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www.solva.gov.wales

December 2020 No. 142

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Breaking News - Santa on his Sleigh! - Great news - we (SCC) have heard that Santa will be coming to Solva on his sleigh sometime around the 18 Dec, to be confirmed.

Watch out for posters and Face book for details. This will hopefully coincide with a children's party which we intend to run.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



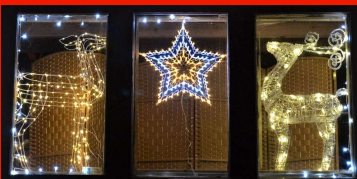
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Christmas cards and Markets
RNLI and Shalom Christmas cards are for sale at Oriol y Parc with Shalom cards also at their shop and Mathias Hardware. There will be four December "pop up" markets of local crafts, out of doors, in Oriol y Parc courtyard on the 5, 6, 12 & 13 Dec from 10am - 1pm.



Toys and Tins and Things

The success of Tinny Tuesday is spreading! Mumbles in the Gower started Food Hub Friday inspired by Solva's efforts. As we run up to Christmas we are also hoping to include toys and advent calendars in the food parcels that are delivered out of St Davids to the surrounding area including Solva. If you would like to donate toys with your tins then either leave them out on Tuesday before 5.00 pm or put them in the box located in the Memorial Hall doorway. We hope to gather toys, and perhaps jigsaws or things more suitable for teenagers, so if you have any spare please donate them so that the younger members of the north peninsula community will get a pleasant surprise this Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has supported Tinny Tuesday this year; it has provided invaluable support to those in need, and thanks to those who have donated advent calendars.



Solva Advent Calendar Windows

We are planning an event in Parc y Capel in the week commencing Monday 14 December, weather permitting. The idea is for people to walk around and have a look at some of the windows and then come to the Green for a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. We are hoping to have some sort of entertainment too, if possible, although the school children are not able to sing around the tree this year.

We are aiming towards the end of the week but it will depend on the weather. Keep an eye out for posters or call Solva Care on 07805 717556 for more information.



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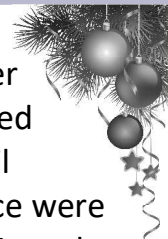
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Solva WI

Both the WI committee and main meetings took place via Zoom. November should have been our Annual Meeting but instead members were canvassed and following 19 positive returns the existing officers will stay in place until

November 2021. Two committee members who have "retired" after many years of service were thanked for all their work. The dates for the Book Club and the Walking Group were confirmed. It is hoped that the tree planting will take place soon. The proforma for the 2021 Programme will be prepared so that they can be filled in as and when we are able to book speakers.

The defibrillators are checked regularly and one of the cabinets will be replaced and may be re-sited to a more prominent position. The thought-provoking talk on "Saving Face in China" was given by Richard Becket who has visited there as a Rolls Royce engineer and consultant for the last 43 years. It is hoped that as long as restrictions are easing we will hold the December meeting and Christmas Tea on Thursday 10 December in the Hall following the guidelines. Watch this space!



Solva New Years Day Treasure Hunt 2021

As a result of the current Covid restrictions and difficulty of social distancing, especially at the results stage. The committee has decided, after many discussions, not to hold this year's event. We're really sorry, but wish everybody a Happy Christmas and better New Year.



Parc y Capel Carols

Regretfully the Parc y Capel committee are unable to hold the Christmas Carol event this year. However, lights will be placed on the tree in Parc y Capel during the second week of December and we hope they will bring some cheer to all.



Solva Woollen Mill

Sadly, another casualty of 2020 will be the lovely Christmas Fair at Solva Woollen Mill. But, the Mill at Middle Mill is open Monday - Friday and their shop in St Davids is open 7 days a week.

The Bug Farm - Our online shop features local and handmade goodies. Each purchase will be supporting a small business, plus there's our Grub Kitchen food at www.thebugfarm.co.uk/shop.

In need of a bit of exercise?

Table Tennis has restarted in Solva Memorial Hall and for 2 hours you can ping and pong to your heart's content. Social distancing is not a problem as a standard table tennis table is 9ft in length, and the Hall has two of them! Meetings take place in the Hall on a Tuesday afternoon from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Contact Dave Perry on 07891 624220.



