

# Parish & Community Magazine

For the communities of Coed-y-Go, Llanyblodwel, Nantmawr,



Porth-y-Waen, Treflach, Trefonen and places in between and beyond

## HILL WALK EDITION

Produced by All Saints and St Michael's churches

Free of charge - please take one

Vol 36: No.4 May 2026

# Border Group of Parishes

Llanyblodwel, Llanymynech, Morton & Trefonen



*Rector:* Currently vacant

*Benefice Administrator:* Helen Parish, bordergroupadmin@hotmail.co.uk

in the office (in All Saints Trefonen) each Thursday, 9.30am–2.30pm.

Address for mail: The Administrator, All Saints' Church, Oswestry Road, Trefonen, Oswestry, SY10 9DG.

*Benefice website:* borderparishes.org.uk

## Church services

See p.4 for the times of church services in May. Please note services are subject to change at short notice sometimes. Please check the magazine Facebook page and local church noticeboards for updates.

## Church opening

All Saints Church Trefonen is open daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm, and St Michael's Llanyblodwel is open daily from 10.00am to 4.30pm. Please feel free to visit your local church to pray, reflect, enjoy the quiet, or just experience an ancient building. You are very welcome.

## Principal church contacts:

### All Saints Trefonen:

*PCC Secretary:* Helen Parish, helen-parish1@hotmail.co.uk, 01691 670979

### Churchwardens:

K Kimber, bobnkkimber@btinternet.com, 01691 679646;

Malcolm Kirk, malcolm.ref1170@gmail.com, 01691 688595

*Safeguarding:* Jeanne Bradley, jeannemccarley@hotmail.co.uk

### St Michael's Llanyblodwel:

*PCC Secretary:* Sioned Lindsay, sioned@gmail.com, 07775 437101

### Churchwardens:

Roger Taylor, roger@blodwell.com, 07967 652217

Alec Gordon, alecgordon@btinternet.com, 07970 544945

*Safeguarding:* Sioned Lindsay, sioned@gmail.com, 07775 437101

*Bookings and events:* St.Michaels.Llanyblodwel@gmail.com

## From the Editor



It's Hill Walk time again! A summary of this year's programme is on p.5, followed by the detailed introduction to all the events on pp.6-9.

(Special thanks to our assistant editor, Georgia, for this write-up of the programme from details supplied by the organisers Dom and Julie Coles.)

Our theme, 'Travelling hopefully', is picked up by Ann Hindley, who shares some of her experiences of travel (p.11); and in Thought for the Month (p.21) Rebecca Colpus considers guidebooks and other means of finding our way. Meanwhile, the Bishop of Lichfield is starting a new journey - he has announced his retirement in September (p.39).

There are updates from Offa Community Support (p.29), the Community Speedwatch team (p.29), and the Tanat to Perry Wildlife Group (p.36), and news from Trefonen WI (p.24) and Trefonen CE School (p.33). In our regular God's Acre series, Harriet Carty writes about Pignuts in our churchyards and cemeteries (p.40). Also in this issue is a book review of Alec Gordon's new novel *Guard Alba and the Ardanach Wedding* (p.34); an appeal for new members for the Trefonen Village Hall committee (p.39); and an invitation to some contemporary worship appreciation (p.14) Our puzzle pages start on p.16 and include a Hills and Mountains quiz (p.18).

This month sees a number of interesting events to take part in. The first is Llanyblodwel's First Friday, on 1st May (see p.15). Trefonen WI's meeting on 14th May is an open one, with a speaker from the RJA Movement Centre (see p.24), while Trefonen Garden Club are holding their annual plant sale on 16th May and their normal monthly meeting on the 21st (p.26). Then it's 'all systems go' for the Hill Walk weekend, starting Friday 22nd May! See you there.

You may have read my appeal for sponsors ('Paying for the Magazine') in the April issue. So far we have four sponsors, their pledges totalling £175 per year. However, we need £800, so that is not nearly enough. We can continue with the print magazine as it is, black and white inside with a colour cover, with the possibility of colour for the Christmas/New Year edition, or a few more of our wonderful readers can agree to stump up a bit of cash - the choice is yours. Think of it this way: many of you would be prepared to pay a small sum for this excellent magazine; if even 50 readers out of the 250 were willing to pay £1 per month to keep the magazine free for everyone, we would be able to print in full colour on smooth paper **every month**. So please think about it and let us know on our normal email: [trefonenparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:trefonenparishmagazine@gmail.com).

Janey Fisher

Images: on the cover and pp.5, 29, 31, from Freepik, used by permission; p.18 courtesy Wikipedia; p.40 Naturescapes.com; other images provided by contributors.

# Church Services in Trefonen and Llanyblodwel, May 2026

<b>Date</b>	<b>All Saints Trefonen</b>	<b>St Michael's Llanyblodwel</b>
<p><b>Sunday 3rd May</b></p> <p>Acts 7: 55 – end 1 Peter 2: 2 - 10 John 14: 1 - 14</p>	<p>10.00am</p> <p>Holy Communion Canon Robert Parsons With K Kimber</p>	<p>11.00am</p> <p>Morning Worship Abie Tudor</p>
<p><b>Sunday 10th May</b></p> <p>Acts 17: 22 - 31 1 Peter 3: 13 - end John 14: 15 - 21</p>	<p>10.00am</p> <p>Morning Worship Peter Woollam</p>	<p>11.00am</p> <p>Morning Worship Rebecca Colpus</p>
<p><b>Thursday 14th Ascension Day</b></p> <p>Acts 1: 1-11 Ephesians 1: 15 - end Luke 24: 44 - end</p>	<p>No service at Trefonen</p> <p>Communion service <b>at Morton</b> <b>7.00pm</b></p>	<p>No service at Llanyblodwel</p> <p>Communion service <b>at Morton</b> <b>7.00pm</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday 17th May</b></p> <p>Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4: 12 - 14; 5: 6 - 11 John 17:1-11</p>	<p>10.00am</p> <p>Morning Worship K Kimber</p>	<p>11.00am</p> <p>Holy Communion Rev. John Reeves With Rebecca Colpus</p>
<p><b>Sunday 24th May Pentecost</b></p> <p>Acts 2: 1-21 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13 John 20:19 - 23</p>	<p>9.30am</p> <p>Hill Walk Family Service Linda Gladman</p>	<p>11.00am</p> <p>Morning Worship Abie Tudor</p>
<p><b>Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday</b></p> <p>Isaiah 40: 12-17, 27-end 2 Corinthians 13: 11-end Matthew 28: 16 - end</p>	<p>No service at Trefonen</p> <p><b>Benefice service at Llanyblodwel</b></p>	<p>10.30am</p> <p>Benefice Service Rebecca Colpus</p>

