

# Llansilin Newsletter

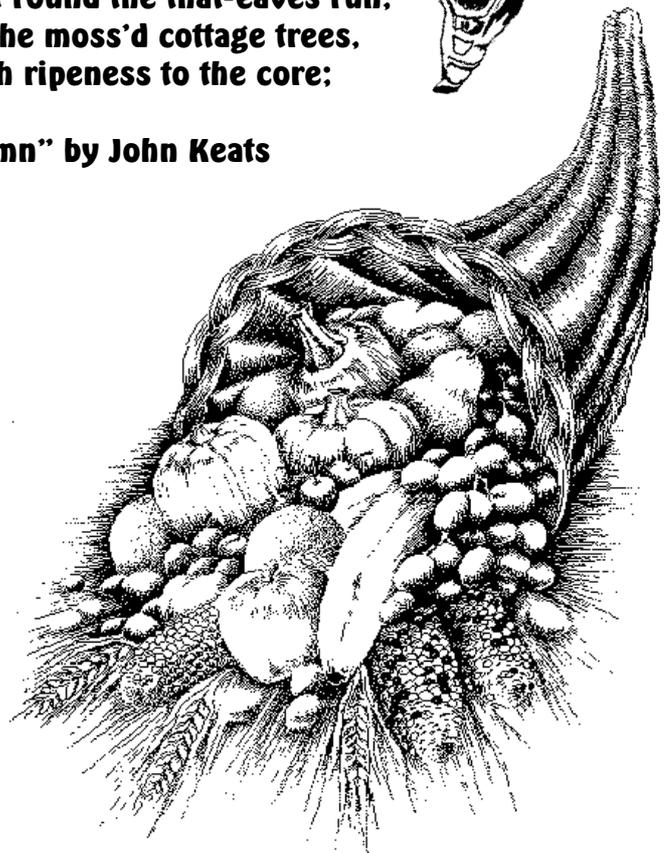
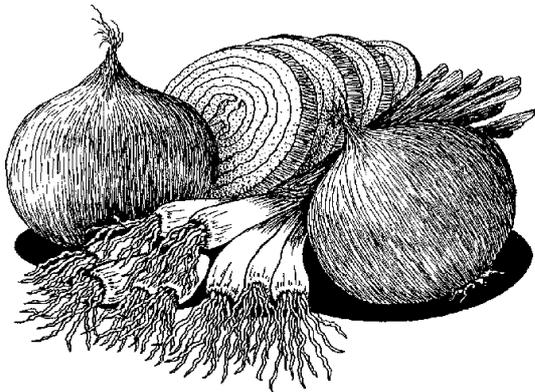
## Church, Chapel and Village News



**Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the that-eaves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;**



**From "To Autumn" by John Keats**



**Number 43  
Autumn 2003**

*This issue of the newsletter has been paid for by Llansilin Playscheme and Community Group*

## Times of Worship

## Who's Who?

### Llansilin Parish Church

1st Sunday	Holy Communion in English	10.00am
2nd "	Matins	10.00am
3rd "	Holy Communion in English	8.00am
4th "	Holy Communion in Welsh	9.00am
	Evensong	6.30pm
5th "	Family Service	10.00am

### Llangadwaladr Church

2nd Sunday	Holy Communion	2.30pm
4th "	Matins	2.30pm

### Rhiwlas Mission Church

1st Sunday	Holy Communion	2.30pm
3rd "	Matins	2.30pm

### Llangedwyn Church

1st Sunday	Evensong	6.30pm
2nd "	Holy Communion	8.30am
3rd "	Family Service	10.30am
4th "	Holy Communion	10.30am
5th "	Holy Communion	8.30am

Please contact the vicar to arrange home communion, visiting or special services

### Gofalaeth Bro Llansilin a'r Cylch

#### Medi

7	Gweinidog	Salem	2.00pm
	(Pererindod - i'w drefnu)		
14	Mr John Rosser	Cefncanol	2.00pm
21	Gweinidog (C)	Bethesda	10.30am
28	Parch John Curig Thomas	Soar	2.00pm

#### Hyd

5	Gweinidog	Rhiwlas	6.30pm
12	Parch Ieuan Lloyd *	Bethania	2.00pm
19	Gweinidog (C)	Salem	10.00am
	(Diolchgarwch yr Ifanc)		
26	Mr T M Ellis	Cefncanol	10.30am

