



CRWYS NEWS

The Newsletter of Three Crosses Community Council

Issue 37: June, July, August, September 2022

SPRING INTO SUMMER IN THREE CROSSES!



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THREE CROSSES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Dear resident,

Now that the dust has settled following the local council elections, your councillors can get back to work to further improve this fantastic community that is Three Crosses.

First of all, I must say a huge thank you to everyone for re-electing me as your City Councillor for the fourth time. I was first elected in 2004, and it has been my honour and privilege to represent you and work for the benefit of all in Fairwood.

In respect of the community council, we had hoped that some of you would stand to become community councillors in May. Although we took the opportunity on a number of occasions to explain the process whereby you could become a councillor, in the end there were only four nominations. I am delighted to be re-joined on the community council by Cllrs. Debbie Male, Annie Gallagher and Warren Smart. Consequently, we now have three councillor vacancies to fill to bring us up to the correct number. The appropriate councillor vacancy advert is in this newsletter and they will also be advertised using other media.

As normality resumes, I am delighted that we can, at last, have the opportunity to enjoy the school fete day and evening hog roast. This has become a real Three Crosses tradition and is a major opportunity to bring residents together. The school fete day

is an important fundraiser for the PTA, whilst the evening hog roast is always well attended by residents.



Looking back at the last Community Council five year term, I think that the main highlights have to be the way the community pulled together to provide support for vulnerable residents at the start of the pandemic and during the various lockdowns; the refurbishment of the children's play area; and the protection of the land between the bottom of Pant-y-Dwr and Chapel Road from development via its official designation as a Village Green.

As we put plans in place for the next five years, we will keep you informed. We always welcome any suggestions or comments that you would like to make, either in writing or electronically.

Additionally, if you want to speak to us, you are welcome to attend any of our monthly meetings and give us your views.

Our role is to enhance your quality of life and, with your help, we will continue to work to that end.

Pwllter Hood-Williams

Front page photo credit: Annie Gallagher

FROM YOUR NEW CRWYS NEWS EDITOR...

Don't forget to sign up for our e-updates if you haven't already. Crwys News is only published 3 times per year, so e-updates are your chance to find out about things earlier. We already have 55 subscribers, which is a great response. Non- villagers can subscribe too, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Lindsay



<http://eepurl.com/hOE0tD>

THREE CROSSES COMMUNITY COUNCIL HAS A NEW CLERK!

Welcome to Joanne Fitton, our new Council Clerk!

We had a great response to our latest round of advertising for the position of Clerk, with six applicants coming forward. The candidates had a broad range of backgrounds, and several had previous community council or clerk backgrounds, so the choice was difficult and we want to thank everyone who applied.

Joanne Fitton, from Duvant, is also a Killay Community Councillor and is familiar with council procedures.

We will feature a Q&A with Joanne in the autumn issue of Crwys News, so keep an eye out.

Joanne starts her post on June 1st 2022. We hope that many of you will have a chance to meet her in the next few months, including at the 'Saturday Night On the Banc' event.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Cllr Warren Smart who has been acting clerk since the beginning of March. All of the councillors are grateful to Warren for covering this role for three months and keeping the Council running.

...BUT WE DO NEED MORE COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS!

As Paxton mentions in his update, we need more residents to stand as community councillors. We currently have three vacancies. If you are interested in volunteering as a community councillor for as little as 1-2 hours per month (attending the monthly meeting), please contact the Council Clerk by phone or e-mail ASAP. We can co-opt councillors at any meeting. We would love to have more of you join us!

Contact: Council clerk Joanne Fitton, 07907 737211, crwyscc@gmail.com

SATURDAY NIGHT ON THE BANC



Saturday
16th July 2022
7.00pm - 11.00pm

Tickets on
SALE
NOW

MUSIC

**Band: Four Fold
followed by DJ**

AVAILABLE FOR SALE SEPARATELY:

- Drinks from the BAR
(alcoholic and non-alcoholic)
- BBQ items

TICKETS: Adult Ticket: £5.00
(£7.00 on the door) - HOG ROAST included

Child Ticket (age 2- 16): £1.00
(food not included)

Tickets available from: • Three Crosses village shop during shop opening hours
• Lindsay Glover @ 22 Joiners Rd- (6 - 9pm and weekends only) • Any councillor

Sponsored by Three Crosses Community Council

THE PTA SCHOOL FETE IS BACK!