# Trefonen Hill Walk Weekend May 22nd - May 25th



## FRIDAY MAY 22nd

2.00pm Friday 22nd–2.00pm Saturday 23rd – **Moelydd**



### **24h Relay Walk**

7.30pm Trefonen Village Hall – **The Murder at Trefoil Manor**



## SATURDAY MAY 23rd

8.00am from Trefonen Village Hall – **Across the Cynllaith**

2.00pm New Barns Farm – **Motorbike Trial**

7.30pm Trefonen Village Hall – **Hill Walk Quiz Night**



## SUNDAY MAY 24th

9.30am Trefonen Church – **Hill Walk Family Service**

11.00am Trefonen Village Hall – **Mynydd Myrfr Hill Run**

2.00pm down School Lane – **Duck Race**

2.00pm Trefonen Playing Field/Village Hall –

**Fun on the Field and Artisan Market**

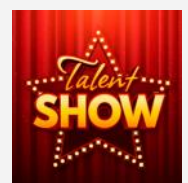


## MONDAY MAY 25th

8.00am–5.00pm, from Chapel Green tent –

**Buzzard and Curlew Family Walks**

6.30pm Trefonen Village Hall – **Trefonen Talent Show**



# Trefonen Hillwalk

Get ready to lace up your boots and join your neighbours for a weekend of community spirit! The highly anticipated **Trefonen Hill Walk May 22nd - May 25th** is almost here, and it promises to be an unforgettable four days of activity and entertainment. Watch out for the posters you can see on these pages!

Beyond the fresh air and exercise, we are coming together for two wonderful charities that we are incredibly proud to be supporting.

**WALES AIR AMBULANCE** is a national service providing 24/7 emergency, lifesaving care across Wales via helicopters. Funded entirely by public donations.

**WAR CHILD UK** who work with children living in the world's most dangerous conflict zones, little ones devastated by the violence, displacement, and psychological trauma of war. WAR CHILD UK supports these vulnerable youngsters as they face life-threatening food shortages and lack of healthcare. They protect, educate and stand up for the rights of children globally. As we're supporting such vital missions, we thought it fitting that this year's Hill Walk theme be '**Steps Saves Lives**'.

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## Hill Walk Programme

### The Big Kick-Off - 24-Hour Relay

**The Mission:** Keep your team walking for 24 hours straight!

**The Route:** Trefonen Village Hall ↔ The Moelydd Trig Point.

**The Time:** 2.00pm Friday, May 22nd – 2.00pm Saturday, May 23rd.

### The Challenge Rules

**Strength in Numbers:** At least two people must be on the trail at all times.

**Tag-Team Spirit:** Swap walkers throughout the day and night — teamwork is at the heart of this relay challenge.

**Don't Stop:** The relay doesn't stop for 24 hours, so neither do you.

### Join The Effort!

**Yes you!** Whether you can manage one stint or several, every single step taken in our 24-hr relay counts. So, put that Dairy Milk down, grab your friends and family, lace up those trainers, and be part of showing everyone what Trefonen is made of!!

To sign up, contact **Dominic on 07890 313216**.



## FRIDAY MAY 22nd

If you're not the 'walking for 24-hrs' sort, you may prefer to trade hiking boots for a magnifying glass! Friday evening offers quite the change of pace with the back by popular demand **'Murder at Trefoil Manor!'** Trust no one, suspect everyone! The mystery begins at **7.30 pm** in **Trefonen Village Hall**. Can you catch the killer before the night is out? Entry is just **£5 per person**, and tickets are available to buy from the **Trefonen shop**.



## SATURDAY MAY 23rd

### Across The Cynllaith Hill Walk:

Get ready to ramble through a glorious mix of muddy fields, secret woods, and wild moorland as you zip across the Shropshire-Mid Wales border. You get to choose your adventure. You can opt for a **10-Mile Loop** or a **16-Mile Figure-of-Eight**. Can't decide? No sweat! You can pick your distance on the day or mid-stride depending on whether you're feeling brave or tired halfway through! If you've no sense of direction, fear not, we've marked the path clearly, stationed friendly supervisors along the way, and we'll even hand you written directions just in case a particularly handsome farmer distracts you – I mean sheep, a particularly handsome sheep. You'll be finishing in style on the legendary Offa's Dyke Path with views glorious enough to make you forget your thighs are burning.



**Start time is 8.00am at Trefonen Village Hall.**

**Cost: Under 16s £1, Adults £10 before Saturday 16th May and £15 thereafter.**

**Entries limited to 300.**

**Entries close Wednesday 20th May.**

**Note: Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.**

For more information or to make an entry book online at SiEntries.

## SATURDAY MAY 23rd

Calling all petrol heads! Allow us to rev your engine with the dirt-flinging adrenaline rush that is the **Hillwalk Motorbike Trial!** We're holding the trial at **New Barns Farm**, and it's going to be an absolute blast. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a rookie, we've got you covered because all classes are catered for, and there's no need for pre-registration as you can enter on the day, so just show up and ROOST your heart out! The fun starts when the gate drops at **2.00pm!**

## SATURDAY MAY 23rd



### Prepare for a battle of wits!

Dust off those brain cells and get yourselves down to the **Trefonen Village Hall** at **7.30pm** for the **Trefonen Hill Walk Quiz!** We've roped in **Paul Woddy and Gaz** as our brave new quiz masters. We'd like to thank them both for their time, while letting you know that's who to heckle when the questions get tough. Thinking is thirsty work, so the bar will be fully stocked to keep your 'competitive spirits' high! Do try to keep your 'liquid spirits' at a manageable level, as there's a fine line between suddenly recalling the capital of Uzbekistan and mistaking the table as a comfortable place to nap!

To book in your team, please contact **Mandy** on **07534 489007**.

**Cost: £5 per person for teams of 4**

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## SUNDAY MAY 24th

Swing by **Trefonen Church** at **9.30 am** on **May 24th** for our **Family Service**. During the service we'll be shining a light on the two marvellous causes that **Hill Walk** is supporting: **War Child UK** and **Wales Air Ambulance**. Whether you're a regular or have never before stepped foot in a church, it's a great chance to grab a coffee, meet your neighbours, and hear about the lifesaving work these charities are doing locally and abroad. Everyone is welcome, so come along and join the conversation!