#### Tach

2	Gweinidog	Bethesda	10.30am
9	Parch E Elfyn Richards	Soar	2.00pm
16	Gweinidog	Rhiwlas	6.30pm
23	Mr Thomas Morris	Bethania	6.30pm
30	Parch Iwan Lewis *	Salem	2.00pm

\* Pregethwr o Seion, Croesoswallt (C) Cymun

### Gweinidog

Parch Stanton T Evans  
20 Croeswylan Lane, Croesoswallt  
Ffon: (01691) 654 682

### Vicar

The Revd C F Carter  
Y Ficerdy, Llansilin, Oswestry SY10 9PX  
Tel: 01691 791 209 Mobile 0777 313 4858

### Churchwardens, St Silin's

Deborah Hill-Trevor Tel: 791 402  
Mary E Morris Tel: 791 223

### Gofalaeth Bro Llansilin A'r Cylch

Ysg Wyn Davies Tel: 791 395  
Trys Carys Evans Tel: 791 240

### Organist, St Silin's

Morfydd Williams Tel: 659 369

### Parochial Church Council Secretary

Valerie Burton Tel: 791 274

### Parochial Church Council Treasurer

Esther Milner Tel: 791 323

### Covenant Secretary, St Silin's

Graham Moss Tel: 791 528

### Bellringing, St Silin's

Tower Captain, Eric Avery Tel: 791 298  
Steeple Keeper, Chris Burton Tel: 791 274  
**Ringin practice** on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm

### Rhiwlas Mission Church

Contact Marjorie Evans Tel: 600 228

### Llangadwaladr Church

Contact Vera Evans Tel: 791 471

*The newsletter is produced by Carys and Emyr Evans (Welsh news), tel: 791 240, and Val and Dave Talbot.*

*Distributor: Christine Williams, tel: 791 472. Get your newsletter by post for a year by sending 4 stamps to Christine at 4 Maesyllan, Llansilin, SY10 7QE*

*Items for inclusion in the Winter 2003 issue please by the end of October to: Graigwen Cottage, Wernddu, SY10 9BN. Email: val@daval.demon.co.uk Tel: 791 310*

## The Vicar's Viewpoint

A few days ago I was rung up by a researcher for a television company who was seeking the views of Welsh clergy on the Jeffrey John affair. I excused myself from commenting on a matter which concerned the Church of England, but I did cautiously answer a few further questions as to my reaction should a similar situation arise in Wales – which could have happened, as I've been told since that Canon John was shortlisted for the bishopric of Monmouth after Rowan Williams left for Canterbury. This is a controversy which could cause a deep divide in the church, as it is already threatening to divide the Anglican Communion. Homosexuality is an issue on which many people have strong feelings, and others very mixed feelings.

It also raises the problem of Biblical authority: same-sex relations are roundly condemned in both the Old and New Testaments, but do we leave it at that or do we try to re-interpret the Scriptures in the light of all that we now know about what makes us the way we are? Is the Bible the infallible Word of God or is it the record of how, over many generations, sincere seekers after truth have groped towards a clearer understanding of God and of His relationship with humankind? Most crucially of all, if Jesus Christ returned today, how would his teaching differ from what he said as a first-century Palestinian Jew?

There are no easy answers to any of these questions. All we can do is try to face them honestly, seek God's help as we attempt to discern the truth for ourselves and listen, with courtesy and respect, to the opinions of those who sincerely come to different conclusions – not least because God may have blessed them with some insight which we have missed. Only He knows all the answers!

*Kit Carter*

### MILESTONES

*Baptisms of Jessica Rose Roberts and William David Roberts of Bodlith in July.*

*Marriage between Charlotte Kirkham of Baschurch and James Shute of Somerset in July.*

*Marriage between Jennifer Williams of Llansilin and Richard Richards of Llanrhaeadr in August.*

*Death of Susan Durrant of St Martins in June.*

## Autumn Diary Dates

### September

- 7 St Silin's Day: Holy Communion at 10am
- 9 PCC meeting 7pm in the church
- 27 Concert with Tom Evans and Cor Llansilin at 7.30pm in the Hall

### October: Harvest Services

- 3 St Silin's at 6.30pm, followed by harvest supper in the Hall.
- 7 Llangadwaladr 7pm
- 10 Llangedwyn at 7pm
- 17 Rhiwlas 7pm

### October

- 14 PCC meeting 7pm in the church

### November

- 9 Remembrance Sunday service (details to follow)
- 30 Special Advent concert St Silin's at 7pm

