

# Community News

Issue number 12

Winter 2008



*For free distribution in Fron, Garth & Trevor.*

## **Aqueduct Community Association**



### **Free Pensioners Christmas Party for Garth, Trevor and Fron**



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Community Centre**

**On**

**December 19<sup>th</sup> 2008**

**From 6:00pm**

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**Andrew Conde - 07767845839**

**Steve Edwards – 01978 810906**

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# Pontcysyllte Bridge

By Emrys Roberts

The area in the vicinity of this bridge has provided a crossing point on the River Dee since times immemorial. Originally the method of crossing the river would have been by means of a ford. Such an arrangement at this point on the river would have been practical during times when the water was shallow. However, during times when the river became a raging torrent it would have been impossible to cross by means of a ford.

Certainly by 1393 an improved method of crossing had been established for it is recorded that the tenants of Trefor Isa Township were, for a payment of two shillings per annum, granted the privilege of maintaining a ferry boat *'upon the waters of the Dee for the convenience of themselves and others operating at Kissille, between Trefor and Kissille (Cysyllte)'*. Where was this ferry sited? It is doubtful that it was at the location of the present bridge for the rocky bed of the river and the fast flowing water would have been unsuitable for such an arrangement. The more tranquil and deeper parts of the river which would have been suitable for a ferry crossing are the large pool slightly upstream of the bridge and the one downstream and immediately below the Aqueduct.

The year 1629 is important in that it is considered to be the date of the erection of the first bridge at Pontcysyllte capable of providing for wheeled vehicles. It was commissioned by Richard Myddleton of Chirk Castle and built by William Minshull, a stonemason from Hawarden. This bridge survived for nearly fifty years but by 1676 it was reported to be *'in great decay'*. A major repair to the structure was carried out and from the detailed account of the repair works we may safely assume that the bridge of that time comprised of a timber paved wooden structure laid upon stone piers.

This repaired structure also succumbed to the turbulent Dee, for in 1730 a major reconstruction of the bridge took place. On this occasion two-thirds of the bridge had collapsed leaving only that part on the South (Fron) side standing. The rebuilding work was carried out by Thomas Price and Edward Ledsham, two stonemasons from the Ruthin area.

Thomas Telford, himself a former highly skilled stonemason in his early life, would be proud to know that his acclaimed masterpiece slightly downstream continues to attract even to this day such praiseworthy attention. As we cross the original Pontcysyllte let us not forget stonemasons Price and Ledsham who have provided for us in the community a lovely old stone bridge to add to the beauty of this delightful part of the Dee Valley.

## Chairman's Report

It's that festive time of year again and it doesn't seem like yesterday that the family were taking down and storing away the Christmas decorations from the festivities. It's a time of the year when we all take stock of the past year, celebrating the successes and reflecting on what still has to be done.

I think the main success for our community this year has been the way in which it has continued to lay down the solid foundations for the future, through partnership working with a growing network of organisations that will be able to help make things happen. This work is being done through a strong and very committed group of volunteers, from all across our community. Their work often goes unrecognised and without them, our villages would not be as enriched as they are. So thank you one and all for all the effort you put into making a difference.

I like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful, fun filled Christmas and a happy, full filled New Year.

James Davies

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## COMPETITION TIME.

Identify the following English towns from the clues provided, eg:

That's a high place for witches to meet - **Coventry**

1. Is this a special entrance for mum? -
2. A car especially adapted for bactrians -
3. He married Wallis-Simpson -
4. A recently constructed shelter -
5. Earwig, ladybird, woodlouse, beetle, etc. -
6. Does it need a Dutch lad with a special finger? -
7. "Come on now, calm down you lot" -
8. Columbus and Eric the Red both needed good ones -
9. "Strewth cobber! I ain't feelin' so good today" -
10. Stroll slowly along -
11. The parliamentary "Beast of ....." -
12. Market or Husband's -

Answers on page 14

## Garth School

Apologies to those of you who like to read about our school, unfortunately I was unable to find the time to write in the last edition. To say that we have been busy would be an understatement.

The School Council has shared its good practice with other schools, and the pupils won the Wrexham Road Safety Excellence Shield in July. We are very proud that we have received the Bronze and Silver

Eco-School Awards this year, and our fifth Healthy Schools Award.