## SUNDAY MAY 24th

The **Mynydd Myfyr Hill Run** starts at **11.00am** at **Trefonen Village Hall** and is another chance to get your pulses racing. A mainly accessible run known for its rural beauty and quiet charm. No need to preregister, you can enter on the day. Do watch your footing out there! The course can serve up plenty of loose stones and muddy bridle paths. You've also got two stiles to hop over, so you'll need to keep your wits about you.

**Entry is £7.00**

For more information, contact **Ryan Stokes** on **07484 280291**.

## SUNDAY MAY 24th

**And we're off!** Nails will be bitten to the quick, for which of us can bear the tension of the high-stakes drama and total silliness that is Trefonen's **Duck Race!** Ducks cost just **£1.00**, and the start time is **2.00pm**. So, grab your rubber duckies, **follow the signs down School Lane**, and hopefully it's your duck that bobs and weaves over the winning line first. Ahem, here's hoping this year's Duck Race isn't pond-emonium but is all it's quacked up to be! (I'll get my coat).

## SUNDAY MAY 24th

**Fun on the Field!** If duck racing doesn't do it for you, why not bring your friends and family down to **Trefonen Village Hall and Playing Field**. Many of you have trained your whole lives for this moment, and finally, here it is, the chance to display your Olympic-level athleticism in **Rounders**, **Orienteering** or the **Egg Throwing Championship!**

If you prefer to keep your togs yolk-free, check out the **Artisan Market**, admire some vintage wheels at the **Classic Car Show**, or place a bid at the Silent Auction. The **BBQ** will be sizzling, and the **bar** will be open.

Start time is **2.00pm**.



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## MONDAY MAY 25th

**Family Walks!** Why not get the whole family together and burn off some steam on one of our Family Walks. There are two walks to choose from, the **6-mile Buzzard Walk** and the **3.5-mile Curlew Walk**. Register at the **Tent on the Village Green** and walk between **8.00am** and **5.00pm**. Plus, the route takes you right past the **Barn Field Café** on the way down. Why not buy yourself a treat, with all the walking you'll have done, you'll deserve it.

## MONDAY MAY 25th

**The Grand Finale!** We close the weekend's activities and festivities with a perennial favourite, **Trefonen's Got Talent!** It's your civic duty to sit in the front row and judge those who believe they have talent from a safe distance, whilst not being nearly brave enough to showcase a talent yourself. You get to decide whether those on stage do in fact have talent or are just making questionable life choices! You may witness the birth of a star; you may witness a neighbour attempt to hit a high note they clearly didn't rehearse! ☐ Either way, it's guaranteed to be more entertaining than anything on the telly box! The show will be held at the **Trefonen Village Hall** and starts at **6.30pm**.

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There is something truly special about the way our community comes together each year for the Hill Walk. We are looking forward to seeing familiar faces and new, so gather the family, rally your friends and let's fill Trefonen's hills with purpose once again and remember every mile you cover brings hope and funds a brighter future for someone because **'Steps Save Lives.'**

***You can find more in-depth information on all the walks taking place over the Hill Walk weekend at [www.trefonen-hillwalk.com](http://www.trefonen-hillwalk.com)***



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## TRAVELLING ...By Different Means!- but no Tardis!


 Getting up very early and being outside the church, complete with buckets, spades, and boats on strings, not to mention the kite, awaiting the arrival of the coach. These are my images of travelling to somewhere exciting when very young! It usually meant a day trip to Bognor Regis or Brighton and the yearly game of 'Who can see the sea first!' 



Travelling up North (well, to Newark on Trent to be precise!) by train is a good memory. My brother and I sat on suitcases in the train corridor as there were never enough seats! We were always reduced to giggles by the Communication Cord - remember those?! You pulled a chain if you wanted to stop the train – with a £5 fine for 'improper use'. 'If £5 you can afford, try your strength and pull the cord (I'm not sure if we made that rhyme up or whether it was actually on the train wall!) We always left home clean, but arrived very sooty! 

Soon, Mum and Dad saved up for their first car and Dad learned to drive!

 So exciting – BUT we had to take my uncle with us on every trip as Dad needed a co-driver while he was learning! This meant my brother or I (we took it in turns) sat on footstools behind the front seat! Heaven forbid!!- SAFETY-? It was just another adventure, and we did stop at Baldock en route for a leg stretch and a much-needed beverage! Dad always had a sticky bun, which I'm sure he deserved after the tense drive. Comfort break, I think, is the modern term! So, the train trip was replaced by our car, and we ditched the co-driver when Dad passed his test, as this meant we could take more luggage!!!! (Sorry, Uncle!) 

I met Ray and our first holiday trip together was by motorbike, 1000+ miles around France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein. For any bike enthusiasts, it was a 1982 BMW R100rs,  and so comfortable that I fell asleep twice on it! Ray thought he was  carrying a woodpecker!! The Germans loved it, of course, and the bike was housed overnight in a very posh shed (where it was safe!)

Our Narrowboat, *Bonnie Lady*, was an entirely different mode of travel, and as we lived on the outskirts of Manchester at the time, it was our quiet escape from busy jobs. We did many wonderfully relaxing miles on her, taking the family out with us on many occasions, including at Christmas. We fell into the canal in various places but lived to tell the tale! 

 Our next travelling adventure was in New Zealand, which was our introduction to campervanning. It was an epic adventure encompassing the North and South Islands, embracing a whole new way of life and seeing so much wildlife, 



*Continued on p.12*

### Spring in God's Acre

it still blows my mind when I think about it. We loved it so much, we went back and did it all again five years later, AND it was still AWESOME!

We sold the boat after 23 years and many adventurous miles. Unfortunately, the grandchildren could not find enough pocket money to buy her, so although it was sad for us all, we were already looking forward to our next travel adventure!

This was to be owning our own campervan, and we are still travelling the length and breadth of the country in it today. In fact, wisely or not, we shall be away just after I have written this and be back for the HILL WALK, which is, of course, another adventure. There are motorbikes and walking involved; also, artisan markets, field games, Talents R Us concerts and SO much more!

Happy travelling, everyone, however and wherever it may take you, even if it is in your dreams!