The new bridge over the River Solfach

Additional safety precautions have been put in place on the bridge with wooden battens affixed along its length at knee level. This will, hopefully, ensure excitable youngsters (possible playing Pooh sticks) don't fall through the railings and have an early bath! Many thanks go to our local Park Ranger Ian Meopham for organising and carrying out the installation.



Solva WI welcomes new members and visitors. We meet via ZOOM at present, but hope to back in Solva Memorial Hall very soon.
Contact Kathryn:
01437 721283

Solva Cinema - The next screening will be "Last Christmas" (12A) on Thursday 10 Dec at 7.30 pm. There will be mulled wine and mince pies too. We are limited to 15 people (not including helpers) in the hall, but planning a second screening on Saturday 12 Dec at 3.30 pm. Please pre-book tickets with Lena on 07805 717556, wear a mask and please bring even money if you can!



DO YOUR BIT TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

Everyone in Pembrokeshire is being urged to think about what they should do, rather than what they can do in the effort to prevent the spread of coronavirus. That's the message from Pembrokeshire County Council and the Welsh Government as the county looks to build on the "firebreak" lock down in slowing down the number of infections. The seven day rolling average (Nov 9 - 15) showed an infection rate of 58 per 100,000 people in Pembrokeshire.

With businesses re-opening and restrictions easing slightly, authorities are underlining that it is up to each and every one of us to take decisions that help keep us safe, particularly in the run up to Christmas. Under the post firebreak restrictions, up to four people can meet outdoors and in regulated indoor places such as cafes and restaurants. Authorities are emphasising that four should not be a target and minimising contact with other people remains the best way to stop the spread of the virus. Pembrokeshire County Council Leader, Cllr David Simpson, said: "Everyone has worked so hard and given up so much this year in an effort to suppress the virus and Pembrokeshire has, thankfully, not seen the levels of infection that other areas in Wales have suffered.

"It is important we keep up the momentum post-firebreak and not let all this hard work and sacrifice go to waste." Cllr Simpson added: "This virus thrives on human contact. The fewer places we go and the fewer people we meet, the lower the risk of us catching or spreading Covid-19."

Information and frequently asked questions at: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>



Shalom House

The house reopened to its patients on Tuesday 10 November, with limited numbers. This was a decision fully supported by Public Health Wales. While Shalom House has been closed the staff has maintained regular contact with patients, providing support and home visits when needed. Measures have been taken to ensure a safe reopening for patients and compliance with Infection Control to provide a sterile environment, including installing new wipeable recliner chairs, washable flooring and PVC screens. Computer tablets have been set up which can be used by patients and we have also installed a new hydrotherapy bath and therapy room. Shalom House has also established a Bereavement Counsellor for carers to have the opportunity to talk to. We will be entering the St Davids Christmas tree competition and our tree will be on display in our shop window in St Davids.

The Christmas raffle will be announced on Monday 23 November and tickets can be purchased through our shops, the website and through our Facebook page. There are some great prizes to be won so make sure you stock up on tickets.

The Shalom team would like to take the opportunity to thank the local community and businesses for their continued support.



Solva Christmas Shopping

Christmas Shopping Evening Thursday 3 December. Window on Wales will open 5pm to 7pm. Sadly, due to the masks, we can't offer mulled wine, but we will have special offers and money back vouchers. Forward planning is a bit tricky, but we may well have local stalls to add to the festive feel. Solva businesses really appreciate your support, thank you.



Icy delights - Pointz Castle Ice Cream is busy getting ready for the festive season.

The ice cream parlour/shop is open Wednesday to Sunday (11 am - 4:30 pm) for ice creams, hot drinks and cakes. The outdoor seating area is now covered by a marquee, so you can enjoy your ice creams and hot drinks outdoors but protected from the elements. We also have a selection of gifts and treats in the shop, perfect for stocking fillers or hampers.

The scrummy Christmas ice cream flavours will be available very soon.