### Looking ahead to December

- 7 Gymanfa nadolig Bethania Chapel 6.30pm
- 19 Concert with Cor Llansilin at St Silin's (both in aid of Llangadwaladr Church Appeal)



## Flower and Cleaning Rota at St Silin's

### September

- 7 & 14 Val Lucas and Lynette Moss
- 21 & 28 Margaret Jones and Mary Morris

### October

- 5 & 12 Harvest Festival
- 19 & 26 Sheila Ashley and Alma Jones

### November

- 2 & 9 Valerie Burton and Anneli Thomas
- 16 & 23 Brenda Jones and Rosemary Powell
- 30 Advent: no altar flowers, clean only 10 am - 12 noon

## Update on Llangadwaladr Church

The current publicity is raising the profile of this delightful, isolated church. Local people are supporting the restoration project and organising concerts to raise funds. It is hoped to seek grants from outside bodies but, before work can start, advice is necessary from various specialists. For instance any repair to the roof has to comply with the law on the protection of the bat colony and solutions to the roof drainage have to be approved by archaeological specialists. More news in the next issue.

## Llansilin Playscheme and Community Group

This autumn we shall join with Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Primary School to offer several programmes. Free violin, drums and guitar lessons will be put on either after school or during lunch time. Any child wishing to take up such lessons should approach Mrs Smith (Headteacher) or Mrs Sue Fensome (01691 791371) at the start of the autumn term.

In partnership with the school, we will help to access funding to enable the Arts Lottery Writers on Tour Programme to visit the school periodically during the coming school year.

Through our NVQ training programme, Shelley Jones is being assessed for the NVQ Early Years Care and Education while working with under 8's at the school. There are currently 6 local people training under this programme, which provides them with mentoring support services and work placement experience. Core support services are also offered periodically throughout the year:

- ◆ Appointed Persons' First Aid Certificate
- ◆ Basic Food and Hygiene Certificate
- ◆ Basic Health and Safety
- ◆ Child Protection levels 1 and 2
- ◆ Manual Handling.

The courses are free for people living in the catchment areas of Llansilin, Llangedwyn, Llansantffraid and Llanrhaeadr YM. People living outside these areas are charged £5. Preference is given to people working with children. If you are interested in any of these courses, please call 791371.

Julie O'Sullivan, the Special Needs Development worker, will continue to offer limited in-school and home support for children with learning or behavioural difficulties, or physical disabilities.

Youth services are run year-round in Llansantffraid and Llangedwyn, with support for the youth activities on the Llansilin School playing field from May to September on Friday evenings at 7 pm.

*Community development work done by the Llansilin Playscheme and Community Group is supported by the Community Fund and the European Social Fund.*



When news came out that Llanrhaeadr was, at last, about to get its new school, but that it might swallow up the schools at Llansilin and Llangedwyn, local people were horrified. The fear was, of course, that the decision had already been made. However, at the consultation meeting at Llansilin on 11 June the Director of Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, Mike Barker, insisted that this was not the case. He explained why the Council had undertaken a review of Powys primary schools, which should be completed by October/November, and that decisions would not be based solely on economic grounds. He promised to forward a full and faithful account of all the views expressed. The people present, including the chairman of governors at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Barry Johnson, and Councillor Harry Hughes, left him in doubt that their response was a resounding “NO” to the closure of the two schools at Llansilin and Llangedwyn and the idea of a so-called “super school” at Llanrhaeadr.



## Llanfyllin & District Community Strategy Forum

The Forum is a Welsh Assembly initiative aimed at a holistic approach to local community development and is a very important forum through which to lobby the County Council and Welsh Assembly to make sure that local views are taken into account when decisions are being made. Open public meetings are held at Llanfyllin High School, with details on posters around Llansilin village. A variety of issues on local area needs are discussed, usually with input from appropriate visiting speakers. If you have an issue that you feel needs to be addressed or just want to listen to information about it, please come to the meeting or, if you can't make it, you could make your case in writing to Renee Springett who will put it forward for you. ***The September meeting will be on education*** so would be a golden opportunity to raise concerns about the possible closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. If you would like more information or to be placed on the mailing list please call 791371.

