tool makers as they were, must have found felling trees to make dwellings and causeways extremely laborious. The bronze age people, with superior tools, set about clearing the wild wood, domain of the brown bear, wolf, boar and lynx, and a bovine called an auroch, an aggressive wild ox. The skull of an auroch was found in the mud of the Cardiff foreshore. The boar and the auroch were domesticated and are the foundation of our modern breeds. Farming had developed in Mesopotamia and Persia around 10,000BC. It spread west and arrived in Britain after 5,000BC. Bronze age sickles have been found: proof that we were growing grain. A three thousand year old boat was discovered on the sea bed off Devon, its cargo was of copper and tin. We were trading with Europe – the door was open for aliens. Farming ended nomadic life - temporary shelters replaced by long-lasting farmsteads. A small rodent *mus musculus* entered these buildings, found shelter from the elements and predators, ample food and began an association that is still with us. Around 1,000BC, in a British haven, they 'jumped ship' and colonised Britain. Rudry would get its first alien, the aptly named house mouse. A total pest, spoiler of food, carrier of salmonella and other diseases, ripper of paper and fabric to make nests and chewer of holes in the buildings. There is nothing in its behaviour beneficial to us. The mouse that Burns wrote of with compassion may have been a wood mouse, *sylvaemus sylvaticus* occasionally entering buildings, they prefer to lead a bucolic life. Sometimes a problem to gardeners, they are not a pest. Like Rabbie, I wish them no harm. Our evidence of Rudry's first alien has been from fossils.

When the Romans arrived in the first century AD, we had the written word. They brought with them the brown hare and the pheasant. Our indigenous blue hare did not like farmland and retreated to upland wilderness where it is found today. The brown hare was deliberately released for sport with greyhounds. They thrived on farmland and spread around Britain. Another alien to Rudry was kept as a domestic fowl. Escapes occurred and the birds flourished and spread nation wide. We can thank the Romans for two trees – sweet chestnut and walnut, brought here for their delicious nuts. As far as I'm concerned, all of the above have been wonderful additions environmentally in Rudry. Other alien trees are found in our Parish - the beautiful horse chestnut came from the Balkans in the sixteenth century at the same time the Norway maple from Scandinavia and the sycamore from France. All of these enhance our woodland, as does the snowdrop from the Southern Alps of Europe and the buddleia from China. With the Himalayan balsams, status is complex. Disliked for smothering our native plants, chest high it's covered in flowers all summer. Bees (honey and bumble), wasps and many other insects love it for its copious nectar and pollen. But there is a sting in the tale if you'll pardon the pun - the insects neglect our native plants. The small patches in Rudry are not a threat so far. One plant we don't need is Japanese knot weed. It was introduced in the first half of the nineteenth century and became popular with Victorian gardeners. It spread to the wild, fast growth coupled with expanding underground stems resulted in vast thickets in which nothing else can grow. It can force its shoots through tarmac and lifts paving stones. A thicket from Bedwas roundabout to the Rudry turn off has been successfully eradicated after years of hard work by Caerphilly Council. It's a persistent, pernicious weed. Many years ago, in winter, lorry loads of soil were used to raise the level of part of the Parish Hall field holding water. In the spring, hundreds of green shoots appeared. They were seen and identified as knot weed by my good friend and neighbour the late John Goddard, a knowledgeable plantsman. As

they appeared, he dug them up, incinerating them at Ael-y-bryn. But for John's efforts the hall field would have become a thicket.

Of all mammals, the rabbit is probably the most readily recognised. As warrens were not mentioned in the Doomsday Book, it's accepted that they were introduced by the Normans. Found only in Spain and Portugal, BC, they were kept in enclosed walled warrens in Britain, highly valued for flesh and pelts, eaten at royal banquets, costing as much as a sucking pig (weaner), later to be classed as an agricultural pest, its value soared in World War Two when meat was rationed. I would not like to see a countryside without bunny. I can't say the same for the next three aliens as I would welcome their extinction. The brown rat, first recorded in Britain in 1728, is public enemy number one. It can breed when six months old and the gestation period is only three weeks, can have litters of up to ten, and does are often pregnant again at three weeks. It kills and eats ground nesting birds up to the size of mallard. It eats the young and eggs of song birds, climbing the trees with agility, spoils our food and carries the fatal diseases such as Weil's disease. It can live in any environment with a liking for sewers where it subsists on an unspeakable diet.