Solva Community Council

SCC, during the current pandemic emergency, is meeting twice per month via Zoom to ensure community needs are met. Invitations to members of the local community will be available on Facebook. Members of the local community wishing to raise issues, can contact SCC Clerk Bruce Payne on 07890 987259.



Solva Community Land Trust

A hugely successful general meeting has taken place which involved people from all over the electoral area of Solva and Brawdy. It happened online of course but that did not deter nearly 40 people joining in the Zoom event. Josh Phillips steered the meeting in his role as chair, no mean accomplishment given its digital nature. The meeting brought everyone up to date with progress on the CLT and outlined the challenges ahead.



Main accomplishments so far have been clearing numerous bureaucratic hurdles - securing £3m in funding, agreeing an allocations policy, moving towards acceptable lease terms and ensuring that properties will be for rent and remain in the ownership of the community. Josh thanked the existing Board for their work under the leadership of Sue Denman, who has retired from her role. A new Board was elected to take forward the project and inject new vigour and enthusiasm as we enter the next phase when this exciting project will be realised.

This project has caught the attention of ministers in the Welsh Government and is another chance to thrust the community of Solva onto the national stage, but more than that, it gives us the opportunity to create affordable housing to help sustain our community.

Solva Tree Planting

The 420 trees that Solva Community council applied for, from the Woodland Trust, have now arrived and are ready to plant! The majority of them will go in and around Lyn's Path, the area of hillside just outside Lower Solva opposite the new footbridge. The planting date has yet to be decided as the area has only just started to be re-strimmed.

A few quick things to mention:

- The hillside is quite steep and only really suitable for the sure of foot.
- Covid 19 issues have been considered. It's OK for the event to go ahead and masks aren't obligatory, as it's outside but there'll be social distancing measures, obviously.
- Hand liquid and wipes will be available.



Planting will probably take place over a number of days, likely to be at weekends.

Children are welcome, but it's not really suitable for very small children and all those under 16 would need to be accompanied by an adult. Further detail will be sent via email regarding tools, clothing, dates etc to all those who'd like to help. Please message vkbarker39@yahoo.co.uk

Festival of Ideas

The St Davids Festival of Ideas has been reinvigorated and will take place on line over the weekend of 12/13 March 2021. Some interesting new connections have been made; did you know for example that Jesus College Oxford has strong connections with St Davids in particular and Wales in general? We intend to partner with the college at our up and coming event. We also have local speakers such as the Dean of the Cathedral, Dr Sarah Beynon of the Bug Farm and Mollie Roach, of Solva Care. We would, of course, have preferred the event to have taken place in a real setting but the advantage of an online event is that distance is no object and we have the opportunity to attract figures with a national profile. The website is now up and running and will be continued to be populated as we run up to the event. Although it is badged as a St Davids event, key players in the organisation are from Solva so we have a vested interest in making this unique event a success. Tickets will be free, but if you want to donate anything to the Festival you can do this at:





SOLVA CARE CHARITY - Registered Charity number: 1172873

Lena Dixon, Coordinator: 07805 717556,

Lesley Robertson-Steel, Project Officer: 07722 091664

Email: contact@solvacare.co.uk



Message from Solva Care

Solva Care is supporting, not just older people, but anyone who needs a bit of help. Our volunteers are keen to help - and if we can't, we know someone who can - contact Lena Dixon: 07805 717556.

St Davids Food Hub Christmas boxes

Solva Care is delighted to be able to support the Food Hub with some of the contents of the Christmas boxes going out on 23 December to households in the St Davids and Solva area. There will be a Christmas dinner, toys, crackers, chocolates and other treats.

Point Counselling

Point in Fishguard has started a young people's professional counselling service. This is available to all young people who live in or close to the North Pembrokeshire area who are between the ages of 10 - 25 years of age. They also have a befriending/mentoring service where young people can have support from an older member of the community who has been trained to become a mentor and can provide long term support with a young person's emotional and mental health and support with life skills, hobbies etc. If you would like more information or are interested in mentor training, please contact Lynda Duffill at lyndaduffill@pointypt.org.uk or phone 01348 871887.



