

The

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Leighton News

June & July 2020

Number 342

**VE DAY
1945**



THEN & NOW

**VE DAY
2020**



But see the Great Leighton VE Day Celebrations - pages 4 & 5
This month's issue is kindly sponsored by:
FORDEN with LEIGHTON & TRELYSTAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
See back cover for further information



CHURCH SERVICES JUNE & JULY 2020



During the present period of lockdown our church buildings remain closed. However, a weekly short service is being produced by Revd Bill Rowell, and he is happy to email this out to anyone who would like to receive it. The service can also be viewed on Youtube.

These can easily be found by Googling "**Chirbury Hills Group Youtube**". Each service is about 15 minutes.



A small number of copies of the service are also placed in the church notice board outside Leighton Church each week. We hope it may be possible for our churches to re-open in July, but this will depend on the success of the easing of restrictions before then, and on what the Diocese decides. In the meantime, if you don't receive Revd Bill's weekly service and reflection and would like to, please contact him on wkrowell@btinternet.com or by ringing 01938 552064

The Churchyard is looking particularly lovely this time of year.

Thanks go to David, Haydn, Sarah and helpers for mowing and strimming. Dan managed to burn the accumulated cut timber, christmas trees, rubbish etc without taking out Leighton Village - well done!

Please do not hesitate to walk around the Churchyard and enjoy the peace.

If you see anything that is out of place or damage that has occurred to the building please don't hesitate to contact Revd Bill or me.

John Markwick

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER in English & Welsh - NHS Llandudno

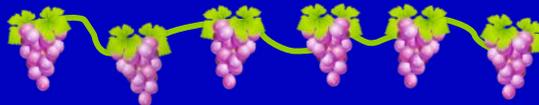


Here is an extraordinary performance of 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' by the brave men and women from NHS in honor of the Llandudno's Venu Cymru, which has been turned into a temporary coronavirus hospital. During this process, the facility has been renamed to Ysbyty Enfys, which is Welsh for Rainbow Hospital, as a symbol for hope. **Paul Simon's Blog**

If you haven't already heard this, watch it on Youtube at <https://tinyurl.com/BOTWNHS>

TRIVIA: Having written Bridge Over Troubled Water, Paul Simon's lasting regret was allowing Art Garfunkel to sing the whole song as a solo.

VILLAGE GRAPEVINE



Congratulations to our neighbours at Harp Lodge, **Kerry and Frazer Roberts**, on the birth of their daughter, **Pippa**



Thank you to the **Mobile Post Office** for coming to the village twice a week throughout the crisis which was, and continues to be, greatly appreciated. It comes to Leighton Church gates on **MONDAY 10.15am – 11am** and **THURSDAY 1.30pm – 2.15pm** and has everything that you will need here on your doorstep.



A huge **THANK YOU** to the **NHS staff** who live here in Leighton & Trelstan and who have been such an inspiration to us all and risk so much. Thank you also to the carers who are looking after some senior villagers here and in our nearby Care Homes.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help in many ways especially to those in the army and working in the emergency utilities, those sewing scrubs for the NHS, those delivering goods, providing IT and training and also those parents teaching their children at home whilst often trying to work as well!

Thank you to caring neighbours, to those who have used their skills to keep the village facilities ticking over especially Vicar Bill, to those who have worked from home.

To all teaching staff keeping the key workers schools and nurseries going, To those farming and foaling, building and baking and all the other businesses and industries that have been kept going in the village and beyond through these frightening times. And thank you to those people who have waved, kept us all in touch, shouted 'Hello' as they walked past, raised a smile and generally made us all so grateful that we live here.



welcome **Diana and Colin Livingstone** and some of their family to the village. They are living in Heather Lea, Ralph and Stella Mills' house by the school.



HM Queen Elizabeth's birthday



Leighton Church gates were decorated for the Queen's birthday last month.

Can we help?

The village volunteers have grown so thanks to Kathy, Emma, Jen, Frankie, Claire & Fraser, Catherine, Dr Liz and Libby & Astor. If we can help with picking up prescriptions, shopping or errands then please get in touch on the numbers below. We will help in any way that we can.

