



# FREYSTROP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

**DECEMBER 2024**



*The lime kiln at Little Milford  
One of the five listed buildings in the Freystrop Community*

This winter edition of the Freystrop Community Newsletter will be the last at this time of year.

Much of the content overlaps with the Annual Report which Freystrop Community Council is required to produce annually as a part of its statutory requirements. Newsletters in the future will be timed to include the annual report and be delivered to all properties in early summer.

Contributions of news, community interest, arts, history, etc are always welcome and can be emailed to [newsletter@freystrop.wales](mailto:newsletter@freystrop.wales) or hard copies can be left with Councillors or the clerk.



## Freystrop Community Council Chair's Annual Report



Twelve months ago ill health forced me to relinquish the role of Chair of the Community Council for a number of months. During this period my Vice-Chair, Esme Utting, presided over Council meetings and I want to pay particular thanks to her for carrying out the duties of the Chair during my absence.

During the year perhaps the biggest issue on the Council's agenda has been the matter of potential boundary changes and amalgamation proposed by the Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. The draft proposals recommend amalgamation of Freystrop with Hook and Llangwm with the new Community Council being called Llangwm Community Council. The three constituent parts would become wards and there would be an overall reduction in Councillors from 21 to 12

across the three wards. Meetings of the three Councils took place and all expressed strong opposition to the Commission's proposals. This opposition was also expressed in the individual submissions to the Commission and the outcome is awaited. Whatever changes are made will take effect at the next round of Community Councils elections in 2027.

Recently the Local Development Plan for the period 2017-2033 has been brought out of hibernation caused by the Covid 19 pandemic and the impact of Natural Resources Wales directive on phosphates and nitrates all of which has meant a complete rethink of Deposit 1 issued in 2020. Now 4 years later Deposit 2 has been issued and is currently undergoing an 8 week consultation. No sites in Freystrop have been allocated for housing in Deposit 2. The plan will go to a public enquiry in 2025 prior to adoption in 2026. The delay has meant that the plan will only be viable for 7 years instead of the intended 16 years.

My thanks go to all the Councillors and County Councillor Michael John for their valuable contributions to our meetings and of course to our Clerk and Financial Officer Russell Lavis for handling all the administration involved in running a Community Council so well.

Finally may I wish the residents of Freystrop all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

W David Thomas

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## County Council Report



### Review of Town & Community Councils in Pembrokeshire

Earlier this year the Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales published their proposals following their initial consultation. Their proposal for this area is quite radical: The Commission proposes to

abolish Freystrop, Hook and Llangwm Community

Councils and replace with 1 larger new council covering the 3 villages.

This proposal has been strongly opposed by all three affected community councils, and we now await publication of final review.

A full view of the report can be found here: [www.dbcc.gov.wales/reviews/07-24/pembrokeshire-community-review-draft-proposals](http://www.dbcc.gov.wales/reviews/07-24/pembrokeshire-community-review-draft-proposals)

### Local Development Plan 2 - Deposit 2 Consultation

PCC is moving forward with its replacement LDP which will provide policy and oversee developments in the county until 2033. (This covers the area of Pembrokeshire excluding the National Park). A consultation on this second Deposit LDP2 closes on 16 December 2024. This is an opportunity for members of the public to support or object to the Plan.



Residents are advised to look at the plan's text and maps to view proposals in their area. The Plan and related documents are available to view at: [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/local-development-plan-review/deposit](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/local-development-plan-review/deposit) Paper copies are also available at County Hall, Haverfordwest and in local Libraries. If you wish to have your say, you can do so using the comments form available online.

Forms can be emailed to [ldp@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@pembrokeshire.gov.uk) or posted to: The Development Plans Team, County Hall, Freeman's Way, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP

### **Celtic Freeport full business case**

PCC has recently approved the Celtic Freeport full business case. It is hoped this will secure a strong economic future for the county and create the right conditions for investment and growth both in Pembrokeshire and across the South West Wales region.