The End



Ann Hindley



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## OPENING TIMES:

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Monday    | CLOSED    |
| Tuesday   | 5pm-10pm  |
| Wednesday | 5am-10pm  |
| Thursday  | 5pm-11pm  |
| Friday    | 3pm-11pm  |
| Saturday  | 12pm-11pm |
| Sunday    | 12pm-8pm  |

## FOOD SERVED:

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Monday         | N/A      |
| Tuesday        | N/A      |
| Wednesday      | N/A      |
| Thursday       | 5pm-9pm  |
| Friday         | 5pm-9pm  |
| Saturday (Day) | 12pm-3pm |
| (Evening)      | 5pm-9pm  |
| Sunday         | 12am-4pm |

NB Please check The Barley Mow's Facebook page or phone them for opening times and facilities etc. as some details may have changed. - Ed.

## Contemporary Worship appreciation

Do you sometimes watch 'Songs of Praise' and don't know some of the more modern style worship?

Want to be more up to date and widen your understanding and appreciation?

I am starting 'Contemporary Worship appreciation' evenings - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 7 pm for an hour.

We will listen to, sing and discuss Christian music from our 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> century composers and musicians, starting with Stuart Townend who you may know as the creator (with Keith Getty) of the great modern hymn 'In Christ alone'.

All welcome at Sharneyford, Cooper's Lane, Porth-y-Waen, SY10 8LY

To be led by Rebecca Colpus

Starting Wednesday May 20th.

## Llanyblodwel prayer meeting and bible study



We meet on second and fourth Wednesday afternoons each month, 2.00 -3:30pm at Sharneyford, Coopers Lane, Porth-y-Waen, SY10 8 LY.

All are invited whether you attend church or not.

Rebecca Colpus

# ***First Friday***



## **Patrons, Painters, Propaganda**



Contemporaries called Giotto the 'sovereign master of painting in his time' Professor Cordelia Warr of the University of Manchester looks at interpreting a fourteenth-century painting through Giotto's 'Saint Francis before the Sultan' in the Bardi Chapel in Florence's Santa Croce

### **Friday 1st May, 8.00pm**

**St Michael's Church, Llanyblodwel . SY10 8NQ**

**Free entry. Refreshments available**

**Continuing a series of evenings of knowledge, conversation  
and mingling held on the First Friday of the Month**

[St.Michaels.Llanyblodwel@gmail.com](mailto:St.Michaels.Llanyblodwel@gmail.com)

[www.st.michaels.uk](http://www.st.michaels.uk)

**Puzzle Pages**

**Colouring page**



# Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 to 9. Use logic and solve the puzzle without guesswork. Answer on p.42.

**SUDOKU** By KrazyDad

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |   |   |   |   | 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
|   | 7 |   |   | 8 | 1 |   |   |   |
| 6 |   |   |   |   | 9 | 7 |   |   |
|   |   | 6 | 3 |   |   |   |   | 5 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 |   |   |   |   | 8 | 3 |   |   |
|   |   | 1 | 8 |   |   |   |   | 7 |
|   |   |   | 4 | 6 |   |   | 2 |   |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 |   |   |   |   | 4 |

Difficulty: Challenging © 2025 KrazyDad.com

(Thanks to Krazy Dad for allowing us to reproduce this puzzle. For puzzle solving tips, and more puzzles, visit Krazydad.com. )



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## Hills and Mountains Quiz

1. What is the highest peak in the world?
2. On which national border is it situated?
3. Which climbers were the first to reach its summit?
4. What is the highest peak in England?
5. In which continent is each of the following?

A. Mount Etna



B. Mount Kilimanjaro



C. Mount St Helen's



D. Mount McKinley



E. K2



F. Aconcagua



6. Which is the highest of the peaks listed in Q.5?
7. Which of the following ranges is formed by plate tectonic uplift?
  - A. The Cambrian Mountains
  - B. Snowdonia
  - C. The Himalayas
  - D. The Andes
8. Which of them is formed mainly by glaciation?
9. Which of them is formed mainly from sedimentary rocks?
10. Which of them is volcanic in origin?

*Answers on p.42*

# Café Blodwel

at St Michael's Llanyblodwel

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## Thought for the Month

As we come into spring it is a time to start getting out and about again and enjoy our lovely countryside.

Probably like most of you, when I was young there was no internet, google or satnavs. When wanting or needing to travel it was paper maps and printed guidebooks that we turned to for guidance as to where to go and how to get there. And we bought guidebooks with only *hope* that they might be useful; there were no 'reviews' to look at to see if they were worth buying.

I remember one holiday going across Europe by car with me as navigator with a map to guide. I fell asleep when I should have been map reading and woke to find that we were in the middle of Brussels, having missed the bypass. It took us three attempts going round the same streets to find our way out, with little to go on than street signs and directions.

Do we now go more confidently to new places relying on our satnav or goggle maps on our phones, knowing also that come a problem, we are connected by satellite to the outside world who can assist?

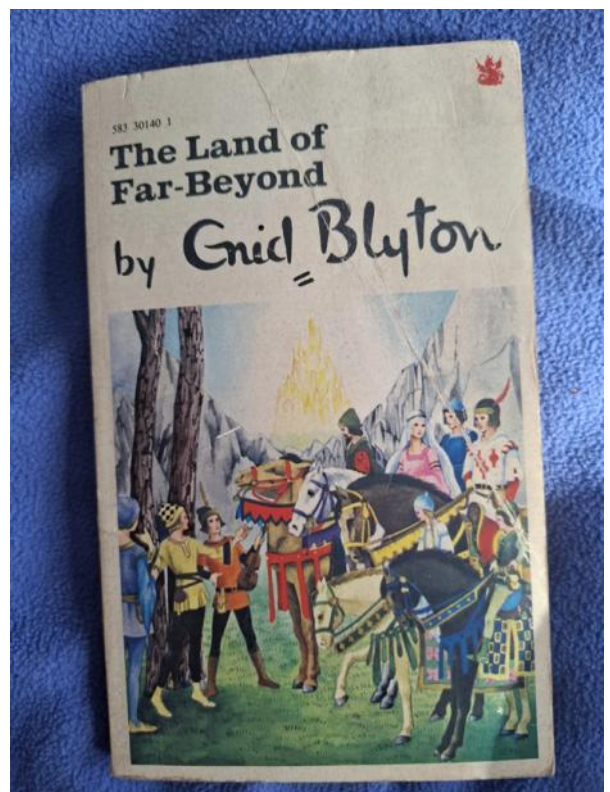
This has made me think about what guidance have we had to help us to live our lives.

Today, in our increasingly diverse society with a much wider range of values, there is guidance coming from so many places, whereas when I was growing up we relied largely on the values held by families, teachers, the church, books, friends, neighbours in close-knit communities. Are we better off now?

Thinking about my own past, my father was the major influence – his faith, love of music, sense of adventure and resilience all have moulded me.