Dylan Tel: 07792 154 955
Chloe Tel: 07957 028 404



CANCELLATIONS It's so sad that due to this awful virus so many special family and village events have had to be cancelled but hopefully most can be rebooked in the future.

As we go to print Leighton Village Hall is closed but if you need to enquire about future bookings please ring: **LVH BOOKINGS Tel: 0785 410 3058 Email: leightonvillagehall@gmail.com** or contact us on facebook at any time.

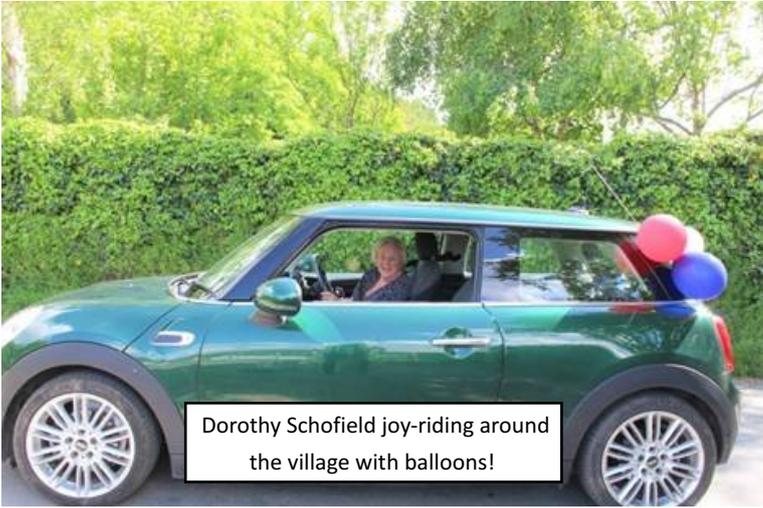
VE Day Celebrations around Leighton



Leighton Church gates



Pat Roberts on her daily walkabout with Tilly



Dorothy Schofield joy-riding around the village with balloons!



Dee - never knowingly underdressed!



Dee & Frankie Rowles



Amazing wartime photo display of the Meade family



Pat & Robert Orr had tea for two at The Bothy

Reasons To Be Cheerful



Leo & Jack Tibbott keeping fit

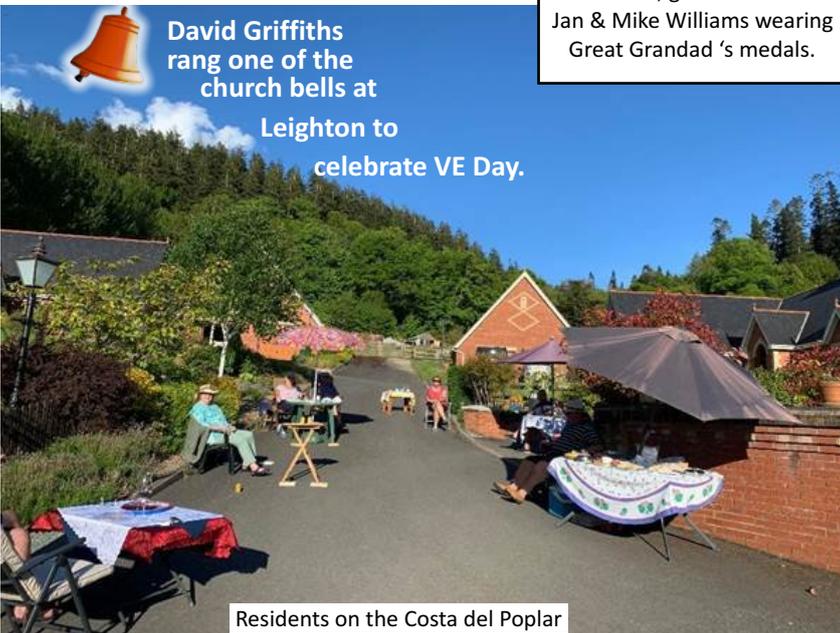


Dave & Sharon Meade, School House celebrated with original china

Oliver, grandson of Jan & Mike Williams wearing Great Grandad 's medals.



The patriotic Turner family out on their bikes on their Tour de Leighton



David Griffiths rang one of the church bells at Leighton to celebrate VE Day.