Wildlife enemy number one is without doubt the North American mink. I can think of nothing good to say about it. In America it is preyed on by owls, hawks and martins and coyotes kill it but don't eat it. Here its numbers are only controlled by man. It has two litters a year of around five kits. It escaped from fur farms in the 1920s but the real damage was done by the misguided idiots of the Animal Liberation Front letting animals out of their cages. They arrived in the parish via the Rhymney river where they set about the large population of moorhens. Only the odd bird is left. Moving up the brooks they wiped out our water voles (Ratty) brown trout and bullheads. I wish the mink would be wiped out!

Wildlife and public enemy number one, thought to be cute by some people, is the grey squirrel from east North America. Its damage to wild life is virtually the same as the brown rat's. Hated by foresters for its bark-stripping, I've seen a twenty year old commercial sycamore plantation totally destroyed by this habit. It was introduced to park lands of stately homes in Victorian times and arrived here in around 1950. So well has it done in Britain that a study by the Hampshire naturalist Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald found that some grey squirrels weighed three pounds – much larger than the ones in America. For its size, a formidable animal, he cited of case where a fully grown tom cat pounced on a grey squirrel the cat received bites to the neck that proved fatal. It carries squirrel pox from which it is immune. The red is not and a hundred per cent mortality has resulted in the red squirrels in most parts of England and Wales, especially the south. A senior member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said 'if only I had the power to wish away the grey squirrel'. Me too.

We have come to our penultimate alien: the red-legged partridge: a beautiful game bird from the Mediterranean introduced to Orford in Suffolk in 1770. Low rainfall allowed the birds to prosper and they spread west entering Wales, establishing themselves in the drier locations. Some years ago, I saw a covey of ten near Michaelston bridge and sightings this year total eleven birds, most on or near the common, one in Waterloo. This brightly coloured bird is most welcome. There has been just one sighting of our newest alien – a muntjac was seen in a field near Rudry school. It disappeared into the Copi Gwythi. Small, pig-like disliked by foresters and botanists for destroying small trees and flowers, it even eats bluebells. Native to India and China, the British population stems from escapes from Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire. A fascinating, secretive deer, I would not particularly like it in the garden, I'd love one in the freezer.

Lawrence Workman 2011

NEWS FROM YOUR ST JAMES WARD COUNCILLORS

As you may already be aware Caerphilly County Borough Council transport department has agreed to trial a 20 MPH limit outside the primary school in Machen. As your local Councillors we will be doing all we can to ensure that this pilot scheme is extended to the narrow lanes in and around the villages of Rudry, Draethen and Waterloo.

Caerphilly Council is also very anxious to help to improve the management regime at Rudry Common. The objective is to control bracken which will reduce fire hazards and improve bio diversity. Rudry was one of only 2 commons in the Borough selected for an application for European funding. The initial application was unsuccessful but the bid has been amended and is now being reconsidered. In any case Rudry will remain a priority for funding and the prospects are excellent for eventual funding for this important environmental scheme. Watch this space!

We have also held a number of surgery sessions at Rudry Parish Hall. Attendance has been poor and we would be glad to hear from you if you think we should continue to provide this opportunity for you to meet with us. Don't forget though, we are only a telephone call away.

Lynne Hughes
(029) 2086 6537
07967 191518

lynnehughes@caerphilly.gov.uk

Linda Williams
(029) 2086 0600

lindawilliams@caerphilly.gov.uk

Roger Bidgood
(029) 2086 8436

rogerbidgood@caerphilly.gov.uk

Visit our website – www.rudryparishhall.org

NEWS FROM RHYDRI PRIMARY SCHOOL

This year has flown by and I can't believe we are now nearing the end of the Summer Term. The year has been packed full of activities both in school and out. Many of our pupils have taken part in a variety of sporting events and have lots of things planned for 'National Sports Week' beginning Monday 27th June including swimming, athletics, tennis, football and hockey. Our Sports day is also planned during this week on the 29th June. (hopefully the weather will be kind to us.)