The Freeport represents an opportunity to develop a globally competitive future for the Haven waterway and for Pembrokeshire as a whole by securing investment and creating and sustaining good jobs. It revolves around future renewable energy and in particular the potential for Pembrokeshire to play a key role in the proposed off-shore wind turbines through the design and manufacturing.

For more information the website is [www.celticfreeport.wales](http://www.celticfreeport.wales)

### **PCC Budget 2025/26**

Pembrokeshire County Council's annual budget for 2025/26 is currently being considered and, like all councils, PCC is facing a huge deficit in funding required to maintain its services.

The projected funding gap is currently around £30m which has to be made up by cuts to services, cost efficiencies and council tax rises. The Welsh Government settlement will be announced in December by which time a more accurate assessment of the situation will be known. With over 70% of the council funds going on education and social services, (children & adults), the whole of the council is facing a tremendous strain in order to maintain services. It is likely the cabinet will be putting forward a high proposed rise and there will be a budget meeting of full council in February to discuss the situation once the final settlement from WG is known.

### **Gold Award**

PCC has recently been awarded the UK Government's highest badge of honour for supporting the Armed Forces Community.

The Council has achieved the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award showing the commitment to support the armed services, their families and veterans.

The MOD Employer Recognition Scheme encourages employers to support the armed services and inspire others to do the same.

To achieve Gold Award standard PCC has signed the Armed Forces Covenant and shown Armed Forces-

friendly credentials in their recruiting and selection processes in order to consider the needs of the Armed Forces community. Armed Forces Cadet organisations are also supported.

### **Secondary School Places Deadline**

This is a reminder to parents/guardians of Year 6 pupils in Pembrokeshire to apply for a secondary school place for September 2025 by the closing date of December 22nd 2024. Applications received after this date may have a bearing on whether your child gets a place at their preferred school. There is no automatic admission to a secondary school even if you are living in catchment and/or your child attends a feeder school. An application must be made and it is important to note that a school place will not be allocated unless a formal application is received. The online application form can be found on the PCC website:

[www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning)

### **Pension Credit**

You are reminded to check if you are entitled to Pension Credit.

Pension Credit is worth on average £3,900 per year and unlocks additional support including Winter Fuel Payments, help with Council Tax, NHS dental care and glasses – and, for those over 75, a free TV licence. It can be backdated by up to 3 months if there is entitlement during that time.

Find out if you are eligible by contacting the Pension Service at [www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility). You can also call: 0800 99 1234, Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm.

You will need your national insurance number and all income and savings details of you and any partner. You must apply for Pension Credit by 21 December 2024 to qualify for the 2024 - 2025 Winter Fuel Payment.

### **Public Scrutiny**

Public Participation is still being encouraged in the scrutiny process at PCC. The 5 committees are keen to look into the issues which may concern you or your community.

If you have a question or an idea which you feel would warrant scrutiny intervention contact:

[Democraticservices@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Democraticservices@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

### **PCC Meetings**

All meetings are live streamed and can be viewed at: [pembrokeshire.public-i.tv](http://pembrokeshire.public-i.tv)

If you have any queries or questions regarding any topics, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I can be contacted on 01437 890175 or [cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

You can also contact PCC direct on 01437 764551 or - [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/resident](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/resident)

***Finally, as always, I would like to wish all residents and their families a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2025!!***



# **Extracts from the Freystrop Community Council Annual Report** **2023/2024**

## **(with additional updates for April-December 2024)**

*The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires all councils to produce an annual report*

### **Council**

FCC were pleased to co-opt Thomas Holder as Councillor in May. Council expressed gratitude to Councillor Rebecca Beeden for her contributions prior to standing down.

### **Meetings**

Meetings of Freystrop Community Council cover the statutory duties required and also those of the Freystrop Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee.