They are also planning to set up some group support sessions "Mind Matters" for young people with low level mental health issues who may benefit from a safe, confidential group environment where they can explore resilience and coping abilities via fun interactive games and theatre forum techniques.

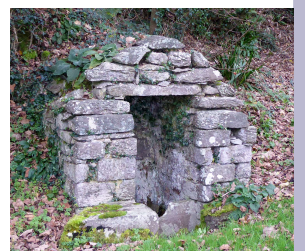
Fish & Chips – take away

Solva Luncheon Club and Solva Care co-ordinated a fish and chip take away for their members and these were delivered by local volunteers. The supper, cooked by Richard Davies from Whitesands Beach Cafe, was received with welcoming smiley faces making it a worthwhile and rewarding service, amalgamating enterprising business and charitable organisations of Solva Community. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from everyone at Solva Care!

Friday Club - Walk from 9 Wells

Carol and Sandra's PowerPoint presentation on the walk from Nine Wells to Trelerw highlighted some fascinating insights of our coastline. Images of old mills at Porty y Rhaw, leats and water wheels, remnants of the sewage works and the famous fossil found by Salter in 1862, all provided knowledge and understanding of major events and activities. Thanks to Richard Pascoe and Elizabeth Daniels for the information and images.

An ariel picture of Nine Wells Iron-Age fort was discussed and an image of a rock carving featuring a mother and baby elephant surprised everyone, especially those who had walked this stretch but never noticed them. Further along were the "smugglers steps" and excerpts were read from "Forgotten Mines" by Peter R. S Davies to accompany the images. The Solva end of FFos y Mynach (Monk's Dyke) was also viewed. The dyke was thought to have been devised to allow separation between lands owned by the Cathedral and the rest of the peninsular. A very enjoyable afternoon was rounded off with chocolate brownies, provided by Kat, and a lovely session of Qi Gong with Rhys.



St Davids Connection

We held our first outdoor workshops in November with the children from Non campus and with the support of Ian Meopham from PCNP and volunteer Ellie Sherwin. After river dipping and nature scavenging for leaves, twigs and seeds, the children used these to make outdoor art in the school woodland area. They listened to poems from "The Lost Words" book and painted letters with inks made from oak galls and brambles. Photographs of the children's artwork will form part of our gallery trail in Solva and St Davids next year.

We are holding our next workshop for all ages in the Clubhouse in Solva on Wednesday 9 December from 10-12. Please join us for a few hours of nature art and making and time to discuss ideas for developing a permanent outdoor nature and art trail for St Davids Peninsula. We are also interested in hearing from anyone who would like to be interviewed for our "Lost Stories" project. Please get in touch to book your place on the workshop or to be interviewed. Amanda Stone (Solva) 07830 347639 or stone.amanda5@gmail.com
Becky Lloyd (St Davids) 07788 633719 beckylloydpembs@gmail.com



St Davids & Solva Art Group - Christmas Selling Exhibition

We are delighted to be able to show our work to a wider audience online - please take a look at our Christmas Exhibition, which opened on Saturday 14 Nov and will close on Saturday 12 Dec - so still time to purchase, wrap and post a unique present. Please visit: <https://www.stdavidsartgroup.co.uk>.



Clubhouse

Great news for Solva. Charity status has been achieved for the Clubhouse, formerly known as the AFC Clubhouse. This means that we will not be liable for rates, nearly £4000 for annum, and clears the way to purchase the building from PCC for the community. We now, with the Memorial Hall, have two great venues for conducting community events. both are Covid compliant so get your activities going! Bethany Hutson has started new sessions for yoga at the Clubhouse as an example of one more event you can take part in during the winter evenings. If you are thinking of running a class or activity get in touch with David Swan 07943 175485 for the Memorial Hall or Bruce Payne 07890 987259 for the Clubhouse.

Have you any polystyrene boxes for seafood? - Jono of Solva Seafoods is still looking for polystyrene boxes which are in very short supply and difficult to source, any offers gratefully received. Jono is willing to collect. Contact jono@solva.co.uk



St Davids Sports Hall - The facility has opened for two clubs - table tennis and badminton. In addition, our doors are open for the fitness suite and classes between 1600-2100 hrs. Book through our app or <https://pembrokeshireleisure.co.uk/st-davids-sports-hall/> or 01437 775506.