Our School Councils vision for the Dream Den Shelter and Classroom have been realised, it is now standing proud, awaiting a coat of paint and furnishing. The pupils have wisely chosen to wait for the January Sales before purchasing them.

Our Eco Day was a complete success, and now we look forward to our Healthy Eating Event at Christmas.

I also wish all of the community a Happy Christmas and Successful New Year.

S.Clough  
Head teacher

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## Bird List - Fron

By Julie Williams

After a relatively quiet summer the Robin brought it's young for feeding. Hope it will eat out of my hand again this winter.

Early November brought the welcome return of the Treecreeper and Goldcrests which we haven't seen for a long time.

Other birds seen: Herons flying over the river valley.

Tawny owls – screeching in the early morning – hooting at night.

Blue tit, Blackbird, Buzzard, Chaffinch, Crow, Collared dove, Coal tit, Goldcrests, Greenfinch, Great tit, Hedge Sparrow, Jackdaw, Long tailed tit, Magpie, Nuthatch, Pheasants, Robin, Sparrow Hawk, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Wren.



## Message from the Vicar of Llangollen

Rev. Andrew Sully

Suddenly the current financial crisis has thrown strange terminology from the business section of our newspapers onto the front page, with jargon now abounding everywhere: from sub-prime mortgages and negative equity, to short-selling, hedge funds and commodities. And that was before the arrival on the scene of Freddie Mac and Fannie May, Merrill Lynch and the Lehman Brothers. As the US sitcom 'Soap' used to say: 'Confused? You soon will be!'

And yet the old adage holds true: that when America sneezes, the rest of the world catches a cold. This was true in the Depression of the 1930s and it remains true today.

For good or ill, globalisation is a fact of life. We have to live with the uncomfortable reality of world trade changes which can deeply affect us and over which we are largely powerless. From the collapse of Northern Rock to XL airlines, these are unsteady times, to say the least. I was fortunate in flying to Greece this summer with XL before they bit the dust; others have not been so lucky.

Worries about not having enough money, of either going into debt or not being able to pay off our debts; of losing our pension or even house can make us anxious and depressed.

**Can faith help in such a situation?** Obviously I think so, although I can't help thinking about Alf Garnett walking past the church hoarding declaring how 'Jesus saves' and his biting wit in response: 'Not on my pension he couldn't!'

Jesus understood his role as being one of liberation to those totally weighed down by debt, poverty, slavery and oppression. It mattered to him that the buying and selling of money in the temple precincts was obscuring people from seeing the true role of religion – that of releasing people from needless guilt and shame and receiving from God assurance of debts forgiven and sins released. Even his death was understood in terms of God buying back fallen humanity by the payment of Jesus' own life – redemption.

Above all, Jesus taught us to see right relationships with one another – with our neighbours, friends and even our enemies – as holding the key to appreciating the truly important things in life and these lessons are ones that we really can hold on to during these times of financial instability.

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**From Llangollen Rural Community Council:** A special thank you to our advertisers for supporting us during the year. Your contributions make a big difference, as they offset most of the costs of producing the Community Newsletter. We also take this opportunity to thank all who have sent in articles and news, and our readers for their positive comments. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

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### Breaking News

As we were just going to press the news that Froncysyllte has won the North Wales regional title in the 2008 Calor Village of the Year competition has just been announced. Congratulations to all and we will have all the news and photos in our Spring Newsletter. Well done!

## News from Froncysyllt

### Forthcoming events

**Saturday 13th December** Switching on of Christmas tree lights and Christmas Fayre at Fron Community Centre. Friday 19th December 9.30am - Fron School Nativity in St Davids Church Fron - all welcome.

---

**Daffodil planting:** On Saturday and Sunday 1st and 2nd November daffodils were planted outside the Community Centre in memory of loved ones. Names have been entered in a book of remembrance at Cakes and Company. Diane Cooper worked extremely hard planting the bulbs and we are grateful to her and her assistants for their support.

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**Autumn Fayre:** On Saturday 8th November a Fayre was held in Fron Community Centre for Seion Chapel. There were many stalls including craft, cakes and tombola. We wish to thank everyone for their support and generosity. £650 was raised for the chapel.