## Neuadd Goffa Llansilin Memorial Hall

### GRAND CONCERT

featuring

**Tom Evans, winner of Blue Riband at  
1986 and 2002 National Eisteddfod**

and

**Cor Llansilin Choir**

on

**Saturday, 27 September  
at 7.30 pm**

**Proceeds in aid of Llansilin Memorial Hall  
and Llangadwaladr Church appeal**

## GWEINIDOGAETH BRO

Mis Mai oedd mis y Cymanfaoedd Canu ac fe gynhaliwyd ambell un yn yr ardal. Diwedd y mis cynhaliwyd yr WyL Bregethu Flynyddol yn y Rhiwlas, pryd y daeth y Parch Trefor Jobnes, Caernarfon i bregethu. Paratowyd tē rhwng y ddwy oedfa, diwrnod bendithiol iawn.

Hefyd ym Mis Mai cynhaliwyd Gwasanaeth Neges Ewyllys Da ar y cyd a Gwasanaeth Cymorth Cristnogol. Diolch i'r ieuenctid a gymerodd ran a'i gyflawni mor raenus. Mae gwasanaeth fel hyn yn ein hatgoffa o gyflwr truenus y byd a bod cyfrifoldeb arnom ni i'w wella.

Erbyn i'r rhifyn yma ddod o'r wasg bydd yr Eisteddfod wedi bod, ac fe fyddwn yn edrych ymlaen at ein Pererindod Blynyddol. Eleni rydym yn mynd i Lansanan, Llangernyw ac yn gorffen yn Nhy Mawr, Y Wybrnant, cartref William Morgan, cyfieithydd y Beibl. Mae'n siwr o fod yn ddiwrnod da gan fod y Parch Stanton Evans mor drylwyr yn ei drefniadau bob amser.



Harvest thanksgiving will this year be celebrated at St Silin's on Friday, 3 October at 6.30 pm, with guest preacher, the Revd Geoffrey Marshall, Rector of Wrexham. This will be followed by a harvest supper in the Memorial Hall, tickets available from church members. Croeso cynnes i bawb: a warm welcome to all.

## Llansilin Wall Hanging

The long-awaited recycled clothing and rag rug picture of the Gyrn is now finished and, with luck, will be hanging above the entrance to the Memorial Hall in September.

The wall hanging is a gift from the community to the village hall and, to mark the event, we are hoping to attract local people to display their interest in craft. As well as the unveiling of the hanging, there is also the prospect of a new project to create a large hessian angel for the church, hopefully in time for Christmas.

If you are an enthusiastic crafter or are interested in coming to the unveiling of the wall hanging please contact Dot Renshaw on 791279 or Alison Beeston on 791262. They will be able to arrange a table for your demonstration and give you more details.

Those who have been involved with the project hope that you will be pleased with the outcome of their labours. It has taken some 2 years from conception and training to the completion of the landscape. We do hope that you will come along to see it and feel, like us, that it was a worthwhile enterprise.

Further details of the September event to follow.



The whist drives will be starting up again on Wednesday, 10 September and will be held every second Wednesday until May. The money raised is one of the main ways to help fund the upkeep of the Memorial Hall (insurance, cleaning, lighting, etc). The 24 organisations who use the Hall on a regular basis take it in turns to provide the refreshments to show their appreciation to the organisers and players.

## 200 Club Tickets

Another important fund-raiser for the Hall is the sale of the monthly **200 Club tickets**, £5 each, with a 1st prize of £20, 2<sup>nd</sup> £15, 3<sup>rd</sup> £10 and 4<sup>th</sup> £5. At Christmas there are special prizes of £50, £25, £15 and £10. The draw takes place at the whist drive and tickets can be obtained from Joan Williams, tel: 791313.

## Llansilin Community Council

The retiring chairman, Cllr J M Jones, opened the AGM in May and thanked members for their support during his term of office. Cllr Dennis Sockett was elected chairman and paid tribute to his predecessor. Cllr Mrs Marjorie Evans was appointed vice-chair. The above and Cllr E O Evans were elected to serve on the planning and youth club committees.

- Planning applications for change of use at the Malthouse, Llansilin and an extension at Glascoed Fach were approved, but one from Bwlchgwyn, Moelfre was not supported.
- The audit for 2001/2 was satisfactory.
- The service level agreement for concurrent function was signed by the chairman.
- Donations were made to Llansilin Churchyard fund and St John Ambulance, Llanfyllin.
- On-street parking in Llansilin was discussed

Action would be taken on the following complaints:

- overgrown footpath adjacent to 13 Maesyllan
- defective stile on footpath near Bryn Celyn
- need for a visibility mirror by Derwendeg
- remedial work on the Fron Ucha road
- continuing problems of dog fouling

At the July meeting, Mr David Tomlinson, Powys County Council, discussed with members local housing requirements, particularly for elderly people. To prove a demand existed it would be necessary to conduct a survey among all households in the parish.

