

ST HILARY NEWS

NEWS, VIEWS AND WHAT'S GOING ON IN ST HILARY



WELCOME

Wow – what an amazing time we enjoyed during the dark final months of 2021! There was so much going on and we have so much more to look forward to in 2022.

NSPCC WALK FOR CHILDREN

Many thanks to all who supported the NSPCC Committee to raise a FANTASTIC £949 for Welsh children in need.



The Bush provided delicious breakfast rolls and hot drinks, and the pupils from Cowbridge Comprehensive Brass

Group were brilliant, taking requests for Christmas carols. CP

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANOR HOUSE

“Thank you very much to the children of St Hilary for the thoughtful Christmas Cards we received at The Manor House. They are displayed for all to see in our dining room and have been the topic of conversation today between our residents. Merry Christmas from all at The Manor House.”

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS 2021

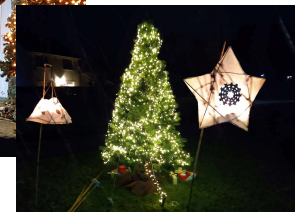
Thank you to everyone who generously supported the 12 Days of Christmas appeal. Your donations of food, new soft toys, crackers, and a wide range of lovely things, to support those in need were delivered to the Vale Food Bank and the Dusty Forge, Ely. Our sharing, along with other community support, helped to bring some Christmas cheer. CN



CAROLS AROUND THE VILLAGE



Another lovely festive evening of carols to round off the Winter's



Eve celebrations. And what fabulous lanterns!

BUSH INN CHRISTMAS MEAL

Around 40 villagers gathered at the Bush Inn for the annual Christmas meal. Whilst there was no singing (due to COVID), there was much conversation and hilarity. Thank you to Liz, Andy and the staff.



ST HILARY NEWS - HAVE YOUR SAY

If you have any items for publication in the next edition including any **Green Tips**, please call Liz Loch on 07747 688219, write to Glebe Farm, St Hilary, CF71 7DP or email them to lizloch@outlook.com.



Well that was a Winter's Eve weekend to remember:

- the switching on the village Christmas lights was wonderful
- a lovely and moving harp and flute concert with Marged and Chloe



- fantastic children's activities in the marquee, including Dolly the Sheep
- a successful Forager's Mini Produce Market which raised £200 for Caerau and Ely Foodbank
- an intergenerational and eclectic mix of entertaining performances by villagers
- a great set by the Adam Rosser Band

And, of course, the magic and wonder of the visit of Santa's sleigh with around 50 children (and many more adults) experiencing the excitement and joy of seeing Father Christmas and his elves. TD



MARQUEE ON THE GREEN

A mad dash up the M4 for the evening's activities meant we missed the Foragers mini market and Father Christmas's visit to the village, but we were not disappointed by the wide variety of villagers joining in with the evenings activities and showing how creative they were. From Terry's opening soliloquy, we then enjoyed the youngsters with their version of Christmas, a musical rendition and poems and readings in both languages, some winter limericks from Iolo, a very alternative version of the twelve days of Christmas from Tim and Caroline before the major star of the evening, Bill Clay getting the whole tent singing Henry VIII before duetting with Gill for the finale.

This was followed by some friends of the village playing a small seven set of songs (they didn't know any others) in their very first gig, who were very good and lots of fun. Dancing was supplied by the very small members of the village Was it worth the breakneck trip up the M4 to see the village come together in a relaxed happy event? Too right it was. Can't wait for next year.

Many thanks to all those involved in making it happen and for the village hall for the use of the marquee and for Charlie for supplying the electricity free of charge (and him an accountant too). **John Davies**

In Terry's words "I know that many villagers and their friends and families have enjoyed the participation and interaction in the village over the last two weeks – whether it was the pleasure of seeing the look of excitement and joy on the faces

of the children of the village when Santa Claus flew in on his sleigh, or the joy of experiencing live music for the first time in over two years.”



St Hilary's Celebration of Winter's Eve

Here is Terry's round up:

Over £800 has been donated through the GoFundMe page. In addition, £125 was raised from the Mini Forager's Produce Market and we received £500 from Magic Little Grants. There were also many donations in kind and in time. Thank you to everybody who has contributed – Winter's Eve would not have been possible without your support.