During the year the standing agenda for meetings underwent refinement. Purely FCC items now take precedence followed by the County Councillor's report on items relating to Pembrokeshire County Council. A section allowing the Chair to pass on information from his voluntary attendance at national organisational co-ordination meetings is included. Items concerning the Freystrop Village Hall and Playing Field committee are the last items on the agenda. A clear distinction can be kept between the roles and responsibilities of the two "meetings".

From January 2025 meetings of the 2 committees will be held separately for a trial period. Increasing workloads have led to lengthening meeting times. It is hoped that the split of meetings will encourage residents to attend and participate in their area of interest.

### **Finance and Audit**

FCC will set the precept for 2025/26 at the January meeting. 2024/25 finances are currently within budget.

All audits up to, and including, 2023/24 were completed and paid for by Autumn 2024. The first full audit required of FCC for 2022/23 required minor actions to be completed all of which were already being addressed. An unconditional result was received for the standard audit for 2023/24.

### **Highways**

FCC continue to be concerned about speeding problems in the area particularly at Freystrop Cross, along Targate Road past the Playing Field, New Road and at Lower Freystrop. This also remains a constant source of complaints from residents.

The 20mph speed limit introduced during 2023 has alleviated some issues. FCC requested that PCC review the maintaining of the 30mph limit between High Freystrop and Maddox Moor. This is clearly an unsafe road at anything above 20mph.

FCC continue to encourage all residents to report incidents to 101. Traffic monitoring will only take place when reports from individuals become significant. The clerk to FCC has application forms for any resident to apply to volunteer to join the Community Speedwatch Scheme.

Results from a survey of traffic volumes and speeds on Targate Road have been received and are due for discussion in January. PCC recognise that there is a significant problem with speeding on this stretch of road.

### **Community**

The "Warm Rooms" initiative was enjoyed by all attendees over winter 2022/23 and it was decided to hold five once monthly sessions through autumn and winter 2023/24 under the banner of "Freystrop Community Get Together".

So popular have the Get Togethers been they continue on the first Monday of each month. Everybody is welcome.

### **Littering in the Freystrop Community**

Like so many other areas in Pembrokeshire Freystrop suffers from a huge volume of litter.



The Freystrop community is lucky to have volunteers who have taken it upon themselves to remove the debris where it is safe to do so. Hopefully the more this is tackled the more the problem will reduce in the future.

### **Freystrop Village Hall Charity**

The Charity Commission registration for some time had only one Trustee recorded putting the management of the charity at risk. An additional three Trustees have been to safeguard its future. Freystrop Village Hall Charity Trustees are now W David Thomas, Dawn S Harries, Anna M Simpson and Russell D Lavis. Freystrop Community Council remains the Corporate Trustee. Trustees are looking to change the status of the charity to that of a Charitable Interest Organisation allowing it more freedom in its activities.

### **Village Hall**

The Hall continues to be extremely well-used. Activities such as Baby Massage/Tai Chi/Craft/Painting Group/Canine Club are held most week. There are also regular monthly bookings.

A public Google Calendar allows prospective event planners easy access to the scheduled events.

Follow the bit.ly link or scan the qr code to the right for access

<https://bit.ly/FreystropVillageHallCalendar>

A dedicated blog using a Facebook page for the Hall. This is open to anybody with internet access without the need for a Facebook account.

Follow the bit.ly link or scan the qr code to the right for access

<https://bit.ly/FreystropVillageHall>



During a project to carry out internal improvement works to the Hall major subsidence has been observed in the Hall's structure. Insurers have refused to cover the cost of the substantial repairs required citing evidence of problems existing for over 15 years. Advice from builders was that a significant cost would be involved to make the structure safe before carrying out changes to the interior. The works originally planned for 2023 have been abandoned. The Committee is determined that Freystrop will not lose a hall as a valued community asset and is working hard to provide the best solution.

### **Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park**

FCC continue to fund the mowing of the pitch area whilst our volunteer continues to maintain the paths.

Two new benches have been installed, one alongside the Targate Path and the other in the Children's Play Area. Improvements were made to the site of the picnic bench.