At the end of the Spring term we held a very successful 'Easter Hat' sponsored walk and an Easter disco for all the children a lot of fun was had by both children and staff. A wonderful evening was had by all at the 'Fools Quiz' night at the village hall in April we are certainly planning more events of this kind during the next school year. In May we held another very successful 'Ground Force Day', renamed **ECO** day where pupil's staff and parents helped to transform our outdoor area either by donating plants or offering their services throughout the day. Many thanks to those who gave up their time to support us and for the many donations we received including those from B& Q and Jewson's.

We have been successful in acquiring an outdoor shelter for the Foundation Phase area. A safety surface play area is also planned to be completed this school year. This month the children in Nursery and Reception took part in the 'Big Toddle' raising money for Barnado's. A musical event performed by two musician's 'Fiddaddle' was held in school the children thoroughly enjoyed taking an active and enthusiastic part.

Other events arranged for the rest of the term include a group of pupils attending a Festival of Olympic Sports at the national indoor Athletics Centre. Also planned are a variety of educational visits to Barry Island, Techniquet, and the Roman Fort at Caerleon. The Year 6 pupils have chosen 'Go Karting' followed by lunch at Cardiff Bay as their leaver's trip this year. They will also be holding their 'Leavers Assembly' in July. We are having an end of year Summer Ball for all the pupils to be held at Rhydri Community hall

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 2nd July – Look out for our year 6 pupils 'Mini Enterprise' and the **Friends of Rhydri** stalls at the Machen Show. They are very busy organising and making products to sell. Please come along and support us!

Thursday 14th July – Please join us for a special evening. '**Rhydri's got Talent**' is an event we are all excited about. The children throughout the school have been practising and practising!! Auditions have been held at the school and the finalists are ready to perform on the night. We certainly have a lot of talent at Rhydri!

We have a few Nursery places left this year and spaces in some of our other classes. We are a small, thriving community school with lots to offer. You are very welcome to come along for a visit if you wish. Please contact the school on (029) 2085 2525 for further information. Have a lovely Summer Holiday - we are back on the 5th September.



PENTREFFEST RUDRY 2011



Pentreffest continues to go from strength to strength and we are really looking forward to our fourth autumn festival at Rudry – in the new hall! As usual though we will be providing an exciting mix of music and dancing, with instrumental, singing and dance workshops, all joined up with good food, storytelling and much fun and frivolity.

This year we are looking forward to the return of Brigitte and Katell Kloareg from Brittany. This mother and daughter duo, who have such close links to Wales, were an instant hit last year with their energy and their infectious songs and dances. This year they return with star accordionist Yann-Fanch Perroche, a regular accomplice in the groups Diamik and Trio Kloareg/Perroches/Kloareg. Yann-Fanch, founder member of

Skolvan is one of the most sensitive players in the Breton tradition.

We also have Swedish music and dance back on the programme and we welcome for the first time in the UK, Emma Ahlberg and Daniel Ek. These two young musicians are making a big name for themselves in Sweden, and play fiddle, guitar, lute and bagpipes. This will be their first trip to the UK. Coming with them to teach dance are Rolf and Hester Dahlström who live in Stockholm. We first met them several years ago and have always been impressed with their knowledge and love of dancing and their communication of this to their audience.

If you haven't been to Pentreffest before, please do come along and join in a fabulous weekend of music and dance – you will be made very welcome. For further details please visit our website www.pentreffest.org.uk for more information



RIVER RATS - GOODBYE...HELLO...TEAMWORK...

Draethen and Lower Machen River Cleaning Society meet every second Sunday morning for two hours to clean up the river and surrounding areas.

