

NEWSLETTER **no.4**

St Madoc of Ferns Community Group

OCTOBER 2024

Welcome to our fourth Newsletter with reports our on summer events, an update on lease negotiations and featuring our war memorial window



Latest News.....

Our Summer events

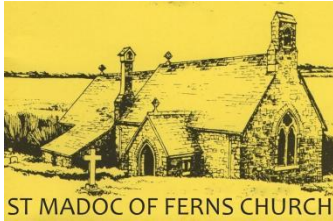
It was wonderful to see so many of you at our second year of participating in the Cadw Open Doors event this September and a big 'hello' to those of you who joined us at the event. We had a dramatic start this year with our Treasurer being out of action due to leg injury, predicted storms and our volunteer ecology walk guides being chased out of Haroldston woods by a swarm of wasps the night before the event! However St Madoc must have put in a good word for us as the weather held and several extra volunteers responded to a last minute rallying cry. It was wonderful to see the church full and it gave us a real flavour of what the church will feel like once we are able to open it properly. The ecology walk was a real success (and mercifully untroubled by wasps!) and it was lovely to hear more about the woods and the plants and animals living there. So many people contributed to the success of the day there isn't room to thank you all here, but I hope you know how much your support means to

us and gives us the confidence to get the church reopened. As always Cadw Open Doors events are free, so it was a welcome surprise that we also raised nearly £200 in donations and new membership fees.

The Haven's History Exhibition made a welcome return in our joint event with the Havens History group in August. In addition to the exhibition there was a full programme of events including art and jewellery workshops and talks on researching family history and history through metal detecting. It was lovely to meet so many of you there and a big thanks to Lawrence Mathias, Ann Stephens, Colin Potter and John Thompson for running the events and to Shirley and Ian Norman for their work providing and running the Havens History Group exhibition.

We held our very popular Cheese and Wine Evening with the Peter Connell Memorial Quiz on the 6th August. Many of you will remember Peter Connell and in particular his monthly quiz in the Haven's diary. I'm sure that he would have appreciated Richard Baker in the quizmaster role which included curating a selection of Peter's quiz questions from over the years. Congratulations to the flock of Bluetits, a local swimming group, for winning on a tie break and thanks all of you who helped at the event or who donated prizes for the raffle. This event sold out, so look out for its return next year and get your tickets early!





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Lease Negotiations and Upcoming Events

I'm sure you will be as disappointed as we are that we don't currently have the lease agreed with the Church in Wales, however the Church in Wales have had a considerable reorganisation in their properties department which has meant that they had to prioritise their day to day work for a while. The good news is that we have made progress with the Heads of Terms during this time and are now finally in the position to have solicitors help us formally sign off on the lease. We'll be letting you know once we hear anything further so keep an eye out for emails from us.

The run up to Christmas is a busy time for everyone and there are lots of other Havens organisations running Christmas fundraising events so we encourage you to support your local community and go to as many of those as you can! Do keep January 31st free though – One way or another we'll be doing something to mark St Madoc's day with an event for all our supporters.

THIS MONTHS FEATURE: The War Memorial for Haroldston Parish

With Armistice Day just around the corner it seemed timely to focus on the war memorial for the parish of Haroldston West – a stained glass window in our church. It was designed in the studio of Arthur J. Wix in Gower street, although the actual artist is unknown as Wix had died 2 years earlier. The window's dedication reads:

"To the glory of God – In grateful memory of John Codd and Walter James Griffiths who gave their

lives in the Great War – and as a thank offering for the safe return of those others from this Parish who served in that War. AD 1919."

John Codd was born in St Ishmael's in 1899 and was married in 1909. John enlisted in the 9th Battalion Welsh Regiment, leaving behind his wife Hannah and daughters Phyllis and Iris. John saw action at the Battle of Loos (1915) before moving on to the Somme. He was killed in action in the Battle of Messines in Ypres in 1917, aged 27. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.

Walter James Griffiths was born in 1898 at Haroldston Hill, Broad Haven. He was posted in 1917 to the 2nd Battalion Welsh Fusiliers and was killed at Ypres on 26 November 1917 aged 19. Walter is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial Belgium.