Grant funding from South Hook LNG and reserved monies were used for the provision of adult and children's exercise equipment.

Working with the play area inspectors, volunteers address any issues to correct issues.

The monthly Working Parties continue to make great progress tidying up and enhancing the whole field. All assistance is welcomed. Why not come along in 2025 for some chat, exercise and the satisfaction of improving the Community's facilities.

Posters were displayed to encourage those interested in field sports to work with the field team to host events on the pitch. Disappointingly no enquiries have been received to date.

In May a successful plant sale and fete was held to raise funds. It is hoped to repeat this in 2025.

Weather permitting, our band of volunteers meet on the last Saturday of each month except August & December to improve our Recreation Park. Two hours is all we ask between 11:00-13:00.

Enthusiasm is all that is required to join us.

There's a task for everyone young or old. Installations, planting, pruning, surveys, painting. Makers of refreshments are especially welcome!



## Freystrop Community Information and Interaction

The Community Council is interested to know what you want from your Council. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future projects please do get in touch or if there is an issue that needs attention, please let us know. You may contact the clerk, a Community Councillor or your County Councillor.

Freystrop Community Council posts statutory and other items of interest to the noticeboard outside Freystrop Village Hall. Some items may also be placed on the noticeboard inside the Hall. A second Community Noticeboard is located at Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park. Occasionally notices may be posted at St Justinian's Church.



Statutory documents only are posted to the [pembstcc](https://www.pembstcc.co.uk/home) website. Documents from other Community Councils may also be viewed there. This site will be defunct from 31 March 2025. Details of its replacement will be posted in the New Year.

<https://www.pembstcc.co.uk/home>

The [Freystrop Community Council Blog on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FreystropCommunityCouncil) is accessible by all with internet access. A broad range of items from FCC and other organisations are posted.

<https://www.facebook.com/FreystropCommunityCouncil>



[Freystrop Village Hall](https://www.facebook.com/FreystropVillageHall) has its blog page posting items related to the Hall and its users, accessible by all with internet access.

<https://www.facebook.com/FreystropVillageHall>

The calendar of events for Freystrop Village Hall can be viewed here:

<https://bit.ly/FreystropVillageHallCalendar>



[Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park](https://www.facebook.com/FreystropPark/) imparts pictures of activities, events happening and recreation related posts to its own blog page, accessible by all with internet access.

<https://www.facebook.com/FreystropPark/>

A private [Freystrop Community Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/freystrop/) can be found on Facebook. Access is restricted to Facebook users and membership has to be approved by admins.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/freystrop/>

### Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) Matters

Please note that the following matters fall to PCC and, as such, the Community Council can lobby for action or change but it has no power to act directly, or to insist!

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| • Highways including road surfaces and potholes | • Street sweeping |
| • Refuse and Recycling                          | • Road Signs      |
| • Verge grass cutting                           | • Council Housing |
| • Education                                     | • Social Services |
| • Planning                                      |                   |

The PCC switchboard number is 01437 764551. Emails should be directed to [enquiries@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@pembrokeshire.gov.uk).

PCC have a MyAccount facility which can be set up and managed on their website at [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk). Residents may use the facility to report issues directly.

# Eich Dyfodol Freystrop Your Future Freystrop

How do you see the Freystrop Community of the Future?

This consultation was held at the Village Hall between Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Various times were set to ensure everyone had a chance to attend. Posters were put up in the hall and on noticeboards and postings were made on social media. Attendees were asked to spread the word amongst the Community.

**Your ideas for things to be done**  
**Your ideas to achieve those things**  
**How you'll help to make things happen**

Everyone was invited to:  
Pop along to a Working Party  
Post your views at your event in the Hall  
or Email [my.future@freystrop.wales](mailto:my.future@freystrop.wales)

Thank you to everyone who participated.  
All comments were welcome.