Saturday 16th July 2022

12 - 3.00pm

POLICE • ICE CREAM VAN • FOOD STALLS

COMPETITONS • RAFFLE

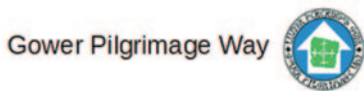
GAMES • ENTERTAINMENT

VENDOR STALLS

(including Gower free range eggs!)

**Contact carolinelouiseward@outlook.com
if you're interested in having a stall at the Fete!**

GOWER PILGRIMAGE WAY



Llwybr Pererindod Gwyr



May 21st saw the launch of a new family-friendly pilgrimage route which will provide free opportunities to enjoy the beauty of Gower and its historic churches in an environmentally - friendly way.

Adrian Chiles, the television and radio presenter has kindly agreed to act as Patron for the Pilgrimage Way.

A walking and cycling booklet detailing the route will be available free of charge from the churches in Gower and from tourist outlets from May. This will contain a 'Pilgrim Passport' which can be stamped at each church visited along the route, with each stamp having its own unique design.

A children's pilgrimage 'Bear Hunt' will also be available, with a free booklet following Arthur the Bear's travels around the churches in search of the hidden 'teddy' monks and nuns.

The Gower Pilgrimage Festival will take place from 10-18 September, in conjunction with CADW's Open Doors month, with guided walks, pilgrimage-themed services and other events for adults and children in the churches.

For more information try the website www.gowerpilgrimageway.org or FB search Gower Pilgrimage Way.



SPRING NATURE PHOTOS FROM OUR READERS



Photos

(top left and then clockwise):
Laura Rees, Rob Morgan,
Lindsay Glover, Rob Morgan,
Annie Gallagher

VILLAGE WILDLIFE: SUPER STAR(LING)S

Article by Kevin Arbuckle, village resident and Associate Professor in Biosciences at Swansea University

It is easy to mistake the familiar for the uninteresting. Since common starlings can be seen and heard on any walk around the village - I see them every day on the school run down Pant Y Dwr for instance - they are at risk of being dismissed as boring. They are anything but, and even our own village starlings continue to surprise us. Dr Kevin Arbuckle, a zoologist at Swansea University, explains why we should think twice about these birds.

While not as colourful as some of its African relatives, our native starling is no shrinking violet (or green or blue) when the sun shines on its feathers to reveal an iridescent rainbow.

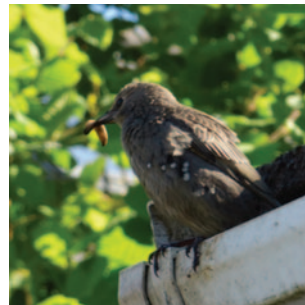
Starlings are found in most open areas, including around towns and cities, and even woodland if open grassland is nearby for finding food. They eat a wide range of foods but mostly insects, fruit and seeds. Starlings are quite innovative and have even learned that front (but not rear) number plates are a good source of freshly killed insects. They are very chatty birds that make a wide range of calls, which they continue to learn throughout their life, and include copying calls from other species - sometimes even including human voices!



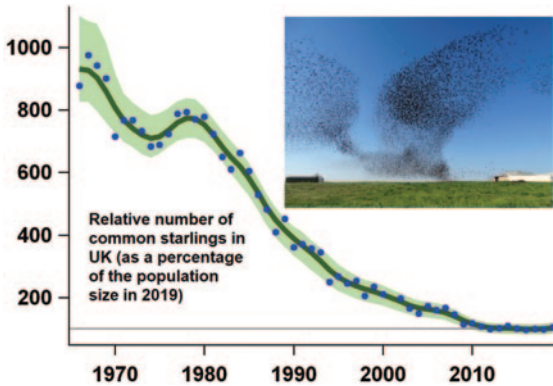
Common starlings lay one or two clutches of 4-6 eggs between March and July; right now you can often hear noisy squabbling from spaces under roofs and fascias as you walk around. Other than buildings and nest boxes, nests are built in holes in trees or cliffs. Both parents incubate the eggs and feed the babies. They also take care to keep the nest clean - the babies even make a little 'bag' for their poo which makes it easy for the parents to remove it and reduce bacterial growth in the nest.