- Planning applications approved for extensions at Tynygroes, Rhiwlas and 12 Maesyllan
- It was agreed to renew membership of Clwyd Community Chest.
- The conveyance of a small portion of land to St Silin's Church Council was agreed.
- The clerk was asked to write to the Director of Education to protest against the threatened closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

Action would be taken on the following complaints:

- estate name at Maesyllan
- wall near Rhiwlas Chapel
- replacement for Llanrhaeadr direction sign
- "Slow" signs in Rhiwlas
- direction signs to Glyndwr's Mound

## *Anna meets her pop idol, Gareth Gates*

Anna Massie from Llansilin is the envy of her friends after winning a radio competition as her prize was to meet Gareth Gates. For those of us a bit behind the times, Gareth shot to fame on TV's Pop Idol. Anna's sister, Sarah, went with her and they were treated like stars themselves. "He was really nice," said Anna, "and I had a wonderful time." A day to remember for Anna, one of the band of St Silin's bell ringers.

## Christian Aid Week 2003

A grand total of **£607.50** was raised this year. The coffee evening raised £220, including donations. There were bring and buy stalls and the North Wales organiser, Anna Jane Evans, did a good trade selling Fairtrade products. Mrs Brenda Sandilands gave a moving talk on her latest working trip to Cambodia for a development charity. A donation of £30 was given to the charity, enough to provide another village in this poor country with access to clean water.

House to house collections in Moelfre, Rhiwlas and Llangedwyn amounted to £127.20 thanks to Sarah Hughes, Dorothy Bullard and Diana Hutchinson. Cefncafol Chapel donated £65, Rhiwlas Chapel £67.53 and Llansilin bilingual service £41.55.

A Christian Aid service was held in Llangedwyn Church, led by the Revd C F Carter and Anna very kindly came all the way from Bangor again to give us a most interesting talk on her recent trip to Bangladesh, meeting families in dire poverty yet amazingly happy. The collection was £66.50.

Rhiannon Lewis and John Jones thank everyone for giving so generously to this worthy cause.

### **Llansilin Eisteddfod**

This local cultural and historical event will be held on either 11 or 18 October. Posters will be put out shortly giving the exact date and other details.

### **Eric Avery to the rescue**

The weather cock on the church tower lost part of its tail in the spring and had to come down for a new one. What would we do without you, Eric?



## The Village Recycling Plant



A **big thank you** to everyone who supports this scheme, which is a win-win situation all round. It means less rubbish going to landfill sites, doing our bit for the environment and, as a bonus, raising funds to help insure and maintain the playground equipment. Insurance costs in particular have spiralled and are expected to be over £500 next year.

There have been problems with the collection of paper, which at present is only every 2 weeks. If the container is full, please don't take your paper away, but do tie it up with string so that it doesn't blow all over the car park. We're sorry about this but we're doing our best to get the firm to collect every week.

### Regional Waste Plans

The use of landfill sites is not sustainable in the long term and targets have been set to reduce the amount of waste disposed of in this way. The Welsh Assembly has asked the 3 regions in Wales to produce waste plans by November this year. The draft North Wales plan is almost complete and Renee Springett expects to receive a consultation document in August. Please contact her on 791371 to see a copy and perhaps help to formulate a village response. Alternatively, log on to [www.walesregionalwasteplans.gov.uk](http://www.walesregionalwasteplans.gov.uk) to find out more and put your own views forward.

### Recycle more for cash prizes

Recycling, of course, is one of the best ways to reduce reliance on landfill and now we can win prizes for it. Every quarter Powys is offering £200 to the site with the biggest increase (2nd and 3rd prizes of £100 and £50) and a chance to go forward for an annual prize of £1,000. This would be a great help with our playground costs, so let's go for it!

### Rubbish outside Llangadwaladr Church

We are sorry to report that 15 bags of rubbish were dumped against the gates leading to the churchyard recently. It was a pretty disgusting task to clear them away and it is hoped that this won't happen again.

### "Girls' Night Out"

Everyone enjoyed the launch of the Llansilin print by Barbara Looser and the flower arranging demonstration by Sionned Hughes. Over £500 was raised for church funds, including £94 kindly donated by Barbara from the sale of the print. The raffle raised £166 for Cancer Research. If you would like a copy of Barbara's attractive print (£22.50, with £5 going to church funds) or notelets (£2.50) please ring her on 01691 670661.