Residents on the Costa del Poplar



Dave & Sharon Meade enjoying tea in the sunshine.



Wayne and Clive hosted a VE Day Tea party on Poplar Drive with suitable china and every household enjoying the event whilst socially distancing



It was really cheering to see Leighton Village being able to celebrate so well and on such a beautiful day. While socially distancing and having shouted conversations with our neighbours and postman, we've often talked about how we are probably in one of the best places in the UK to guard against the dreaded virus; wide open spaces, plenty of fresh air and in our case the nearest neighbour over 100 yards away. So lucky compared to the poor inner-city dwellers.

I only just missed being present at the original celebrations in 1945 – I was born a couple of weeks after VE day. Like all kids growing up in the early post war years we were only too aware of the major trauma our parents had lived through. Even VE day itself was not pure unalloyed joy; many servicemen were still in action including my father who had volunteered for the

navy age 18 in 1939. On the 6th August he was on a ship to Japan; when the news came through about the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings they turned round and came home. The atomic bomb was a joint American and British development – the bombs were dropped with the consent of the United Kingdom as required by an agreement between the two countries. I suspect that VJ Day may not be commemorated with quite the same enthusiasm.

We became, and may remain, the most affluent generation ever; excellent health care, home ownership, early retirement and superannuated pension provision. However as a permanent optimist, after the nasty covid19 burns itself out (and plagues always do), I see a world that's never going to be quite the same again as an exciting opportunity for totally re-jigging the way we live and work. We can see signs of it already starting. Watch this space!

DH

LOWER LEIGHTON DAIRY

Hi Everyone,

Firstly, I hope everyone is coping with life under lockdown and adjusting to the new temporary way of life. Personally, for me not much has changed, with life on the farm continuing pretty much as usual, although I must admit that I have quite enjoyed the quieter roads and life seeming slightly slower, and although busy on the farm, I'm enjoying less pressure from the outside world, having time to appreciate the simple things in life and the beautiful surroundings we live in.

We as a family have been on lots of walks around the village and woods, admiring the structures and architecture created by the Naylor family many moons ago, and of course participating in the Ministry of Silly Walks up by the stud farm. Leighton really is a special area with so much to admire and an area we're lucky to be able to call home.

This week (16th May) I reach the milestone of 40, although I keep telling Claire I feel like a 21 year old - apparently my body tells a different story!

On The Farm

April and May are busy months in the farming calendar, and with the dry weather we have been able to plant crops relatively easily, although the ground was very hard. We have completed planting our spring corn, mainly Triticale, that should be harvested in early August, ready to feed the cows for the following 12 months. This crop is referred to as wholecrop after harvest, and is one of the ingredients fed to our cows as it is good for promoting good gut health.

We have also planted all of our maize (corn on the cob) which should be harvested October/November. This is the main ingredient in the cows' diet, and is good for milk production and a crop the cows love to eat. Hopefully we will have some rain and warmer nights so that the crops grow well.

We have also harvested our first cut of grass silage, and again the weather enabled us to harvest it in the best conditions, taking the grass whilst it was young and full of sugars and energy. This is the other main ingredient that makes up the cows' diet. Our plan is to take a grass silage crop every 5 weeks throughout the summer months, weather permitting.

This year we invested in a new forage harvester to harvest our crops, as pictured below, and with this



new machine we have been able to invest in the latest technology available. Through the harvest lab, that is a piece of kit attached to the machine, we are able to analyse the crop we are harvesting in real time, giving us accurate data on the yields and quality of the crop, which enables me to plan ahead the feeding of the cows for the following 12 months.

It also allows me to identify poor areas and very fertile areas of a field by producing colour coded maps off the GPS, and then we can only apply the necessary amounts of fertilisers and manure to any part of a field. We can also assess the type of grass seeds that give us the best quality and yield, therefore enabling us to buy the best variety of seeds for whatever crop we are planting.

