



This Month's Sponsor

In order to make this publication viable, The Penalltimate Edition will be sponsored. The sponsorship simply allows us to print this newsletter. All distribution, creation and editorial duties are completed by volunteers, we make no profit.

Village Nights at The Inn and Fine Wine Thursdays

Get rid of those mid week blues, 6pm/9pm every Wednesday a meal & a pint/glass of wine £8.95 – check web site or call Andy & Jackie on 01600 772765 for full details.

Every Thursday is Fine Wine Thursdays - £5.00 off all wines by the bottle -Trade up, bring a friend, try something new !

Another Dry Month

There were 12 days on which rain fell during January, and this was light rain at that, making a very dry month with total rainfall of 16.8 mm, 32% of the Ross-on-Wye* average for January of 53.0 mm.

2012 has therefore started with two very dry months: only 55% of the expected (Ross) rain has fallen so far. February 2012 started with a cold snap and finished with Spring-like weather. Overall, the average maximum temperature of 7.0°C

The Inn at Penallt wins AA Rosette

The Inn at Penallt has just learned that it has been awarded an AA rosette for the quality of its food.

The inspector spoke highly of the hospitality and service received (Matt Bristow was his waiter for the evening), the commitment to local produce and the fact that the pub saw itself as part of the local community. The latter is not an award criterion but was a personal observation from him.

Landlord Andrew Murphy added "Jackie and I are delighted and quite taken aback; it was unexpected and not something we had considered. We are also very very pleased for Peter who, as well as being a fantastic chef, works tremendously hard and certainly deserves the recognition."

A rosette is awarded where the quality of the food stands out in the local area, the food is prepared and served with care understanding and skill using good quality ingredients... where guests can eat in confidence with a sense of anticipation (AA web site awards criteria).

The Penalltimate

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Edition

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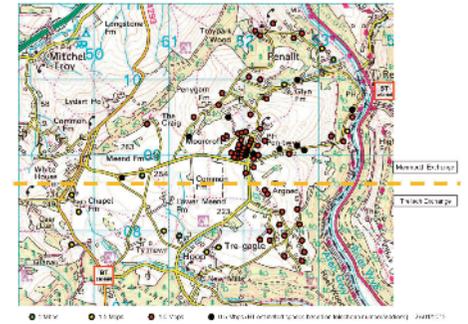
Broadband Update

From an initial consultation and survey issued to residents of the village, the broadband team have been able to progress a feasibility study to determine what options Penallt have to provide higher speed broadband.

105 responses were received to the survey, the overwhelming majority wanted to know more about the outcome of the project to try to increase broadband speeds in Penallt. The breakdown of responses relating to the statement "I am interested in learning about high speed home broadband in Penallt" was:- Very interested 91, Quite interested 12, Not interested 2.

The survey shows that the large majority of respondents live in "slow spot" areas (i.e. internet at less than 2.0 Mbps). It was not possible to estimate speeds for every household.

The next step has been to investigate both funding opportunities and technologies to support broadband provision.



Community Council Elections

Community councils are voluntary groups of people who give time to, and have an interest in, the well-being of their community.

Trellech United Community Council meets once a month at one of the village halls within the boundaries. Their chief role is representative: to consult the local community and to make known to the local authority and other public bodies the views of local people on all matters affecting them.

Would you like more information on the role of a councillor or on the election process? Please contact Monmouthshire County Council on 01633 644212. Elections will be held on 3rd May 2012.



An African Bus Journey

"I'm on the local African 'Whisper Service' bus! I grab the seat by the open door, and sit and wait, here in the market, for the 11 o'clock bus to Eldoret to leave town. Street traders, beggars and hucksters keep coming on the bus or try to sell me things through the open window. I could buy cold drinks, biscuits and peanuts, both in their shells and roasted, sold in newspaper cones."

Lyn Harper was in Kenya, working for Hands Around the World, a local (to Monmouth) charity that works mainly in Africa, building classrooms, health centres, workshops. Last year she was doing physical building; this year she was there to assess the progress and write reports, as well as visit friends!

A more detailed and enjoyable article is available on the Penallt website
<http://www.penallt.org.uk/recent-news/kenya>

Diary for Penallt

Saturday 31st March

Film Night at Pelham Hall.
Gasland. USA. Josh Fox. 2010.
A compelling American documentary.

Saturday 21st April

The 2012 Penallt Cricket Club Annual Bash at Pelham Hall (note change of date from March 10th): 7.30 pm till late.

Hot buffet and dancing to Funkazi. All welcome. Tickets cost £12.50 each.
Bryn Boycott 01600 713943 or Myles Evill 01600 712058 for tickets

Thursday April 5th

Beth Taylor will give another insight on children's literature, this time looking at 'Children's Books before 1939'. All welcome. 7.30 at Pelham Hall.
Penallt WI members: free
Non Penallt WI members: £2.50

Friday 13th April

Quiz and Curry Night. In support of Pelham Hall. £5 entry per person for a tasty Curry and Quiz. Lucky for some.

Saturday 28th April

Film Night at Pelham Hall.
Happy Accident. USA. Brad Anderson. 2000.

Thursday 3rd May

Community Council Elections.

For Wine and Dinner offers at The Inn please see the back page.

If you would like to add a date to the diary?
Contact webmaster@penallt.org.uk

News from Upper Meend Farm

17th February 2012

After over a year of lying idle, Upper Meend Farm is back to being a working farm. Farmers Tim and Sarah Stephens moved in at the end of last year with their Welsh ewes, Hereford cattle, horses, dogs and a cat called Beetroot. Lambing has started – new life is literally returning to the farm.

There is an enormous amount of work to do. Much of the fencing needs replacing, some of the barns need quite extensive repairs, as does the house. It is going to take quite some time to return it to the pristine state it was in when Ros and Arthur Edmunds were living there.

There has been interest in hedge laying, tree planting and the planning of the orchard, so Kate and Ludo are running three courses, the courses started on the 3rd March.

Full details of these courses are available at <http://katesfarm.org>.

Computer Support

David May is offering "Drop In" sessions for anyone needing help with their computers, for which there is no charge. The courses will continue to run on Thursdays at 10:00 at the Inn at Penallt until April 5th.

Recycle Bags

The Inn at Penallt has been asked by the Council to hold a supply of recycle bags for domestic refuse. If anyone requires extra bags please see Jackie or Andy.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

A small group of villagers are organising a Picnic on the Village Green to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4 June 2012 starting at 2pm.

There will also be an event in the evening at the Inn to carry on the celebrations, more details to follow.

A member of the organising group will be contacting all villagers soon to ensure the event is wanted and is well attended, and all suggestions have been considered.



If you are interested in getting involved please contact Roger Forbes on penalltdj@gmail.com or 01600 716853