Starlings nest in pairs, often near other pairs, but they aren't always faithful. Some males might be mating with up to 5 females and one female's clutch might have as many as 3 fathers. Because some birds might have their own babies in nearby nests, this can lead to nearby pairs cooperating to chase away predators.

Despite helping each other to defend their nests, common starlings are not known to have helpers who join in with caring for chicks that aren't their own (called 'cooperative breeding' and found in our native long-tailed tits). That is, until Hazel and I noticed something odd in our garden. We watched a juvenile starling helping at a nest in a cavity in the corner of our garage. This young bird (in the photo) was feeding the chicks as much as the parents were! It's unusual to see a brand new behaviour in common British birds, so we wrote a scientific article to show just how awesome the birds in our village are (www.tinyurl.com/crwysbirds).



Aside from the enjoyment we get from watching animals, this shows that taking time to look around us can reveal new things even in well-known species. Sitting on a reclining chair in our garden with sunshine, a cup of tea or beer, camera, and notepad is also the most relaxing fieldwork either of us have ever done! Even without entirely new discoveries, recording what species you find, and where, helps us to understand the distribution of animals, how common they are, and how this might be changing. Recording of species can be done on websites or easy-to-use mobile phone apps like iNaturalist and LERC, and our 5-year-old really enjoys recording his finds. The iNaturalist app even gives suggestions to help identify what you found, so it's great to get started with natural history.



With such a common and familiar bird, it might be surprising that starlings have experienced massive declines, however we have lost ~90% of our starlings since the 1960s. Some of you may remember regularly seeing the spectacular and mesmerising flight displays known as 'murmurations' - like a Northern lights with birds. These used to contain up to a million birds, but are now very rare in the UK. As another

example of their previous abundance, on one occasion in 1949 there were so many starlings resting on the hands of Big Ben that they stopped the clock!

Starlings are a good example of how even familiar and common species may not be common for long if their populations are crashing rapidly. The reasons for the decline of starlings in the UK are complex, but one big contributor is the loss of suitable nesting sites. Old trees, which have natural holes, are often cut down in fear of them falling. Cavities under roof tiles or other spaces in buildings are now more often sealed up. An easy thing to help these charismatic birds is to provide nest sites by, for example, allowing spaces in buildings to remain (where possible), or providing artificial nest boxes for birds, as shown here. Starlings will often use these readily, providing the entrance hole is the right size, which is around 45mm in diameter.



For more information about starlings or British birds in particular, the RSPB <https://www.rspb.org.uk/> is an excellent source. There is also an abundance of affordable field guides on British birds for all levels of experience available. Alternatively, please feel free to get in touch with me at kevin.arbuckle@swansea.ac.uk and I will always be happy to chat about wildlife of all kinds.

CRWYS COMMUNITY WOODLAND SPRING UPDATE - *by Mary Rees*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who work hard to improve and maintain the woodlands to a high standard; I know that the community are grateful to have such a lovely resource in our village.

I am sure many of you have noticed our new gates and fence at the entrance from Tirmynydd Road. These were kindly provided and installed by Simon Phillips of Dukefield Properties and we are very grateful.



Within the woodlands we have created a wildlife wall using wood sourced from felled trees affected by ash dieback.



This wall will mature and soon ferns, mosses and lichen will begin to grow on it, creating a home for many insects.

We are developing a short butterfly walk leading to and from the forest school area. This will have an interpretation panel and the path will be surfaced with chipped bark.

We would like to remind everyone to keep the Woodland clean and tidy so that everyone can enjoy the space. There are bins provided for both rubbish and dog waste- please use these.

If anyone has any suggestions or ideas to improve the woodlands or if anyone is interested in volunteering please contact:

Mary Rees 07977 557039

**Football club looking for
Under 8 players/goalkeepers
(current yr 2, yr 3 from Sept 22)**



Training Fridays 17:30 till 18:30 @ Dukefield

Girls and Boys of all abilities welcome

If interested, please contact

Ben : bldix25@gmail.com

07528041556

WHAT'S ON EVERY WEEK IN THREE CROSSES

In the current climate, we advise you check with the organiser in advance before attending for the first time in case the session is not running for any reason, or there are restrictions on numbers.