I have a very tatty but cherished book called *The Land of Far Beyond*, written by Enid Blyton as a children's version of *Pilgrim's Progress*. The story of the travels of the children to the Eternal City to have their burdens removed obviously affected me – why else would I ensure the book is still in my hands and not in the bin!

*Continued on p.22*



Also, I remember the characters from Kingsley's *The Water Babies* – Mrs Do As You Would Be Done By and Mrs Be Done By As You Did – who provided insight into how to live.

Of course, for me the Bible has been my essential guidance manual. I remember in the late 1970s receiving my first copy of a modern translation which opened up my understanding immensely. The truths and values in the Bible have underpinned my whole life.

As we move into spring, and hopefully pleasant weather, let us remember with thanks those who have guided us into adulthood and consider how best we can guide future generations.

Rebecca Colpus

## **Prayer Pointers for the Community**

Lord Jesus, be with all those taking important exams over the next few weeks

We pray for those standing for local elections that they may serve their communities wisely and justly

Give courage to those seeking to bring the love and good news of Jesus to others.

Amen

~~~~~

From David Adam's book of prayers *The Open Gate*, taken from the speech delivered by Chief Seattle of the Du Warnish League to the President of the United States in Washington DC in 1854.

Teach your children what we have taught our children – that the earth is our mother.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.

If men spit upon the ground they spit upon themselves.

This we know, the earth does not belong to us, we belong to the earth.

This we know, all things are connected like the blood which unites one family.

All things are connected.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.

We did not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it.

Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.



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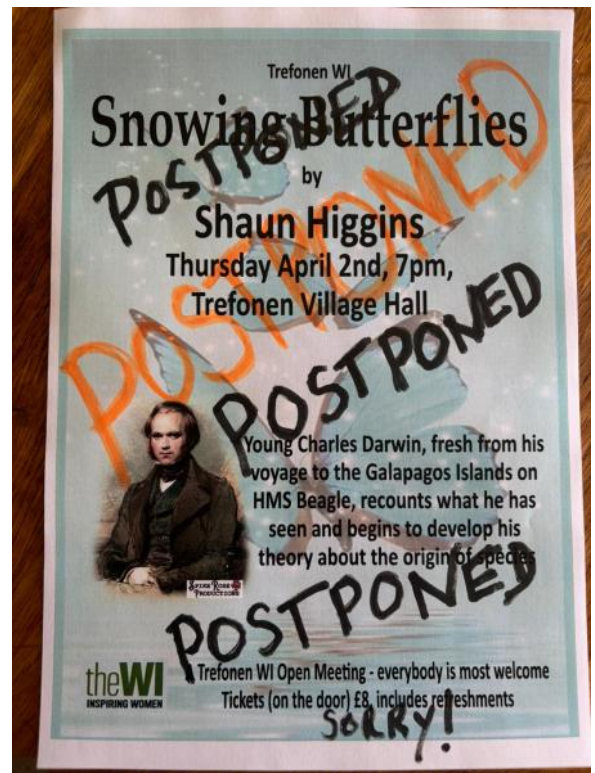
SCAN HERE



## Trefonen WI

As we continued on the journey of our Centenary Year, Trefonen WI experienced a little hiccup in April. Our planned open evening, being entertained by Shaun Higgins with his performance 'Snowing Butterflies' about Charles Darwin's early years, has had to be postponed until September.

Even though things didn't go as envisaged, we made our own fun. Treasurer Susan Holt stepped into the breach to organise a game of Pictionary, which we played in teams. Much fun was had by all, and we enjoyed hot cross buns with our usual hot drink, as well as having the opportunity to relax and chat with other members.



Our 2026/27 membership year started in April and ushered in a few changes in key committee roles. Victoria Gemmell is now our President, taking over from Deana Jaeger-Parsons, who served us for several years. Anne Ashton is Vice President, Sarah Solomon is Secretary, and, as previously mentioned, Susan Holt is Treasurer.

For the business part of our meeting, we first of all discussed volunteering at the Artisan Market, which forms part of the Trefonen Hill Walk Weekend; then our ongoing Centenary celebrations; and then the two resolutions that the National Federation of WIs will be supporting this year:

1. Accessible toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion;
2. Action on women's homelessness.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday 14th May, when our speaker will be from the 'Movement Centre Charity', which is based at the Orthopaedic Hospital. This was a Hill Walk charity a couple of years ago, and the speaker was really inspirational on that occasion, describing the amazing work they do. It should be an excellent evening.

If you are interested in joining our friendly WI, which meets in the Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month at 7.00pm, please contact:

Victoria Gemmell at [v.gemmell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:v.gemmell@hotmail.co.uk) or  
Sarah Solomon at [shossol2016@gmail.com](mailto:shossol2016@gmail.com).



## *Client* TESTIMONIAL

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If you would like to book or to have a look at the hall  
please call 07432 891249 or email [info@thestute.org.uk](mailto:info@thestute.org.uk)



Trefonen and District  
**Garden Club**

Coming Soon!

**2026 Annual Plant Sale**

**Saturday 16th May**

**9.30a.m.-11.30a.m.**

**Trefonen Village Hall SY10 9DY**

Donations of Plants very welcome,  
on Friday 15th May from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. to the Village Hall  
Or early on the day.

A big thank you in advance to all those who donate plants!

Light refreshments will be available.

Adult Entrance Fee: £1

**All entrance fees will be donated to the Hill Walk  
Charities**



And...

The Monthly Meeting, Thursday 21st May at 7:30 pm.

**Mike King, Carnivorous Plants**

# Harry Roberts



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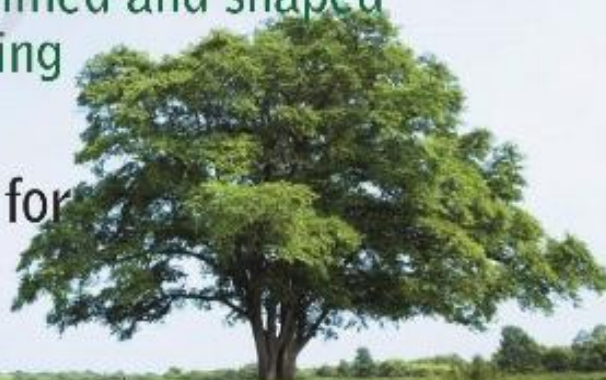
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## Offa Community Support (OCS)

Offa Community Support is organising a Litter Pick around the village on Sunday, 10th May. We hope this will help make Trefonen look smart for residents and the considerable number of visitors who will arrive for the Hill Walk weekend later in the month.

We hope to organise relevant equipment, and success will obviously depend on the number of volunteer helpers who turn up on the day.

Please help if you can by arriving at The Barley Mow car park at 11.00am for a prompt start.

Thanks.



## Community Speed Watch

Our volunteers report that there has definitely been a general reduction in the speeds of motorists travelling through Treflach and Trefonen over the last few months. Having said this, we did have a slight flurry of cars exceeding the limits a couple of weeks ago, which means we must and will remain vigilant.

A warm welcome to new recruit Norman, and we have a couple more potential helpers in the wings. More are very welcome.