In April, the River Rats were really sorry to have to say farewell to two of our stalwart members, Helena & Jurie, originally from South Africa. They had lived in Rudry for two years and had become great members of the local community. They will be sorely missed by all the River Rats, but we wish them well back in their homeland, reunited with their family. They will always be remembered for getting "stuck in" to the hard work, always with a great sense of humour, and ever hopeful of finding unusual items in our haul. Jurie has a friend (another South African) Tertius O'Kennedy (lovely name!!) involved in a church in Swindon. He has been trying to instil some community spirit into the church members, and we have forwarded some Rats media information in an effort to interest the congregation and give them some ideas. The Rats reputation is spreading! A few months before our international members left us, they introduced their neighbour, Chris, to the gang, and we are delighted to say that he has become a keen and enthusiastic regular, even assisting with Santa Claus's sleigh and tree in Draethen village. We all enjoy it when Ryan, Chris's son joins us too and helps with our endeavours.

May saw our annual litter pick between the two villages of Draethen and Michaelston-y-fedw, where residents from both villages join forces to walk the lane and clear all the litter and rubbish. As with most of our activities, this ended up as a social event, enjoying lunch together in the Holly Bush pub in Draethen for lunch.

We hope to have a stand again at the Machen Show on the 2nd July and would welcome anyone coming to see us then and have a chat. We had lots of interest shown last year but sadly no new recruits materialised. Please don't be shy, we are a really fun loving group, and would welcome your help and friendship with open arms, whether you are single, a couple or even a family. Keep a look out for the signs on the Draethen bridge for when we are meeting and come along and join us at 10am, every 2nd Sunday morning. If you need any more details please contact Steve on 07813 942529.



ECO-EXPLORE - WALKING WITH WOODLICE AND OTHER ADVENTURES!

Over the past few weeks, we've been showcasing the route-finding talents of local woodlice, by putting them through tough Lego maze challenges. The little creatures are pretty swift at manoeuvring their way out of even the windiest labyrinth, built by children at several events including Hapus Ice-cream Parlour's launch party and Caerphilly Go Wild, and on school trips. We've also been out watching the nightlife of Ruperra: After listening to the eerie churring of nightjars at the fort, we couldn't believe our luck when we saw the culprit perching in a tree silhouetted against the last glow of the sunset. This wildlife marvel was then quickly usurped by another nightjar swooping down and knocking the other bird off. Across the darkening sky, pipistrelle bats flitted around our heads, and we heard the distinctive sounds of barn owls. My idea of a perfect evening out!



We will be running a series of 2-3 hr walks throughout summer, including at Ruperra – please see www.eco-explore.co.uk for details or email alex@eco-explore.co.uk for availability. Tickets are £5 per adult and £2.50 for children.

BAT NEWS FROM RHYDRI PRIMARY SCHOOL!

The colony of brown long-eared bats at Rhydri Primary School is flourishing. A survey was recently carried out by Alison Jones, Senior Environmental Officer at CCBC and Adrian Jones of the Valleys Bat Group. Since the bats are a light-sensitive species and leave the roost at night at high-speed, it takes expertise to carry out an accurate count. Twenty in a roost is considered to be a healthy colony. The recent survey revealed 90 bats in the roost as compared with two previous counts of 30 and 80. The reason for the fluctuating number could be that the females remain in the roost permanently, whilst the males return for mating, swelling the numbers. Further counts will be made over the next few months





Wow! The summer is edition has come around quickly only seems two minutes ago that I sat down to write something for the spring issue ...and now its mid summer! Hear that folks SUMMER ...will someone please tell the weather that ...summer you know that season when its warm and sunny and...oh never mind I live in hope that we WILL have a summer at some point ...I am pointedly ignoring those comments

I have now heard several times 'we've had our summer: it was at Easter'. I live in hope that we ARE still going to have a BBQ summer only now after all this ... oh ok I guess I see the point farmers.... much needed Rain...we won't need a hose pipe ban will we? Well you can't blame a girl for dreaming ...when you sell ice cream for a living, hoping for sunshine and being obsessed with weather reports comes with the territory.