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**Remembrance Day:** A service of Remembrance was held in St David's Church and afterwards at the Cenotaph in Fron. The service was conducted by the Rev. Tegid Jones and was well attended.

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**Cakes & Company:** Eleven year old Sian Cooper has painted a picture of Fron Community Centre and presented it to Pat Wilson of Cakes and Company Community Cafe to hang in the community café.



**Left:** In this picture are Mrs Pat Wilson, Sian Cooper and Mrs Janet Norman. **Right:** Pictured are the Home Education School children, who meet in Fron Community Centre planting bulbs around the bird table that they built.

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Fron residents send their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all in Garth and Trevor.

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## Homelink Library Service

If you are disabled or have difficulty getting to your local library a Homelink library service is provided by Wrexham County. This offers a home visit every four weeks and provides access to the whole range of library and reference services, including books, Audios, CDs and DVDs.

For further details contact Maifun Rogers at Wrexham library,  
by telephone on 01978 292090 or E mail [Maifun.Rogers@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:Maifun.Rogers@wrexham.gov.uk)

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Thursday 29th January

Thursday 26th February

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## The Aqueduct Community Association

We have been really busy since the last newsletter working on several projects within our communities, as with all of these types of projects it seems to take forever to get things done! Even so, we will continue to progress these projects as quickly and efficiently as possible. One project that is moving on is a proposed woodlands walk from the canal side at Trevor through the woods up to Trevor and Garth Community centre and onto the disused railway line. Lots of ideas have come forward and we are currently looking into several proposals. Does anybody know anything about the "clinker" (if you grew up locally you will know what this is) we are keen to try and discover why it was put there and how did it get there, in fact we are keen to find out anything at all, please contact an Association member if you have any details.

### Christmas 2008

Last year saw Santa coming around our three villages bringing some Christmas community cheer and what a great success it turned out to be, how could we not do it again this year!! It was worth bringing Santa around just to see the children's smiling faces.

**Dates are: - December 10th Trevor, 11th Garth and 12th Fron.**

**Saturday 13th December** will be the evening to see our community Christmas tree lights being switched on at Trevor Basin and Fron Community centre at 4pm, (there may be another tree at Garth but this is to be confirmed).

We are also currently arranging a party for our pensioners and further details are available on the front page of this newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody from our three villages a "Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year"

Steve Edwards [aca.treasurer@googlemail.com](mailto:aca.treasurer@googlemail.com)



## Fron Youth Club News

By Helen Jones

Just a few photos of activities from Fron Youth Club over the last few weeks. From an evening on a rope course in Nantyr Outdoor Centre, where unfortunately it rained as soon as we got there and gave no respite. Despite this they still managed to cling onto the ropes and any dampened spirits were soon lifted with mugs of hot chocolate with plenty of toppings!

Other nights have included Lazer Quest, exotic fruit tasting (think we can safely vote that no one enjoyed physalis!), go karting, pizza baking and goulish cakes to sparklers and hotdogs.



## Festive Sherry Trifle

### FRUIT LAYER

100 g/3 1/2 oz trifle sponges  
150 ml/5 fl oz raspberry jam  
250 ml/9 fl oz sherry  
150 g/5 1/2 oz frozen raspberries, defrosted  
400 g/14 oz canned mixed fruit, drained  
1 large banana, sliced

### CUSTARD LAYER

6 egg yolks  
50 g/1 1/2 oz caster sugar  
500 ml/18 fl oz milk  
1 tsp vanilla essence

### TOPPING

300 ml/10fl oz double cream  
1-2 tbspcaster sugar  
toasted mixed nuts, chopped to decorate

Spread the trifle sponges with jam, cut them into bite-sized cubes and arrange in the bottom of a large glass serving bowl. Pour over the sherry and leave for 30 minutes. Combine the raspberries, canned fruit and banana and arrange over the sponges. Cover with clingfilm and chill for 30 minutes.

To make the custard, put the egg yolks and sugar into a bowl and whisk together. Pour the milk into a pan and warm gently over a low heat. Remove from the heat and gradually stir into the egg mixture, then return the mixture to the pan and stir constantly over a low heat until thickened. Do not boil. Remove from the heat, pour into a bowl and stir in the vanilla. Cool for 1 hour. Spread the custard over the trifle, cover with clingfilm and chill for 2 hours.