Thanks to the majority of villagers who appreciate what we are trying to achieve in making our villages safer.

Safe driving!



John Davies

## Planning a children's party or a family celebration?

Why not book Trefonen Village Hall?

Lots of space and excellent facilities.

Contact:

Val Smout

Bookings Secretary

01691 657011



# The Community Café

## Trefonen Village Hall

### Tuesday mornings, 10.00–11.30am

A place to meet with friends and enjoy a cup of tea or freshly brewed coffee and homemade cakes.



If you have never been before or are new to the area we would love to see you.

## Regular Events at Trefonen Village Hall

**NB** *There is an entry charge for some of these events. Contact the organisers for more information.*

The Community Café is open every Tuesday morning from 10.00 to 11.30am (see above).

Trefonen Football Club run a bingo session in the village hall every Monday evening except bank holidays starting at 7.30pm.

Trefonen & District Garden Club meets 3rd Thursday most months - this month 19th March, starting at 7.30pm (see advertisement p.35).

Whist Drives take place every 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Dog training classes are on Saturday morning (booking required).

## Meeting in Silence with God

You are warmly invited to our upcoming Julian Meeting in Trefonen. We want to practise contemplative prayer and meditation in the Christian tradition.

In Julian Meetings, we leave the busy and loud world behind us for a short time and sit in shared silence.

Julian Meetings are aimed at all people with a spiritual focus, regardless of their denomination.

The frequency, venue and time of the meetings are still to be agreed, depending on how many people express an interest in going ahead.

If you'd like to join our Julian Meetings and have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on 07554017632. I look forward to hearing from you.

Rosmarie Starck



## Prayer Chain

If you would like prayer for an immediate need, e.g. an emergency situation, you can ring any one of the people below. Your message will be passed to each person in the chain (who is available at the time) and we will pray for your need in complete confidence.

Betty Steele 652170

Carol Pickering 238561

Rita Mathias 657934

Chris Kirk 688595

Jill Ferguson 656456

Linda Gladman 07582 808588

We have a small Pastoral Care team at All Saints Trefonen. Members of the team are happy to offer prayer, a friendly visit, or practical support. If you, or someone you know, would welcome some help or support in this way, there is a Prayer/Visit box just inside the church (open daily between 10.00am and 4.00pm). Just write the details on one of the cards provided and pop inside the locked box. The box is checked at least weekly. Someone will then be in contact or we will pray for the need. Any queries, contact [lindajgladman@btinternet.com](mailto:lindajgladman@btinternet.com)

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# Trefonen CE Primary School News



## A Fresh Start to the Summer Term at Trefonen

We are delighted to have started our new term with some exciting enrichment events for the pupils. We enjoyed visiting a planetarium and a day of cricket coaching, all within the first week back in April!

Our past spring term showcased our amazing Science Fair, which celebrated Science Week's theme 'Curiosity: What's your question?'

Over 30 pupils and their families took part, creating innovative and inspiring exhibits and experiments, which certainly sparked our curiosity! The Puffins Class enjoyed supporting our farming families and took part in a live online lesson with the NFU (National Farmers Union), learning important lessons about where our food comes from.



Health and well-being are always important to us at Trefonen School, and Children's Mental Health Week was celebrated with 'Safer Internet Day' and children's author Katie Hopper. Our Year 6 children are embracing the development of others' well-being and are leading lunchtime clubs such as multi-sports, arts 'n crafts and dance, whilst our gardening club has been busy planting bulbs and flowers to attract

insects and wildlife. These activities proudly promote the new direction of our school, under our exciting new Christian School Vision 'Shine Your Light'.

The summer term at Trefonen always offers a host of sporty summer activities, including athletics, outdoor pursuits, cricket, rounders and swimming. We look forward to sharing our future adventures and our new school logo with you and would warmly welcome any prospective families to contact us and come for a visit.

Naomi Phillips, Deputy Headteacher



## Book Review

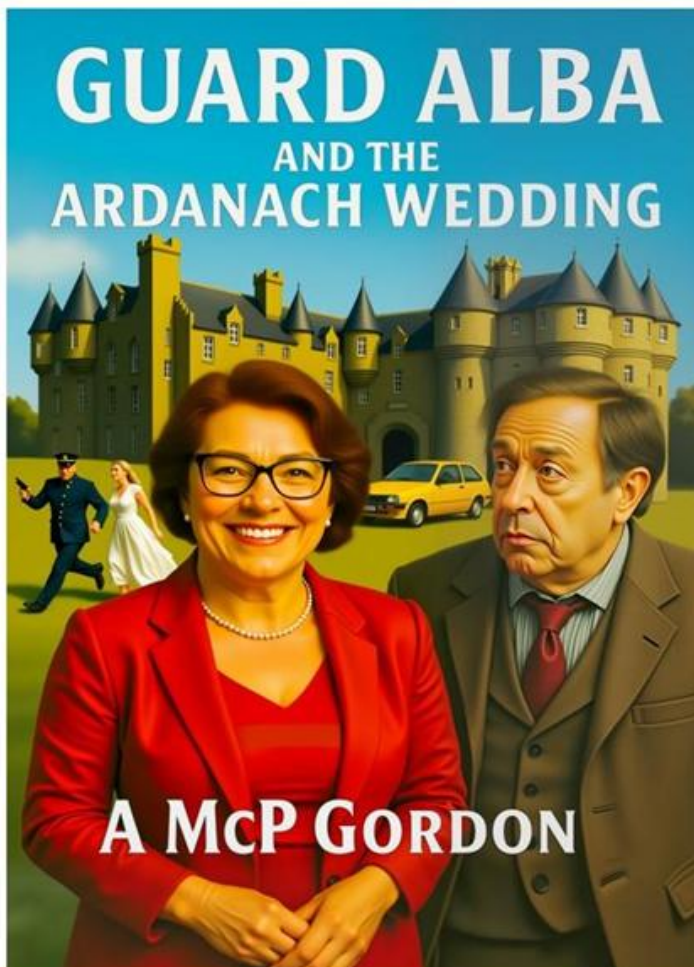
### Guard Alba and the Ardanach Wedding by A. McP. Gordon

A. McP. Gordon is a local author – otherwise known to many of us as Alec Gordon, churchwarden at St Michael’s Llanyblodwel. Reading the work of someone you have met is always fascinating, so I bought a copy from him with much curiosity and not a little anticipation.

The tongue-in-cheek story focuses on a Scottish heritage organisation (the Guard Alba of the title) and the various larger-than-life comedic characters and their activities associated with it. These owe something, I surmise, to Alec’s past experience of working with the National Trust – though I’m sure they are not drawn too closely from living persons or events (at least I hope not!).

If you enjoy the novels of Alexander McCall Smith and Terry Pratchett, I feel sure you will love the mix we find here of irony, slapstick and amusing narrative. And I believe there is a sequel to come ...

Jane Anstey



Alec Gordon's new book,

## *Guard Alba and the Ardanach Wedding*

- out now!

Available at [www.guardalba.org.uk/shop](http://www.guardalba.org.uk/shop) or direct from the author.

£8.99

Sir Portree Potterton is the embodiment of the truth that there’s a very good reason why the minor aristocracy has remained minor. And running Guard Alba, a Scottish castle preservation charity, isn’t helping. As he battles to keep apart his warring managers, stop the Italians denouncing Guard Alba’s greatest treasure and find a new venue for the Chief Constable’s daughter’s wedding, he discovers his wife is throwing him out of the family home – and all over some inconsequential infidelity.