All events are at the Community Centre unless stated otherwise

Day	Event	Time / Place
Sundays	Communion Service on 2nd Sunday and English Speaking on 4th Sunday	10.30am at the Chapel
Mondays	Pilates - Emma 07766 477308 Beginners class TBC - please contact Emma if interested	6.30pm - currently full 7.45pm - beginners
Mondays	Zumba call Tina on 07814 161475	6:30pm Chapel Vestry
Mondays	Bingo for the over 18s	7.00pm - Coed Lan Centre
Tuesdays	Playgroup - Sian Spencer 07890 383843	9.00am - 11.15am
Wednesdays	Knitters & Natters - 875858	1.30pm - Coed Lan
Thursdays	Zumba- call Tina on 07814 161475	12:30pm Chapel Vestry
Saturdays	Zumba- call Tina on 07814 161475	10:15am Chapel Vestry

Have a Three Crosses event that's not featured above?

E-mail crwysnews@outlook.com or call/message 07713 487870

Community Centre Bookings- call Sandra Hutchings on 874080

CRWYS PLAYGROUP

Crwys Playgroup enjoyed their Easter 'Eggstareveganza' and egg hunt at Gower Fresh Christmas Trees. The children had a fantastic time in the egg hunt and then made Easter bonnets whilst enjoying the entertainment.



The children also had fun creating painted banners for the Jubilee celebrations during the half term school break.

Crwys Playgroup runs on a Tuesday at the Community Centre from 9.30 to 11.30am.

Anyone is welcome to pop in and enjoy the sessions for just £3.00 per family which includes tea/coffee, snack time for the children, a selection of toys including 'ride ons', as well as nursery rhyme time.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT: DROPPED KERBS AND THE LAW

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It's More Than A Moral Issue

Parking on a dropped kerb or even parking on a kerb, you run the risk of getting a PCN. If you receive a penalty charge notice (PCN) for a parking violation, you'll need to pay as much as £90 for the fine. Parking on a dropped kerb is one of the things that can get you a PCN. Dropped kerb parking isn't only about the fine you might have to pay though. It can be as much of a moral issue as a legal one.

Let's look at what you need to know about dropped kerb legislation.

What Is A Dropped Kerb?

A dropped kerb is a section of pavement that's lowered to make it easier for people with disabilities to get from the pavement to the road or for vehicles to drive across. They can be in the middle of the block or on a corner but the rules about parking on a dropped kerb are the same no matter where they're located.

Highway Code Rule #243

Rule 243 of the Highway Code identifies where you are not allowed to park. One of the restrictions is that you can't park where the kerb is lowered to provide easier access for wheelchairs and powered mobility vehicles. The only exception to the rule is that you are only allowed to stop or park in these places when stationary traffic forces you to do so.

What Leads To A PCN

For dropped kerb parking, this so-called "dropped kerb law" is enforced by either local police or the local council. Complaints are made either through the non-emergency phone number for police or through the council directly. In most cases, people will approach the council will complaints first. Whether they issue a PCN for parking a dropped kerb often depends on how significant the blockage is. If the vehicle is fully blocking the dropped kerb so it impedes people who are mobility-challenged, they're much more likely to issue a PCN than if the vehicle is not completely blocking access.

A Step Too Far?

It's not unusual for someone to get a ticket for parking on their own dropped kerb. You can avoid it in most places by registering your vehicle with the local council. They'll require the make, model, and registration of your vehicle along with proof of residence. Once that information is registered, you'll be safe parking on your own dropped kerb.

Parking In Front of A Driveway

Parking your vehicle so it blocks a driveway also falls under Rule 243 of the Highway Code. Similar to the litmus test for issuing a PCN for dropped kerb parking, you will generally only receive a ticket if you're completely blocking access to the driveway. And if a vehicle is left for an extended period of time and is untaxed for over a month, it's considered abandoned and the local council can remove it.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE HAVE DISABLED RESIDENTS IN THE VILLAGE FOR WHOM THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR AND LEAVE DROPPED KERBS UNOBSTRUCTED.

At the February Meeting Helen Gill of All Sewn Up spoke about her career in tailoring before moving back to Three Crosses just before her son was born with a serious heart condition. Heart Week (in February) and other charities she supports help children with a wide range of heart conditions, as well as their families. Her latest project is sewing and decorating hearts to make banners to raise awareness. Members brought a range of fabric, sewing materials and decorations and spent a convivial hour sewing and chatting whilst Helen provided help and guidance.