So what's news at Hapus? A huge thanks to all of you that have visited us so far, our open day was as far as we could see a success; Phil from the council recons there were about 700 people there and he should know he pays attention to these things. All I know is there were a lot of people, they all seemed to be having fun and we didn't run out of ice cream! Since Easter we have been open every day from 10 till 6 this is working out very well, it's busier on the weekends but quiet in the week. Being quiet has given us a chance to pootle around a bit and come up with a few new ideas. So we do have a few things to let you know about ...we are now selling Plants, my brother Geraint works for a charity that supports adults with learning needs, he works in their garden centre which as well as offering work experience also produces some fabulous plants. We have a good selection of them on offer at the Parlour, the hanging baskets are fantastic and really good value. They also have a vegetable patch there so Geraint has promised to provide fresh seasonal vegetables for our Rural market that started last week and will be held EVERY Sunday from 10am till 2pm. It is starting in a modest way but we already have some fantastic producers, the girls from the Rudry Kitchen come along when they can, we have Rhodri selling fabulous local honey, Joe's wood products, Clare's home made ready meals and the fresh veg which my brother has promised to harvest early on a Sunday morning ...so you can't get fresher than that can you?

Following the success of the children's work shops that we ran throughout Easter we have decided to carry them on and we will be holding workshops suitable for 2 to 12 year olds every week day morning from 11 till 12 throughout the summer holidays. Last but not least we will be having a brand new art display. By the time you read this we will have said goodbye to Jason's lovely floral prints (although we will have his greetings cards on sale) and will say hello to Lisa Tann's new exhibition. Lisa is a ceramicist and produces amazing mixed media pieces. We have invited her to exhibit and as with Jason's work, its just a great excuse to be surrounded by beautiful art. Why not pop in a have a look for yourself and let us know what you think? Always pleased to see you if you have the time to pop by.



We hope you have a fabulous summer what ever you (and the weather) decide to do!

The Powell Family

Rudry Common Trust



We're looking forward to a new lease of life for the Trust – Caerphilly Council has purchased 5 acres of the common land surrounding the Parish Hall field and behind the school. The land will be leased to the Trust for 21 years for a peppercorn rent and we will take over the management of the land to increase biodiversity, public access and involvement. A consultant ecologist has prepared a management plan for the area, as we have to be sensitive to the existing habitat and dormice that are found in the area. We can't wait to sign the lease and prepare a work schedule and hope to hold regular volunteer work days.

Alongside this exciting news, we have been working with the Local Authority on public access in the local countryside. We were lucky enough to be awarded a £1000 grant to run training courses on footpath surveying and navigation and buy hand tools for a 'community toolkit'. We are awaiting a date for the third session on practical management. Our aim is to get local people involved in walking, surveying and assisting with a co-ordinated approach to improve local footpaths and open up rights of way that have fallen into disuse. This will make our lovely countryside more accessible and improve connections between local villages. One of our members has also recently undertaken training to become a Health Walk Leader, and we hope to arrange a number of wildlife walks in the area – taking advantage of the improved footpath network!!

And finally, some of the Rudry residents may have noticed that the raised flower bed by the bus stop in the village has been planted up. Unfortunately cutbacks within Caerphilly Council meant that the bed was only going to be planted up once or twice a year, leaving it bare for the rest of the time, so it has been agreed that the local community can manage the planting. Rudry Common Trust made a small donation towards plants and the area has been planted mainly with herbs and other plants donated by residents. The plants are establishing nicely and you are welcome to make use of the herbs, but please do so responsibly! Also, if you have a spare few minutes feel free to pull a few weeds up – the more people helping the less of a chore it will be!



If you would like any further information on Rudry Common Trust's plans and future activities, or have any suggestions to help improve the local environment, please contact us on burnham.fletcher@tiscali.co.uk or by post via Rudry Parish Hall.