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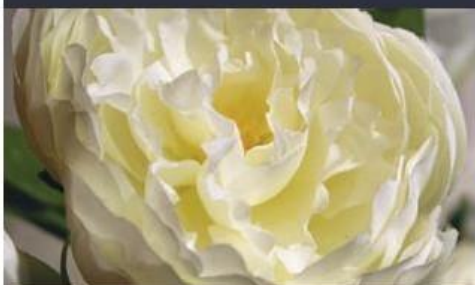
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## All Saints' Church Trefonen – Upper Room for hire

Trefonen church has an Upper Meeting Room that can be let out for community use, generally during the day, Monday to Saturday. Some evenings could be available subject to Church use. The room is accessed by a staircase from the lobby. Note that the stairs are not fully accessible to anyone with limited mobility.

The room is approximately 5.8m (19 ft) x 5.8m (19 ft) at its maximum width. It has good Wi-Fi, can be heated, has a kitchen area with H&C running water, microwave, kettle, crockery and cutlery. There are ample power points around the room. There is also a WC which is accessible direct from the room.

The room has been recently redecorated and there is carpet on the floor. There are ample adult and children chairs and folding tables (2 sizes). A projector screen is also available. The room could be used for small meetings and various groups.

If you are interested please contact Malcolm Kirk, one of the churchwardens, at [malcolm.ref1170@gmail.com](mailto:malcolm.ref1170@gmail.com) to arrange a visit and find out about costs for hiring the space for a one-off or regular use either weekly or monthly.



**The Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group has been looking for Curlew, Lapwing, Kestrel, Cuckoo and Red Kite since late March, in our area that extends from Oswestry in the north to Kinnerley in the south, and eastwards from the Welsh border to Ruyton-XI-Towns: from the Tanat to the Perry.**

We are trying to find all Curlew nests this year, to protect them with an electric fence

If you've seen or heard any of these species, please don't assume we know about them.

Please report all your observations, especially any Curlew ("the most important bird conservation priority in the UK")

or if you want to help next year, please contact Leo Smith on 07791 901732, [leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk).



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## The Village Hall Needs You!

I think everyone will agree that we have a very popular and well used village hall. As with many such halls, ours is a charity and requires a committee of volunteers to manage it. This involves such things as overseeing finance, bookings, cleaning, maintenance, health and safety, etc. Income is largely generated by booking fees and the profit from Flicks in the Sticks evenings. Routine cleaning is undertaken by our cleaner and by hirers. Our bi-monthly meetings last less than an hour.

However, we have a real problem – age! With several of us being real “oldies”, the *average* age of the current committee is creeping towards 80! Regular user groups each have a nominated representative on the committee, and the other members are drawn from the community. We desperately need new, and some younger, people to help run the hall – *that means some of you!* We would really like someone who could set up and manage an on-line booking form, for example.

If you are interested, please feel free talk to me, Val Smout, Carol Pickering, or any other committee members or come to our AGM on 4th June at 4.00pm in the hall.

Bob Kimber, Management Committee Chairman (01691 679646)

## Bishop Michael to Retire in September

After ten years as Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Igrave chose St Chad's Day, 2nd March, to announce his intention to retire. HM the King has graciously given his permission for him to resign the See of Lichfield at the end of September 2026, when he will have been ordained for 44 years. Bishop Michael shared the news with clergy and lay ministers gathered to celebrate St Chad's Day in Lichfield Cathedral. It was ten years exactly since his nomination as 99th Bishop of Lichfield.



---

## From the Registers

### All Saints Trefonen

12th March - Gladys Doreen Cartledge, funeral service followed by burial in Trefarclawdd Cemetery.

### St Michael's Llanyblodwel

28th March - Margaret Jane 'Haulwen' Isaac, burial of ashes.

9th April - Thomas Arfon Ellis, burial in churchyard followed by funeral service.

## Here we go gathering nuts in May...



One of the joys of exploring a churchyard or cemetery can be the small, unobtrusive plants that you may find. Pignut is one of these. This plant has light, feathery leaves, looking like those found on a carrot top, and you may find a nearby carpet of them in an old churchyard in the spring. It flowers in April and May, producing small, white flowers in clusters that are known as umbels. In fact, Pignut is a member of the umbellifer family, the same plant family as the more familiar carrot, cow parsley and fennel, but unlike its relatives, it is small, the leaves low to the ground, and the flower on an upright stem of about 30cm.

Pignut has several names referring to the dark brown tubers found on its roots. Groundnut, Cat nut, Earthnut, Earth chestnut and the less obvious Jog-journals, and when eaten raw or cooked, they taste like parsnip. Pignut is a plant of undisturbed, flowery grassland which is often found within burial grounds, as burial grounds, unlike the surrounding landscape, have seen little change, benefit from consistent management, and are relatively chemical-free.



Pignut is also found within woodland, in glades and sunnier spots. Again, burial grounds suit it well, having a mosaic of light and shade, creating different habitats.

So, what of the nursery rhyme, 'Here we go gathering nuts in May, on a cold and frosty morning?' Pignut leaves wither and disappear in late spring, although the flowering stem with its seedheads remains visible; the lack of leaves