## Comments Received:

**The Book Swap** has proven to be very popular however there are concerns relating to whether the telephone box is the best place for this as books can get damaged by getting wet. Stronger shelving was suggested

**We are working on ideas for an alternative way of offering this.**

Preserving **St Justinian's Church** for the future was felt to be important.

*"Lovely Church, needs supporting for future generations of Freystrop and their ancestors"*

*"Push the fact that you have a 2000+ year old Yew tree at St Justinian's"*



Positive comments and suggestions were received about the work that has been undertaken at

**Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park.**

*“All the work at the park/field is helping everybody enjoy the outdoors, seating provided is great”*

*“Thank you to whoever empties the dog waste bin”*

*“We need a bigger bin and to pay someone to empty it regularly”*

*“Love the gym equipment”*

*“Excellent work at the recreation field has hugely improved this area”*

There were a number of comments about **lack of information** as some residents are not on social media.

*“Leaflets through letter boxes with information as not everyone is on the internet or Facebook”*

The committee try to update the noticeboards regularly and we were delighted in the year to receive a grant for a noticeboard at Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park. It is a huge task to design, print and post leaflets through letterboxes. We would welcome dedicated volunteers to do this. The social media platforms used for information posting are accessible to anybody using the internet. They are merely websites. Bookmark the links.

A **Footpath/Cycle Path** between Freystrop Cross & Troopers Inn was suggested.

Various comments relating to the **Freystrop Cross Bus Shelter**: One comment suggested relocating the bus shelter to another site, others suggested work that needed to be carried out.

Since the consultation, work has been carried out with repairs to the roof and window along with a much needed coat of paint this was undertaken by Dawn and Clive Harries. What a difference! Many positive comments and thanks have been received. It will not be demolished as per one suggestion!

**Christmas Trees**

Many residents request Christmas Trees for the Community during the year. Only two comments were made at the consultation both to say they did not wish the Community Council to fund any decorations but to use the money elsewhere.

## Whim Hill Field Bequest

Two suggestions were made

*“New Hall at Whim Hill site”*

*“How about a solar farm in field behind Moorland Road – no expenditure and income for decades”*

As the Community Council are not yet registered owners no discussions can be held but suggestions are welcome. Any development will be restricted as the land must be used to benefit Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park.

## Speeding & Road Safety

This is the issue that everyone that commented would like to see addressed. Comments included -

*“I would like to see a person to help the children cross over the crossroads, going to and from school and college. That 5 way crossing is dangerous. Nobody drives at 20mph”*

*“The nasty S bend corner going towards Hook should be 20mph (New Road)”*

*“Targate Road is used as a race track. Speed camera needed.”*

*“Warning of children play park & slow down, 3 or 4 signs along both sides of Targate Road”*

*“Can we have speed awareness signs”*

*“I feel there should be speed calming measures to slow cars down by the playing field and start of Targate Road”*

*“We would like a second entrance to park, the other end of Targate Road. (small pedestrian entrance/exit)”*

The Community Council also feel strongly about the issue and approaches have been made to PCC on a number of occasions. The results of the speed/number of vehicles check in the area of Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park will be used to decide on future actions. Our County Councillor, Michael John, is also working on solutions to all of the issues.

## Current/New Hall

The current hall is beyond economic repair and a replacement solution has to be found ASAP. Insurance is becoming more of an issue year on year. Comments relating to the hall include -

*“It is looking tired/dated”*

*“Not enough parking so people park in silly places when it's busy”*

*“Old hall site needs to be sold to fund a New hall”*



*“Future of old village hall once new one built, build affordable cottages for residents”*

The Community has agreed to the building of a new hall many times over the last 20+ years and a number of plans drawn up but the project has never progressed. The state of the current hall means this has now become a priority; it cannot be left. Help from the community to move things forward would be appreciated. The monthly Village Hall Committee Meeting will discuss work relating to a new hall.