70TH ANNIVERSARY MACHEN SHOW

On Saturday, 2nd July 2011, Machen Show will proudly celebrate its **70th Anniversary**. The origins of Machen Show date back to a time when people's minds were not so much on summer shows, but on War. However, it was always a time when the productivity of farmers was a matter of prime importance. From 1941-42, local gymkhanas and horse shows were held in a number of local communities: Machen first of all, and, later, Rhiwderin and Bedwas. The purpose of these shows was to raise funds for the **Home Services Comforts Fund**, a charity in aid of the troops serving abroad, and these shows continued through the War years.

70 years later, and Machen Show has gone from strength to strength, and it is hoped that this year will be well attended with people showing their support, and to help ensure the future of such a popular local event. The Committee would like to take this opportunity of expressing their **thanks to the owners of the land**, where we have been privileged to hold the Show throughout the years., and also thanks to the Show's many loyal Sponsors. Perhaps Machen Show's greatest asset is that it is such a friendly event, with the emphasis on local involvement and great loyalty. From the original Committee Members in 1941, there are still relatives on the present day Committee. This sense of continuity is heightened by the fact that original members **Roland John** and **Howard Jones**, both staunch supporters over the years and still very much involved, attend every Show.

On Saturday 2nd July, all classes will commence at 8.30 am, and judges, competitors and visitors will be welcomed to **Mill Farm, Machen** from all around the UK. Even with the wide ranging appeal of the competitive events, the show remains very much a local concern. The four show rings will be occupied by the horse classes - within this section, there are all manner of classes, including Hunters and Working Ponies; Side-Saddle; Welsh Section A, B, C, D; Maxi Cobs; Retrained Racehorses and more new Novelty Classes. Machen Show is delighted that it has, once again, been chosen to host the Pygmy Goat Club National Breed Show, and there will also be rabbits, pigeons, poultry (which this year will be incorporating the Welsh Oxford Game Club Show), a family dog show (in Association with Hope Rescue), terrier and lurcher show, hound show, and horticulture and homecraft competitions. For the children, there are Novelty Family Competitions, and the Best Kept Child's Pet, as well as a Children's Section in the Homecraft tent.

Machen Show is not just about competitive events, each year we offer a range of displays intended to increase the all-round appeal of the show. This year we are delighted to welcome **Meirion Owen & The Quack Pack**, showcasing the amazing talents of his border collies and the communication between handler and dog. Meirion provides his own humorous commentary as he uses a combination of commands to guide his dogs and co-operative (and sometime unco-operative!) Indian Runner ducks around a course that includes tunnels, slides and pens. This year, there will be the excitement of a knock out tractor pull between teams of 6 entrants with a prize of £50!, and events that the public can 'have a go' at include laser clay pigeon shooting, a rock climbing wall, miniature railway rides, remote control model motor boats, mini quad bikes, children's races (rosette for each entrant), and the ever popular 6-legged scurry.



LOCAL GIRLS ARE BRITISH CHAMPIONS!



Ellie Cecil (12) from Draethen and Eiry Allender (11) from Rudry enjoyed success recently as part of an eight-couple Latin formation team that became the 2011 British Champions. The Junior and Juvenile Formation Dance Championships were held at the Winter Gardens Ballroom, Blackpool just after Easter. Fifteen teams from all over the United Kingdom took part, and the girls were delighted with their win in the

face of some great teams and some tough competition

The girls dance at New Cottage Dance Centre in Ystrad Mynach. The team was trained by Kristie Booth, with the five minute routine taking an entire year of hard work to perfect!

Ellie (on the right of the picture) has now moved on to the junior section formation team (for dancers aged 12-16), whilst Eiry will continue with the juvenile team for another year. Both girls will compete at the 2012 championship at Blackpool.

Côr-us?!

Do you love watching Last Choir Standing or Glee? Do you love singing along to the radio or in the shower? Then join our singing group Côr-us?! and enjoy a wide variety of songs from musicals, Welsh classics, favourites and pop!

- No previous experience necessary
- You don't need to be able to read music
- First taster session free!