To make the topping, whip the cream in a bowl and stir in sugar to taste. Spread over the trifle, and then scatter over the nuts. Cover with clingfilm and refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving.

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## Bird Watch - Trevor

By Anne Arnold

Robins, Blackbirds, Nuthatch, Hedge Sparrows, House Sparrows, Collared Dove, Wood Pigeon, Thrush, Bats, Green Tit, Coal Tit, Buzzards, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Magpie, Stock Dove, Lesser Spotted Wood Pecker, Seagulls, Great Tit, Ducks, Heron, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Hooded Crow. No sign of Jays since mid September.

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## Telecottage(Computer access point ) Garth and Trevor Community Centre

Opening times

|          |                                                                                                                                |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday   | 11am-1pm Computer class for beginners<br>1pm-3pm Computer class for beginners<br>4pm-6pm Internet access, homework, public use |
| Tuesday  | 4pm-6pm Internet access, homework, public use                                                                                  |
| Thursday | 7pm-9pm Internet public access                                                                                                 |

If you would like to join one of the classes, or want access, at any other time ring Delwyn on 01978 810119.

## News from Trevor & Garth

### Forthcoming Events:

A Christmas Fayre in aid of Tevor Church will be held in Llangollen Town Hall 6th December at 11am.

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### Congratulations to Mrs Nora Edwards

Mrs Nora Edwards has received a medal and a letter of recognition from Prime Minister Gordon Brown thanking her for all her good work in the Women's Land Army. Nora told us 'she was 18 years of age when she joined the Women's Land Army. I was in for about three years and enjoyed every minute of it. I was out early in the morning on my bike going to different farms. We worked quite often with the Prisoners of War threshing corn, clamping potatoes, picking fruit and even spreading manure'.

---

**New Organ Installed in Trevor Church** The organ, which originally came from Soar Chapel, Penyrcae arrived on Monday 6th October and was played for the first time at Morning Service on 12th October by Mr Bryan Rowlands organist at Trevor Church. On Saturday December 20th at 7.30pm a Dedication Service will take place, in memory of Monica Tomlinson, followed by an Organ Recital 'Music and Mince pies' given by Mr Mervyn Cousins, a fitting tribute to Monica.

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**Garth & Trevor Community Centre** There are still some Friday and Saturdays available for Children's Parties to check availability or book phone J Evans on 01978 823244

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**Garth & Trevor WI** After a short summer break Mrs Berry welcomed the members back. The evening was taken up by discussing the forth coming year's programme. The AGM was held in October all were re-elected on block. A jewellery demonstration was the subject for the November meeting.

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**Remembrance Sunday** Although it was wet and windy, the service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Garth was very well attended. The service was conducted by Mr Mike Rawlings and the music supplied by Mr Eric Hughes. A special thank you to the David, Claire, Geraint and Morgan Lewis for looking after the Cenotaph throughout the year and keeping it so clean and tidy.

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**Garth & Trevor residents** send their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all in Froncysyllte.

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## Trevor Cubs Go Bats

24th October

Well done to Trevor Cubs for the Sterling job they've done, making Bat boxes with Johnstown Community Wildlife Officer Remani Jones. This was part of the gaining two badges to do with the environment and wildlife. Along with volunteers, Baloo and the boys helped Remani tidy up the area, litter picking around the area in the wood next to the Community Centre at Trevor. The bat boxes have been placed in trees along with a few bird boxes and the cubs will visit later in the year to check on them. This was a much-needed start to improving the area. Their enthusiastic response to the job in hand helped make this an enjoyable time. A big thank you to all the volunteers, Baloo, Remani and the boys for all the hard work they've done.

## Fron School News

**Penny Trail** Over three hundred pounds was raised on the 'penny trail' at Froncysyllte School. The pennies were laid out on the school yard, making patterns of dragons, flowers and the aqueduct. A big thank you to everyone for their support.



**Halloween** On Thursday 30th October a Halloween party was held in the Community Centre in Fron from 4 – 6pm. A fancy dress competition was held and prizes given. All the children looked wonderful in their costumes. Activities were arranged and refreshments made. Thank you to Terri Ann Bathers for organising the event, £41.50 was raised for Fron School.