**PLEASE COME ALONG AS YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE A NEW HALL HAPPEN.**

**Comments relating to a new hall included -**

- “Planning permission granted for a village hall at playing field, makes sense for the 2 sites to be together. More & safer parking. Better for community get togethers and sports events with toilets”*
- “A new community hall is needed for the village, more as a meeting hall for residents, perhaps a toddler group could use it. A couple of changing rooms for sports with space for showers in the future. The old hall is well used but falling apart!”*
- “An art display system around the walls”*
- “I think the cars of people using a new hall will be a problem noise, too many exiting the field at the same time and late at night. Suggest the new hall faces into the field so the noise goes away from neighbouring houses”*
- “I don’t feel a traditional hall is in keeping with the work that has been done at the recreation park. Green space. Outside meeting space. Need to think outside traditional 4 walls”*
- “I feel the 2017 decision to ratify a new hall should be brought back under consultation. A lot of things have changed”*



The under 11s exercise equipment during their installation



# FREYSTROP'S POST COVID ACHIEVEMENTS

## EVENTS

- Monthly meetings - Community Get Together
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month 13:30-15:30 – ALL WELCOME
- Picnic in the Park
- Spring in the Park
- Christmas Craft Fayre

## PARC HAMDDEN FREYSTROP RECREATION PARK



- Regular Volunteer Working Parties – all welcome
- Regular mowing of the 'pitch'
- 4 new exercise equipment for age 11+ and adults
- Circular grass paths – now used by so many
- Woodland walk
- Fruit trees - will allow residents to pick fruit for free
- Free trees planted along west fence to create a hedge and wind barrier, also a natural way to dry land
- Habitat improvements and original hedge maintenance
- Benches & Picnic Bench used by so many
- Habitat boxes to help biodiversity
- Storage container used to hold essential equipment, a shed for temporary storage and to collect water
- Additional Community Noticeboard
- Community Marquee

- Dog waste bin
- Raised borders Wildlife Garden to enhance the garden area created by volunteers near the gateway
- Plans have been drawn up to create a boardwalk around the wet corner of the field

## CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

- 2 new pieces of equipment for Primary Age Children
- Removal of aged beyond repair equipment
- Replacement programme for fence posts and equipment repairs
- General tidy-up

## TARGATE CORNER

- Salt Bin

## BOOK SWAP IN THE KIOSK ON THE CROSS

- Repurposing Telephone Box into Book Swap
  - So successful the shelving now needs some help!

## LITTER

- Organised Team Litter Picking sessions
- Small (& secret) army of volunteers regularly picking up litter from roadsides (All those red bags on the Cross!)



## BIODIVERSITY / NATURE / WILD AREAS

- Biodiversity studies of various areas in the village are being worked on – a work in progress, thanks to the volunteers undertaking this

## VILLAGE HALL

- Being maintained for use for as long as possible – limited life as it is now beyond economic repair

## ST JUSTINIAN'S CHURCH & BETHEL MIDDLE HILL CHAPEL

- Being maintained and kept going by volunteers
- Regular Services
- Harvest & Christmas Celebrations
- Special services

## FREYSTROP COMMUNITY COUNCIL & FREYSTROP VILLAGE HALL PLAYING FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Responsible for maintaining and running the various assets of the Community
- Ensuring that the needs of all are considered
- Yearly Community Newsletters
- Maintain up to date information on social media

## FREYSTROP CROSS BUS SHELTER

- Repaired and repainted by volunteers, funded by Freystrop Community Council



# *St Justinian's Church News*

We've had quite a busy year.

Gardening has been difficult with so much rain but we have had volunteers to help us and the grounds looked great.

Easter saw the Church decorated.



We had a wedding at the end of August which was beautiful. The weather was glorious and the Church looked stunning. It's a truly lovely place for wedding photos.

We also held our first child's christening since the covid lockdown. Our 1,000 year old font was used again. It was a lovely service with at least three generations of the family having been baptised in our font. It's a Norman font and might not always have been in the church, but who knows? With so much history at St. Justinian's, it's worth taking a look or joining us for a service, you're always welcome.