makes Pignut plants hard to spot. The time of year to gather them is May, as opposed to other kinds of nuts, which are harvested in autumn. Another interpretation of the nursery rhyme is that it is a corruption of 'Here we go gathering knots of May,' May being another name for Hawthorn. A knot is an old name for a bunch of flowers, and the Hawthorn flowers in April, when frosts are more likely to occur, so that makes sense of the 'cold and frosty morning.' We would love to know which churchyards, cemeteries and chapel yards contain Pignut, in part because this unobtrusive little plant is indicative of species-rich grassland, a habitat which has declined by a staggering 97% since the 1930s. Please take a photograph using the iNaturalist app if you are a smartphone user. If not, use a field guide to check the identification, then send us an email.

Harriet Carty, Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor,  
harriet@cfga.org.uk.

## A Tribute to a Remarkable Lady – Doreen Cartledge

Doreen Cartledge came to live in Trefonen with her husband Bill. She was a very active character in the life of the village. Doreen was a devoted member of All Saints Church, enjoying flower arranging for festivals, serving refreshments and being leader of the Mothers' Union.



Her love of gardening was so evident in the beautiful garden she created, and she was a keen member of the Gardening Club. She also made an excellent contribution to the Women's Institute – in many ways – producing mouth-watering foods, and was also an outstanding treasurer.

Doreen will always be remembered for her kindness and generosity, and as a marvellous neighbour. She was a wonderful mother to her four children and was very proud of them. Her family appreciated all she did for them.

Rachel Higgins



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# Puzzle Answers

## Sudoku

The completed Sudoku puzzle on p.11 should look like this:

### SUDOKU Answer

1	4	9	6	3	7	5	8	2
5	7	3	2	8	1	4	6	9
6	8	2	5	4	9	7	3	1
8	1	6	3	2	4	9	7	5
9	3	7	1	5	6	2	4	8
2	5	4	9	7	8	3	1	6
4	2	1	8	9	3	6	5	7
7	9	8	4	6	5	1	2	3
3	6	5	7	1	2	8	9	4

## Hills and Mountains Quiz

1. Mount Everest
2. The China–Tibet border
3. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay
4. Scafell Pike
5. In which continent is each of the following?
  - Etna - Europe
  - Kilimanjaro - Africa
  - St Helen's – North America
  - McKinley - Australia
  - K2 - Asia
  - Aconcagua – South America
6. The highest of these is K2.
7. The Himalayas
8. Snowdonia
9. Cambrian Mountains
10. The Andes.



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# Trefonen Village Shop

## OPENING TIMES:

Monday-Sunday: 8.00am-7.00pm

You will find all the items you would expect in a convenience store, including newspapers and magazines, but if there is anything else you would like Vini to stock, please let her know and she will do her best!



We are also an **Oswestry & Borders Foodbank Hub.**

Add your donated food items purchased in our shop to our basket which will be delivered to the Foodbank.

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## **Notes to contributors**

***NB IMPORTANT! Deadline for copy for the magazine is the 10th of each month (i.e. 10th March for the April issue).***

The deadline allows time for the editorial team to compile the contents and the proofreaders to check it, followed by printing in time for publication towards the end of the month.

We warmly welcome all your contributions, but please be aware that on occasion these may need to be edited for length, syntax or to ensure relevance to our readership. I will always consult with the author if any substantive changes are needed, but in these cases please note that the editor's decision is final.

Also, please remember that if you do send photographs showing people for inclusion in the magazine (particularly where faces are visible) **you need to have obtained their permission**. Please also check the copyright for any images you collect from the internet for publication here - the source needs to be acknowledged if necessary.

Lastly, can I ask that you check your facts carefully and if you are quoting from a book or article, make that clear? Plagiarism is not allowed!

Editor

### **Magazine team:**

Content editor & layouts:	Janey Fisher
Assistant editor:	Georgia Cunningham
Proofreading:	Isobel Fisher
Facebook page:	Janey Fisher and Georgia Cunningham
Advertiser contact:	Barry Evans

For all communications relating to the magazine, use the email address:  
*trefonenparishmagazine@gmail.com*

### **Distribution:**

The magazine exists in b/w print, and is available from the Trefonen Village Shop, the Barley Mow Inn, Trefonen Village Hall, and both All Saints Trefonen and St Michael's Llanyblodwel churches. It can also be read online and downloaded as a pdf file (in full colour) at [www.trefonen.org](http://www.trefonen.org), [www.borderparishes.org.uk](http://www.borderparishes.org.uk), and [www.st-michaels.uk](http://www.st-michaels.uk).

## Local contacts

Bryn Offa CE Primary School	Celine Keleher (Head Teacher)	830621
Jubilee Field	K Kimber	679646
Llanyblodwel Parish Clerk	Amy Jones	829571
	llanyblodwelpc@gmail.com	
Llanyblodwel & Porth-y-Waen Institute (Sec. Bethan Cross)		829368
Oswestry Rural (Trefonen) Parish Clerk	Kathryn Lloyd	07534 687663
	clerk@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk	
Pre-School:	07817 641528 or Shropshire Council	01743 254452
Shropshire Councillors:		
	Andy Davis (Trefonen)	andydavis@shropshire.gov.uk
	Duncan Borrowman (Llanyblodwel)	Duncan.Borrowman@shropshire.gov.uk
Trefonen Garden Club	Chris Kirk	688595
Trefonen Indoor Bowling Club	Kath Barkley	828587
Trefonen CE Primary School	Cathy Dunleavy (Head Teacher)	65296
Trefonen Village Hall bookings	Val Smout	657011
	valsmout@btinternet.com	
Trefonen Village Hall general contact:	Kath Roberts	671360
Trefonen Village website	www.trefonen.org	
Trefonen WI	Gill Buckeridge	653172

## Some useful services

Electricity (Scottish Power)	0800 027 0072	Citizens Advice Bureau	0800 144 8848
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HOSPITALS:		Drugs & Alcohol Helpline	0800 776600
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Royal Shrewsbury	01743 261000	Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline	0808 801 0800
Wrexham Maelor	01978 291100	Victim Support (National)	0808 168 9111
Princess Royal Telford	01952 641222	National Missing Persons Helpline	116 000

# OUT AND ABOUT



Trees coming into leaf on Trefonen Playing Fields -  
Spring at last!