Solva Wild Walks Report - Solva-Trecadwgan-Middle Mill-Solva

We started at the Lime Kilns in Lower Solva and discussed their history and our recent sightings of Dippers and Otter Spraint! In Prendergast woods we took the path to the ancient manorial Trecadwgan, that once included Solva corn mill and 600 acres of land with six houses. Once over the stile and on the road to Middle Mill there were many interesting views and we stopped briefly at Glynyspyty, that had been visited by pilgrims on their way to St Davids Cathedral. Middle Mill provided the rich site of an old well, the old Llanunwas Arms pub and a plaque depicting the place where the mail was collected by pony. We also discovered (to be confirmed) the baptismal font belonging to the Chapel, alongside the old Corn Mill. Returning to Solva we looked for the ruins of another mill. It was a very enjoyable way to finish the lock down firebreak. To join the group contact

Blood donors needed - Give an extra special gift this Christmas, donate blood.

If you are fit and well, please book to donate at:

Haverfordwest Rugby Club on 3 & 4 December from 11:00-13:30 & 15:00-19:00 hrs.

By appointment only. The Rugby Club is in Pembroke Road, Haverfordwest SA61 1LY and is the nearest donation hub for the people of Solva. Book your appointment on the website <https://wbs.wales/SolvaNews>. New donors are always welcome.

To check eligibility and register, please visit: <https://www.welsh-blood.org.uk/>



Solva Harbour Society

The toilets on Trinity Quay are now closed until next year, the re-opening date TBA

- New CCTV is now up and running on Trinity Quay.
- Our Clerk, Nicola Evans is operating from the SHS Ltd office in the Clubhouse on Wednesdays.



A look back at our history

Here's another little historical article, in keeping this time with Christmas, from

"The Welshman" Newspaper
dated 1st Jan 1841.



On Christmas-day, H. R. M. Yeates, Esq., of Castle Terrace, Solva, distributed five pounds' worth of excellent beef, and five pounds' worth of barley, amongst the poor inhabitants of the town of Solva and its vicinity. The beef was divided between them by Mr. J. Howell, of the Cambrian Inn, and the barley by Mr. J. Williams, of the Ship Inn. The same gentleman also gave away five pounds' worth of barley a few months ago to the poor.

Basalt & Dune - we're taking part in the St Davids Christmas Shopping Evening on Friday 11 Dec. Shops will be open into the evening; we will be open until 8pm. Further info: @basaltdune or Facebook: Basalt & Dune Homestore.



Solva Gin company

Throughout December Solva Gin co will be running an offer on their fantastic spirits - Solva Gin & Solva Rum. You can get an individual bottle of Solva Gin or Rum for £30.00, or buy both for just £55.00! Get in touch via facebook or buy direct through our website. A small shipping fee will be charged for postage.

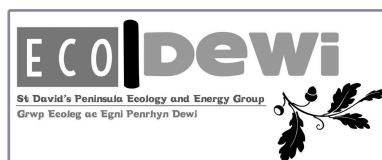
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EcoDewi

There's a new group in town who is putting community and caring for our local natural environment together. EcoDewi officially formed at the start of 2020, following the cross-county Local Energy Action Force (LEAF)

project, and is now fully focused on how it can support communities across the St. Davids Peninsula with environmental projects. The LEAF project is all about locally owned and produced sustainable energy and EcoDewi has already begun work on a small solar array project. The goal is to connect the site to the local grid and have the energy available for the community to use through a Local Energy club. We are very conscious that much of this is focused in St. Davids, so we are keen to look at projects elsewhere such as Solva. Would you like to see a Plastic Free Solva for example? Is there a green space that we could help re-wild for you? Or if you know of some land in the Solva area which could be used/leased for a LEAF project? Maybe you want to see more recycling options but need a little support? We're open to ideas, so do get in contact by emailing hello@ecodewi.org.uk with suggestions and if you'd like to be involved.



MERRY CHRISTMAS MERRY CHRISTMAS

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