Every Monday 7.45 pm
Rudry Parish Hall

For more information email
popertp@hotmail.com

Join us on Facebook



THE RUDRY KITCHEN

We are an eclectic mix of farmers and friends producing some very exciting stuff, from seasonal jams and preserves, beautiful cupcakes and free-range eggs to hand made jewellery and cards, fabulous bunting and much more. Come and see us at the **Rudry Rural Market** in Rudry Parish Hall:

Sunday 10th July
 Sunday 25th September
 Sunday 4th December



We love what we do and we think you will too!

Parish Hall Bookings

Please remember that bookings for Rudry Parish Hall are now made via Jeanette Reece on 07891 309295 between 9.00 and 17.00, Monday to Friday. At other times, please leave a message and Jeanette will get back to you.

BEDWAS NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE REPORT

Be Aware! Help us Beat the Burglars Open and unlocked windows and doors are an open invitation for burglars. At least a third of all burglaries in Gwent happen when doors or windows are left open. Even if you're only popping out for a few minutes secure your property to beat the burglars. If you do not lock up, your home insurance could be invalid. Don't let it happen to you! Be Aware!

PACT Meeting The current PACT priority for DWR area is Youth Anti Social Behaviour. Please contact Bedwas Police Station if you see any youth disorder in your village. The next PACT Meeting will be held on Monday 12th September 2011 at 7pm at St James Primary School, Pen Y Cae, Mornington Meadows, CF83 1QH.

Mobile Police Station The mobile policing unit will next be in Rudry Village on Tuesday 5th July 2011. Local officers will be available for residents to speak to about any issues they may have within their community.

Highway Code Pushbike Scheme – Rudry Primary School Year 6 pupils at Rudry Primary School are currently partaking in a national standard Highway Code cycling proficiency course at Rudry School. PCSO 23 Jon Spokes will instruct pupils in cycling proficiency to encourage pupils to think about safe road use when using their pushbikes on the roads. The course consists of 9 individual lessons with a final 'test lesson'. A theory test is also included as part of the course which pupils must pass in order to take their test. Pupils will be issued with a Cycle Proficiency certificate by Road Safety Officer Lorry Davies on completion of the course.



Off Road Bikes in local Forestry Local Bedwas Neighbourhood Team officers continue to patrol the forestry areas at key times. As a result of our patrols there has been a reduction in calls received regarding off road bikes; although the problem of off road bikes is still an issue. Throughout the Spring & early Summer months local community officer Jonathan Spokes has undertaken numerous mountain bike patrols in Rudry, Draethen and Waterloo villages. The bike patrols have occurred on both weekdays and weekends. Any persons seen riding off road bikes in these areas will be stopped, their details documented and Section 59 Warning Notices issued to the riders. Bike patrols will continue throughout the Summer.

OWL (Online Watch Link) OWL is an interactive Online Watch Link which helps communities prevent and detect crime, support one another and be more aware of what is going on in their area. St James ward is a registered OWL area and everyone is invited to sign up. OWL is a free service that allows members to receive updates via email and letters. All information is securely stored and NOT passed to any third parties.

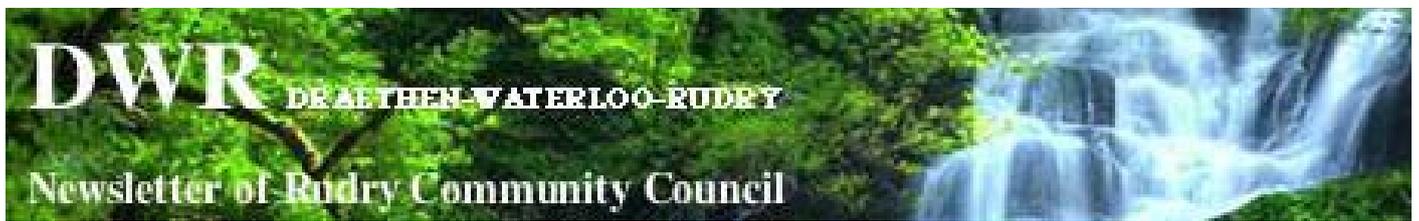
Some of the advantages of receiving messages via OWL include :

- Acts a deterrent to burglars, car thieves & bogus callers
- Neighbours watching out for one another and working together
- More direct communication from Police about local incidents.
- Advice on improving home safety.
- Support from neighbourhood watch and local officers.