The bulk of the funds have gone to the 9 performers who provided some great entertainment – Harp and Flute Recital, Adam Rosser Band and Carols Round the Village. Other bulky expenditure included heating and lighting the marquee and replacing some of the Christmas lights. Donations also helped to fund the children's mini party on the day of the Festive Trail and the hire of the village hall and chairs for that event and for the Festival of Winter's Eve. In addition, a contribution has been made to the Forum's marquee replacement fund. There was also expenditure on goodies for the children including bell wrist bands, mulled wine for the adults and mince pies for everybody.

Currently, Winter's Eve has broken even – but it would be good if we can top it up just a little bit more. Plans include:

- Covering the costs of the annual village insurance. (In addition to providing cover for erecting the marquee and putting up the village Christmas lights the policy provides on-going cover for litter picking, telephone box collections and other projects).
- Renewing some of the lights – in particular the icicle lights round the village hall need replacing (they only have one mode, which is continual flashing!!)
- Having a little bit in reserve for projects in 2022. For example, easter eggs were given to all the children in the village from the funds from Winter's Eve 2020.

Winter's Eve Unsung Hero Award

One person in particular put in a terrific effort behind the scenes. In May he researched and identified a marquee suitable for the village. He led the marquee assembly and dismantling teams for the Village Lunch, Foraging Market and Winter's Eve (taking down the marquee after Winter's Eve was a very wet affair!) He investigated the best options for the festoon lighting for the marquee and along the church wall, and instigated the system of posts and wiring for the church wall lights (as well as getting power back to the church shed). In addition to all this, he designed the Children's Festive Trail with Jayne and had wonderful lights around his house for St Hilary's Trail of Festive Homes.

The Winter's Eve 2021 unsung hero is **Neil Warnock**.

OTHER NEWS

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The village hall is undergoing building works. A full programme of regular classes will return soon. For more information, please contact Ewa Thomas at ewathomas@btinternet.com or 01446 771728.

LLANFAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Llanfair Community Council will be holding their next meeting on Thursday February 3rd at 7pm. For more information visit their website <https://www.llanfaircommunitycouncil.gov.uk/>.

GREENING THE COMMUNITY

Following on from the inaugural meeting in November villagers have been looking into various initiatives. A further meeting will be held later in February to decide the direction and aims of the group.

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations will take place over the long weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. Having met last summer, there will be a second meeting in February to share ideas and develop village plans.

TREE PLANTING AT COED

COED TREE PLANTING WEEKENDS
in St Hilary

22nd & 23rd January
12th & 13th February
19th & 20th February
18th & 19th March –
Equinox planting with Earth Star Community

Join the community in planting fruit trees, native trees, hedges, and ornamentals for biodiversity, resilience and posterity. Help make the world a greener place! Free lunch provided in exchange.

Contact Stephen on 07507578885 if you would like to get involved.
For more info go to - [Ediculture.org/treeplanting](https://www.ediculture.org/treeplanting)

Instagram icon | Facebook icon

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Next in the Telephone Box - look out for a Chinese New Year display and fortune cookies for all over the weekend of February 4th - 6th. Do you know what the animal associated with this New Year is? **CN**

3CS

The 3Cs group will next meet on Wednesday February 2nd at 10am outside the village hall. If you are interested in joining, please contact info@sthilary.org.uk.

ST HILARY CHURCH

The long-awaited repairs to the church tower, which was becoming structurally unsafe, have begun and scaffolding has been erected. Without these repairs the church and churchyard would have had to close because of the danger of falling masonry.

The work will include repairs/renewal of lead work, repointing, rendering and lime wash of the parapet, repairs to fractured and loose parapet corbels, and, installation of new internal walkways. It is expected that the repairs and upgrade will take at least 8 weeks. The total net cost is £110,000.

Members of the church committee have been fundraising for some time to carry out these essential repairs and the congregation and villagers have raised £20,000 to date.

In addition, a group working behind the scenes has successfully applied for grants from Garfield Weston Foundation, CADW, James

Pantfyedwyn Foundation, Allchurches Trust, Hedley Trust, Welsh Church Act Fund and The Diocese of Llandaff. The fees from the BBC for filming recently have also been added to the pot. There is still a shortfall of £17,000 which the Rectorial Benefice of Cowbridge has agreed to cover with a loan. This will have to be repaid over time and the church committee are hoping to organise events to help cover this. **TD**



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