

Secretary's report 2012

Three sub-groups were established during the year; History and Heritage, the Cilycwm Website and the Ysgoldy Fach restoration proposal.

The Reverend Wendy Foulgar led the group looking into the possibility of restoring Ysgoldy Fach for general community use. However, as Wendy has since resigned through ill-health and left the village, I have included the outcome of the group's findings in this report.

The initial remit of restoring Ysgoldy Fach, to provide and support a community space, developed into a much larger proposal including the development of the south aisle of the Church itself. The Church informed the group that any structural changes to a Grade I listed Church building required the setting up of a 'faculty' to consider and approve any changes to the building. A 'faculty' group would require a fully costed business plan supported by designs drawn up by an approved architect, one well versed in working with Grade I listed buildings. A major undertaking such as this was felt by the group to require the backing of a majority of local residents and to this end a questionnaire was developed to try to obtain the residents views on possible options for developing a community space.

Using this opportunity to gain residents views on a range of issues, the questionnaire was broadened to include questions on:

- the Cilycwm Community Association
- the Cilycwm website
- the need for a community building for Cilycwm
- the support for an application for grant aid to develop and use the Church and/or Ysgoldy Fach as a community centre.

From the 130 copies of the questionnaire distributed by the postman to Cilycwm households we recorded a 28% response rate. The responses were collated and published on the website, but as there was no clear mandate to move ahead with a community centre the sub-group took no further action. A summary of the responses was published on the website.

Other issues raised during the year included discussion on the building plot for sale in the village. It was suggested that if sufficient money was promised from individuals and organisations such as the Cilycwm Community Association, an application could be made for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to purchase and manage the land on behalf and for the benefit of the village. To date no further action has been taken.

Thelma Stenning

Website report 2012

Your hardworking website sub-committee met a few weeks ago to discuss what we were doing right and what we could do better. Obviously we all congratulated each other on what a marvellous job we were doing but we did find a few areas that could be improved.

We decided the home page text needed updating so Richard has written new working and had a translation done so that is now on the Home page. We have added Welsh translations as we go along so most pages and menus are dual language.

On the menus – visitors didn't realise that each heading was also a link to a page so we have duplicated the heading as the top item in the menu.

It wasn't obvious where the various types of visitors should leave comments – so we have tried to guide them by putting in more links and email addresses. We have also moved the comments that were in the wrong place to an Archive page and removed the Comment facility from some pages.

We seemed to get a lot of enquiries from people researching their Family History so we now have a specific form for those enquirers.

It's a small thing but the Comment forms were all headed Submit a Reply – they are now headed Comments.

The website committee gave permission for special pages for the Upper Tywi Valley History Group – so they now have their own sub-menus and are using the website storage space for shared files – we are currently using 595mb of our 50,000mb so we aren't going to run out. If it is acceptable to this committee they would like to run a separate website within this space which would hold the Field names data – it will not affect the Cilycwm.com site in any way but would help to keep their pages separate and it would mean they wouldn't come asking for additional funds.

We knew how many visitors we were getting but it was a very involved route – in the first year we had apparently 120,000 visitors. Not very likely. This will include every robot and email fisher visiting the site. So we have added a counter at the bottom of the pages. It is very subtle, just a plain number. It currently shows just over 12,000 – also not very likely. Within the Admin area we can see far more detail of who is visiting and here are two printouts – one show the country of origin of the visitor and the other shows the search terms that brought them to the site. If we accept that our main visito4rs will be from the UK we can see that we had just over 1,000 visitors in about a month. The most frequent search term was Cilycwm. So that's all good.

Just before I finish could I just mention the heater images – Dick is doing a marvellous job of keeping the images fresh and relevant – and I think he deserves a special round of applause.

Chris Robertson.

Broadband Project

Carmarthenshire community broadband partnership (ccbp) is hoping to have an agreement with ResQ and all other parties in January where the average speed will be increased from 4.5mb to around 10mb. After this the project will be drawn to a close.

Dafydd Tomos.