**Harvest Service** Family and friends joined the children of Fron School at St Davids Church Fron on Friday 17th October for their Harvest Service.

Following this staff accompanied year six pupils to distribute food collected to the senior citizens in the village. This is a very important part in our links with the Community, a day the children really enjoy. On the visit to Beryl and Dilwyn Jones, the year six girls met Mr & Mrs Jones' daughters who were over from Australia and were given pens and flags from Australia.

In the picture Bethan Williams, Eliza Hill and Millie Tawil visiting Beryl and Dilwyn Jones.



In the picture are: the younger generation meeting one of the older residents. Matilda Hayward meeting Mrs Roberts of Heol ar Fryn.

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## Competition Time Answers.

1. Margate (Kent)
2. Camelford (C'wall)
3. Windsor
4. Newcastle
5. Crawley (Hants.&W.Sussex)
6. Dyke (Lincs.)
7. Settle (Yorks.)
8. Compass (Somerset)
9. Crook (Durham&Cumb.)
10. Amble (Nth'land)
11. Bolsover (Derbys.)
12. Bosworth (Both in Leics.)

## Community Police

With winter almost upon us and the dark nights closing in fewer people are venturing out in the evenings, many of those that do brave the elements out of duty to a canine companion, preferring to stay in the comfort of their own home. If you do need to go out in the evening give thought to leaving on a light in the premises and using a timer switch where appropriate and remember to lock doors whether going out or staying home. On a positive note the Halloween and bonfire night period has passed relatively peacefully with hardly a bang to be heard and no irresponsible use of fireworks reported in the ward.

Contact details for myself and your local CBM , PC Gary Robertshaw are being distributed throughout the community or can be found on the North Wales Police web site. Monthly police meetings in the community will be advertised locally and on the web site.

If you do need to report an incident to the police call 0845 607 1002 or 999 in an emergency.

Regards

David Jenkins

PCSO Llangollen Rural

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### Christmas Services

#### St David's Church, Froncysyllte:

Nine Lessons and Carols

Friday 19th December, 7.00 pm

Christmas Communion Service

Wednesday 24th December 7.00 pm

Family Carol Service

Sunday 28th December, 9.30 am.

#### Trevor Church:

'Music and Mince Pies' Organ Recital

Saturday 20th December at 7.30pm

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 21st December, 9.30am

Holy Communion

Christmas Day 9.30am

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**Spring issue deadline for adverts or articles Monday 9th February 2009.**

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## County Councillor's Diary

This is a brief update of the on going issues within the Llangollen Rural Ward. We are still busy with overgrown hedges, grass cutting, roads and footpath sweeping in the three villages, and other issues raised in the last Community Council meeting.

The Council's Parks Department, have allocated Daffodils and Tulips again this year. It was decided in the Community Council meeting that the Councillors from the three villages should decide where they are to be planted.

**Environmental Audit:** I was pleased to be part of the team with police, housing and highways, walking around the three villages. We were looking to see where we can improve our areas, which highlighted a few issues. Once again the salt bins have been topped up, and I hope we won't be needing them!!

**Community Centres:** The refurbishment of the two community centres has now been completed, and I wish both community centres success.

**Policing:** I would like to thank CBM Gary Robertshaw and PCSO David Jenkins for all their hard work during the past year.

**Free Home fire safety check:** Why not take this opportunity and make a free phone call on **08001691234** to have your home checked out, in view of the major fire incident we had on Plas Madoc, and our surrounding areas recently for the safety of our families.

Overall I feel we have had a very busy year and once again the fun day was a great success. We are now looking forward to the Christmas events that will be taking place throughout the ward.

I would like to wish everybody in the ward a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Thanking you for all your support during the past year. Any problems don't hesitate to contact me

Pat Jeffares

Phone: 01978 820570 E-mail: [pat.jeffares@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:pat.jeffares@wrexham.gov.uk)



**Next Community News** will be out during the first week in March 2009 and will be delivered to households by Councillors and the Garth & Trevor Youth Club.

Any items of news for inclusion in the Spring edition should be in by Monday 9th February 2009.

If you would like to see any of the previous newsletters, then these can be seen on our web site [www.llangollen-ruralcc.org](http://www.llangollen-ruralcc.org)