March was the AGM and after our new President Belinda Hansford was elected, time was spent discussing ideas for future speakers. At the end of March over twenty members enjoyed an Annual Dinner at Truffle. Our outgoing President Marilyn Jones was thanked for her excellent leadership through the last few difficult years, and the outgoing committee were congratulated on their contributions.

Future Meetings

6.45pm for a 7.00pm start

Wednesday June 8

Matt's Cafe

Wednesday July 6

Social Meeting – Prosecco and Strawberries

Wednesday September 7

Bring a Friend Meeting with a lesson in crochet

New Members always welcome - you can attend two meetings to give WI a try before joining. Contact Belinda 07884 126281.



In **April** we welcomed Carolyn Harris, the MP for Swansea East, who spoke about the campaign for children's funerals to be paid for; better campaigns for online gambling; and greater support for women experiencing the menopause. She was a compelling speaker and instigated a lively discussion.

In **May** Barbara Parry from www.clynevalleycommunityproject.co.uk gave us a fascinating talk about the Clyne Valley, showing us maps with details of pits, brickworks, railways and even a racecourse that have been part of the valley's history. Check out their website as it shows how they have been developing accessibility to all areas of the valley.

WI Walking Group

(1st Saturday of the Month after the WI Meeting)

February: We walked from Upper Killay Community to Fairwood Lake and on to the Wildflower Cafe for coffee, returning via Hen Parc Lane.



March: Parking at the bottom of Penlleger Woods, the group strolled to the top for coffee and returned down the hill. After lots of rain, the streams and waterfalls were full, although the sun shone for us.

April: A walk from Penclawdd to Crofty up to the Hermon Chapel and then back across the top of Penclawdd enjoying panoramic views across the Estuary - we then finished at GGs for coffee and ice cream.



May: A walk through Gelli Hir Woods to see the bluebells where we heard the cuckoo on several occasions and captured some lovely photos.



Three Crosses Village Walking Group

New Members always welcome...

The walks are monthly - usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We meet at the Community Centre at 9.15am to share cars to the start point. Walks are mostly between 6 and 10 miles, finishing to be back in Three Crosses by mid- to late afternoon. Full details are circulated by email the week before and walkers need to confirm participation so that we wait for them! All walks are undertaken at your own risk. If you are interested in being added to our email list - contact Belinda on 07884 126281 or Rayna on 07909 955305.

Next Walks:

Wednesday 15 June - a walk in Gower

Wednesday 20 July - Reynoldston to Penrice and back August - no walk

Wednesday 21 September - location to be decided

Information can also be found on our webpage at:
www.threecrosses.org.uk under the Community heading.



The March walk was from the Lliw Valley car park up past the lakes and out onto the open ground - returning on the East side through woodland past a number of sculptures. The group completed just over 7 miles with a stop for lunch.



It was a wild and windy day in April when the walking group set off from Cwm Ivy up and over Llanmadoc Hill with a view to stopping for coffee on Hardings Down, however a heavy hailstone shower saw the group heading into the Kings Head for coffee. The rain cleared and we walked on through blustery conditions for a lunch near Broughton Beach where the sun came out before we returned to Cwm Ivy Car Park.



COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

Contact Details	Council Focus
 <p>Paxton Hood-Williams 50 Pant Y Dwr 872038 / 07939 467566 paxtonhw@gmail.com</p>	<p>Chairman City Matters One Voice Wales Rep</p>
 <p>Warren Smart 875363 / 07716 690253 28 Llwynderw Warren.smart5@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Vice Chair Planning Schools</p>
 <p>VACANCY</p>	<p><i>We have 3 vacancies for community councillors. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering.</i></p> <p><i>You don't need to have much time or any qualifications - just a desire to help the community and be involved in the decisions made by the council.</i></p> <p><i>Please e-mail the clerk for more information or to volunteer.</i></p>
 <p>VACANCY</p>	
 <p>VACANCY</p>	
 <p>Annie Gallagher 20 Joiners Road 07742 775190</p>	
 <p>Debbie Male 07833 217561 18 Tirmynydd Road debbie.a.male@gmail.com</p>	
 <p>Joanne Fitton 07907 737211 crwyscc@gmail.com</p>	<p>Clerk to the Council</p>