The Dairy

Everything has been running smoothly at the dairy, with the cows completely settled into their new sheds and parlour. Pictured below is the Rotary Parlour -



72 cows can fit on to the continually rotating turntable in individual stalls. Cows enter at one point, and are milked whilst taking a ride around in a circle, and then exit after doing one complete revolution. Because cows can always see each other whilst being milked it makes them more relaxed compared to a more traditional type of milking parlour. For a new cow entering the milking parlour and getting on and off the turntable for the first time, it only takes up to 3 milking's to train the cow before it becomes like second nature.

We are currently running the parlour at half speed, and milking 300 cows per hour. As cow numbers continue to grow to 1000, we will speed the turntable up and employ more staff to keep up, with our aim being to milk 500 cows per hour at that point. As a comparison, the old parlour at Leighton was capable of milking 80 cows per hour with the same amount of staff, which highlights the efficiencies the new dairy brings.

TB

Our most recent TB test was a success with all the cows at Leighton passing, which was a big relief. We were however unable to test around 30 calves due to the social distancing rules that came in to place mid-way through the test. As calves need to be held whilst the vet completes the test, it would have resulted in us breaking the rules, so we were advised to leave those particular animals.

Milk / Covid 19

All of our milk is sold to Muller, and due to COVID19 and the closure of hotels/ restaurants/coffee shops etc, the demand for milk has plummeted, with some farmers having to tip their milk away. Although Muller mainly supply the supermarkets who have seen a 20% increase in demand for dairy products, it still doesn't offset the loss of milk consumed in the hospitality and service sectors, therefore Muller have imposed a 3% reduction on all its supplying farmers, and I have had to cut my production by 3% as a result. Although 3% may not seem like much, it is very significant bearing in mind the tight margins dairy farming operates within, so hopefully as we move slowly back to normality, the imposed reduction will be lifted.

News

We have been hiring again, and from over 30 applicants for a calf rearing position, we have been fortunate to employ Sarah Thomas, a local girl from Berriew, and daughter of Bryan Thomas from Gwyn's Barn farm in Leighton. Sarah is located at our farm in Berriew where all of our baby calves are born and reared before entering the milking herd at Lower Leighton. Sarah is a young and enthusiastic girl and has the "female" care and attention to detail that is so important with rearing calves. Sarah has already implemented changes to our rearing of calves, bringing new ideas and a pro-active

approach, and has already become an important member of our team. Pictured here is Sarah along with our mobile milk pasteuriser feeder.



During these difficult times, a huge thanks go to all my staff, who turn up to work with a smile on their face and go that extra mile to make sure the farm runs efficiently within a happy atmosphere. We have a team approach with everyone valued highly and I'm very proud of everyone involved within the farm making it a happy place to be.

Stay Safe, Fraser.

LEIGHTON VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB 2020 REGISTER – MARCH 2020