### STOP PRESS SUCCESS AT THE EISTEDDFOD

Esther Milner and Lynette Moss were winners, with their group, Parti Myllin, of the Welsh Learners' Recitation competition at the National Eisteddfod. Congratulations!

Cor Llansilin also did very well indeed against stiff competition to achieve second place in the Mixed Choir section for 20 to 45 Voices. Another excellent result! Members of the choir would like to pass on their thanks for all the local support and encouragement they received.



### St Silin's Bell Ringers



An invitation to join the fun:  
Come and have a go!  
Wednesdays 7.30 to 8.30 pm  
or phone Eric on 791298

*A very special thank you to...*

*Anneli*, for editing and producing the newsletter for the past 5 years. We all appreciate the time and trouble you have taken to keep us in touch and up-to-date with what's going on. Thank you too from the new editors for your help in getting us started.

*Margaret*, for your loyal service in organising the deliveries for so long. We are grateful to Christine, another faithful volunteer, for taking over.

# Village Activities

and other useful bits of information



**Aelwyd - Welsh League of Youth:** from September on Fridays 7.30 - 10 pm in the Memorial Hall. Contact Emyr Evans: ☎ 791 240

**Bowls Club** 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall on Mondays. Contact Ray Deney ☎ 791 434

**Community Council** meets every second Tuesday on alternate months 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. Contact Harry Hughes ☎ 657 972

**Cymdeithas Ddwylliadol Llansilin** (Welsh Cultural and Literary Society) Mondays 7 - 9 pm September to April in the Memorial Hall. Contact Sarah James ☎ 791 346

**Drawing and Painting for all** at Rhiwlas Community Centre Tuesdays 10 am - 12 noon. Run by the North Shropshire College.

**Llanfyllin Group Practice Patient Participation Group** Comments and questions regarding any aspect of medical care and practice to Rob Ellis ☎ 791 214

**Llansilin Mixed Choir** practice weekly in the Memorial Hall. Contact Henry Evans ☎ 791 410

**Llansilin Playscheme** for after-school activities in sport, drama, arts and crafts. Contact Sian on ☎ 791 371

**Local History Society:** contact Chris Burton ☎ 791 274

**Meals on Wheels:** contact Olive Jones ☎ 791 363

**Memorial Hall and The Institute:** Secretary and Booking Clerk Arthur James ☎ 791 346

**Mothers Union** meets in the Institute every third Thursday at 2.15 pm. Contact Glenice Jones ☎ 791 296

**Over 60's Club** meets alternate Tuesdays at 2.30 pm in the Institute. Contact Nesta Morgan ☎ 791 219

**Parochial Church Council meeting:** every second Tuesday monthly at 7 pm in Church

**Playgroup:** 9.30 am to 12.30 pm term time on Mondays and Thursdays in the Memorial Hall. Contact Judith Marston ☎ 791 482

<b>Police</b>	<b>Powys</b>	<b>648 222</b>
	<b>West Mercia</b>	<b>0345 444888</b> (local rate)

**Rhiwlas Community Centre:** contact Will Thomas ☎ 680 451

**Rhiwlas Gardening Club** every third Wednesday in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm. Contact Debbie Taylor ☎ 600 329

**Rural Car Service** for visiting the doctor, dentist, chiropodist etc. Contact Christine Williams ☎ 791 563 between 8 - 9 am and 6 - 7 pm unless in an emergency.

**Shopping/Mobility Bus** every Friday £1 return. Leaves Llansilin 10.30 am and returns from Oswestry at 1 pm. Suitable for wheelchair user. Contact Border Community Transport ☎ 01938 556 281

**Sunday School** on the last Sunday each month during term-time 10 - 11 am in the Institute. Contact Sheila Ashley ☎ 791 283

**Whist drive** every second Wednesday September to May, 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. Contact Emyr Evans ☎ 791 240

**Women's Institute:** every fourth Wednesday at 7 pm in the Institute. Contact Pam Johnson ☎ 791 345

**YFC:** contact Richard Evans ☎ 600 228

**Youth Club** meets Thursdays 7 - 9.30 pm in the Hall. Contact Youth Leader, Elena Jones ☎ 780 315

<b>Garage Shop</b>	Monday to Friday	9.30 am - 6 pm
	Saturday	8.30 am - 1 pm

Closed for lunch 1 - 2 pm

<b>Post Office</b>	Tuesday	8.30 am - 2.30 pm
	Thursday	8.30 am - 12.30 pm

**Please help to keep this list up-to-date**