To register for OWL go to – www.owl.co.uk or alternatively you can contact Bedwas Neighbourhood Team to register your interest

St James Ward Officers
 PC 720 Karen Hartshorne
 PCSO 23 Jon Spokes
 Bedwas Police station, Tel (029) 2085 7454

The Rudry Recorder is produced three times a year on behalf of Rudry Parish Hall, and paid for from Hall funds with the generous support of GAVO. The next issue of The Rudry Recorder will be out in November. If you would like to submit an article for the issue, then please contact Vitti Allender on (029) 2086 1596 or e-mail bookings@rudryparishhall.org Absolute deadline for submissions is Friday 28th October 2011



Waterloo Information Box – The renovation of the old telephone box into an information box for the community is currently underway. The broken glass will be replaced, the box will be repainted and we hope that it will become a useful facility for residents with a notice board and local paper pick up point.

Community Orchard - We have been working once again with the Groundwork team on a Healthy Villages Project. There were a few ideas put forward to them and the one we are undertaking first will be the Community Orchard around the perimeter of the Hall field. It is hoped that as many volunteers as possible will get involved with the first stage of this which will be clearing the overgrowth in preparation for the planting of trees. Dates for work to start are Monday 1st and Friday 5th August between 4pm and 8.30pm – refreshments will be provided. The planting is scheduled to be carried out between Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th October between 4pm and 8.30pm – again with refreshments provided.

Planning Issues - DWR has been in discussion with Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding a number of planning issues around access routes, enforcement of planning breaches and encroachment on common land. This continues to be a challenge but we feel we are making some headway and will keep you informed of progress.

Traffic Issues - The yellow lines have been repainted in Rudry following complaints from the bus company that they could not get around the bend on Starbuck Street in the evenings due to residents parking on the yellow lines on both sides of the road. Now that the lines have been redefined we are sure that the local police will be patrolling the area so please do not leave your vehicle parked in these areas.

Traffic problems are an ongoing concern which your Community Council is attempting to resolve with CCBC. We have been promised that the yellow lines outside the Maenllwyd Inn will be re-painted since this is a major problem area and we continue to pursue the Council regarding this.

Donations: The Community Council has given financial assistance to the following groups: -
St James Church
Caerphilly Swim Squad
Rudry Rascals After-School Club

OWL Neighbourhood Watch – This is a new online scheme to assist in early warnings of problems in the area. The more people involved in this the more effective it will be. In order to sign up for this scheme visit www.owl.co.uk or contact your local neighbourhood police for information.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY EMAIL LIST - There is a growing list of names on this email group and Sally sends out information about anything going on in the area. If you wish to be added to this email group then please send your details to Sally on tycyw@hotmail.co.uk and you will start to receive email updates on a regular basis. If you have any information you would like to share with the community – adverts for events, etc then please forward details to Sally. She will be at the office in Rudry Parish Hall between 9am and 12pm on Mondays if you wish to see her. Alternatively, contact her at tycyw@hotmail.co.uk or on (029) 2086 0067

Your Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry Community Councillors are:

Cllr Chris Allender	(029) 2086 1596	allendercj@cf.ac.uk
Cllr Philip Blight	(029) 2084 9162	phil.blight@talktalk.net
Cllr Guy Bowden	(01633) 441399	gybwd@aol.com
Cllr Sam Crane	07811 215724	sammyjo1@talktalk.net
Cllr Lindsay Foyster	(01633) 440870	l.foyster@mind.org.uk
Cllr Roger Hall	(029) 2086 3269	roger.hall7@btinternet.com
Cllr Kevin Stanworth	(029) 2086 9068	enquiries@threecountiesagriculture.co.uk