Rachel and Gethin	1	Lesley Jones	34	Sarah Evans	67	Huw Harris	100
Robert Walton	2	Tanya Allison	35	Eleanor Hamer	68	Gwyn Jones	101
John Markwick	3	Neil Johnston	36	Sally Green	69	Edward Tuffin	102
Lee Alison	4		37	Ines Markwick	70	Trisha Bennett	103
Sarah Bowyer	5	Paul and Carol Harris	38	Jane and Tony Walton	71	Simon and Ruth Williams	104
Carol Alexander	6	Terry Walton	39	Jan and Mike Williams	72	Pat and Laura Poole	105
Catherine Williams	7	David Griffiths	40	Roger Brooks	73	Lauren & Robert Jones, Cletterwood Farm	106
Ann Markwick	8	Elizabeth Griffiths	41		74	Roma Tibbott	107
	9	Brian Underhill	42		75	Amy Williams	108
Sarah and Haydn Jones	10	Pat Roberts	43	Julie Griffiths	76	Paul and Carol Harris	109
Glenys Williams	11	Lou Clare	44	Sue Andrew	77	Pat Orr	110
Pat and Laura Poole	12	Bethan Thomas	45	Betty Kearns	78	Geraint Thomas	111
Jan Lee	13	Hannah Bowker	46		79	Joyce Thomas	112
Robert Landgrebe	14	Colin & Sara Bell	47	Neomi Markwick	80	Chloe Andrew	113
Phyllis Bayliss	15	Jean Jones	48	Ian and Helen Jones	81	Debbie Potter	114
Huw, Henry and Rachel Williams	16	Jean Underhill	49	Mal Oliver	82	Yvonne and Geoff Naylor	115
Mrs Jarman	17		50	Ann Cadwallader	83	Yvonne and Geoff Naylor	116
Mrs Jarman	18		51	Dee Rowles	84	Mick and Jan Sawyers	117
Margaret Landgrebe	19	Jean Underhill	52	Jim Evans	85	Kathy Pearce	118
Lynn Harris	20	Jenny Sanders	53		86	Clare Evans	119
David Hawes	21	David Sanders	54	Lynda Bowker	87	Robert Orr	120
Sarah and Haydn Jones	22	Phil and Barbara Mills	55	Glen Rowles	88	Nikki Mead	121
Jeanette Richards	23		56	Bernard Oliver	89	Sharon Mead	122
John Bennett	24	James Evans	57	David Williams	90	Pete Bowyer	123
Brian Underhill	25	Rob Jones	58	Ian and Helen Jones	91	Andrew Griffiths	124
Larry Monk	26	Teresa Jenkins	59	Pauline Evans	92		125
Christine Walton	27	James Evans	60	Francis Rowles	93	Denny Harris	126
Sylvia Helliwell	28	Dorothy Schofield	61	Rob Lacey	94	Ben & Elliott Turner	127
Gordon Helliwell	29		62	David Williams, RFS Redwoods'	95	Jackie Rickards	128
	30	Jenny Sanders	63	Julie Lacey	96	Linda Rogers, 3 Poplar Drive	129
Paul Alexander	31	David Sanders	64	Jackie Johnston	97	Margaret Benbow	130
Robert Richards	32	Wendy Jones	65	Karen Jones	98		
Rob Davies	33	Iris Pinchen	66	Edward Griffiths	99		



THE NEW SUPER HERO — unveiling Banksy's gift to Southampton General Hospital. Staff were delighted with the tribute and artwork for the wall. One doctor commented that even the face mask had been drawn in exactly the correct position. In the autumn it will be auctioned to raise money for the NHS.

100 CLUB

FOUR MONTHS RESULTS



MARCH

Sarah Bowyer £35 No 5
Jackie Johnston £25 No 97

APRIL

Lee Alison £35 No 4
Joyce Thomas £25 No 112

MAY

Terry Walton £35 No 39
David Haws £25 No 21

JUNE

Catherine Williams £35 No 7
Tony & Jane Walton £25 No 71

As we have not had any social events for the draw to take place, the numbers were picked by Mrs June Williams on Sunday 3rd May 2020

(
 There are still numbers available to purchase; it is not too late to join our monthly draw. Anyone interested, please contact Chris on **01938 552 833**

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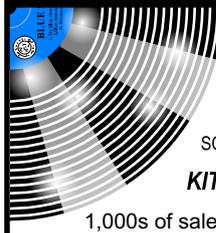
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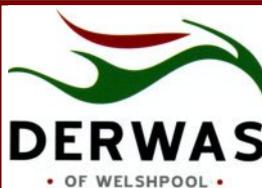
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FORDEN with LEIGHTON & TRELYSTAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Forden with Leighton & Trelystan Community Council represents three villages in Powys, Mid Wales. The Council consists of 10 volunteer elected and/or co-opted councillors and meetings are usually held on the last Thursday of each month. Please have a look at the Diary page for specific dates and venues of meetings as the Council attempts to hold meetings in both the Forden and Trelystan (which includes Leighton) Wards throughout the year. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings although they must not take part in the meeting unless specifically asked to do so by the Chair.

The main purpose of the Community Council is to represent the interests of the community and various topics are discussed at Council meetings ranging from planning applications, organisation and maintenance of sports and recreational facilities, highway and many other issues.

www.fordenwithleightonandtrelystancc.co.uk

Forden Community Council email: clerk.flt@gmail.com

The next issue will be for **SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2020**. You can send us announcements etc. as soon as you know about any future events. The deadline for the next issue is: **Monday 17th August 2020**

David Holloway tel: 01938 570 675 email: news@long-mountain.co.uk