The Harvest Service saw amazing decoration thanks to our new member. The refreshments after the service were delicious. We know how to put on a spread both in and out of the Church.

The Candlelight Service took place on 15<sup>th</sup> December. This event is one never to be missed, look out for the date in 2025.

We Welcome new members and always appreciate help.

## Bethel Middle Hill Chapel News

It has been a busy year.

At Easter time, the Easter Cross was decorated with flowers and placed outside the chapel for everyone to see.

Rev. Chris Gillham officiated and after the service the Easter Simnel cake was cut and a piece given to each member to celebrate Easter Day.

In September we held our Harvest Festival Service. Rev. Martyn Evans gave the Harvest address.

In October, we organized a Macmillan Coffee Morning in Freystrop Village Hall. We raised £575 for cancer support.

Our next special service was the Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 15th of December at 2.30 p.m. After the service we had mulled wine and mince pies.

We hold services every fortnight. Our first Service in 2025 is on 5th of January.



From our family at Middle Hill to yours we wish you a blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

## CRAFT



A thriving craft group is held at Freystrop Village Hall, every Tuesday 12.30 - 3.30 pm.

Weekly membership fee is £4.00 per person, which includes tea, coffee, hot chocolate, etc.

All crafts welcome, as long as you can get them from home to hall. If interested contact Sue Rogers 07776007430.

The first meeting in 2025 is on Tuesday 7th January.

Please come and join us.

## *Freystrop Fayre*

### SOURDOUGH CARROT CAKE

Another favourite enjoyed at the Freystrop Get Togethers

#### For the cake:

400g Sugar  
320ml Olive Oil  
3 Extra Large Eggs  
120g Sourdough starter  
1 tsp Vanilla Extract  
240g Plain Flour  
2 tsp Ground Cinnamon  
2 tsp Bicarb of Soda  
¼ tsp Fine Sea Salt  
300g Grated Carrot  
1 tbsp Plain Flour  
100g Raisins (optional)  
80g Chopped Walnuts (optional)

#### For the icing:

A Pinch of salt  
225g each of:  
Mascarpone Cheese  
Cream Cheese  
Icing Sugar



#### Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180 C/350 F. Line a 9 x 13" baking tin
2. Using a mixer combine – sugar, oil, eggs & vanilla extract. Mix on medium speed for 2 mins until light and slightly thickened.
3. Add sourdough starter, mix to combine.
4. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, cinnamon, bicarb and salt. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture, mix on low speed.
5. Wash, peel & grate the carrots. Combine the carrots with the tablespoon of flour, mix well. Add the carrots (also raisins & walnuts if wanted) to the batter and fold in with a spatula.
6. Pour into the baking tin (at this point you can cover and chill overnight or use immediately).
7. Bake in the centre of the oven for 40-50 minutes or until a knife comes out clean.
8. Cool in pan for 15 mins, Remove to a wire rack and cool completely before adding the icing.
9. For the icing – add the softened mascarpone & cream cheese to a bowl. Sift the icing sugar into the bowl. Add the salt. Mix until light & creamy.



## Snippets of Past News

### No Nurses: Matron Runs Hospital

Commenting on the serious shortages of nurses at the Isolation Hospital, Pembroke Dock, Councilor B. G. Howells told Pembroke-shire County Council Public Health Committee at Haverfordwest on Saturday that the position at the moment was that the last nurse had just left and the matron was carrying on alone day and night. There were two domestic helpers at the hospital.

Fortunately there were only a few cases at the hospital at the moment, but they did not know what might come in, and there might be an outbreak of contagious disease at any time. If they had a considerable number of cases of infectious disease they would either have to send them outside the county or get nurses from another district.

They had made every effort to get nurses without success, and the only possible solution at the moment was to have temporary or part-time nurses.

It was agreed to advertise for part-time nurses.

#### NO ACCOMMODATION

When it was reported that no accommodation could be found in the Freystrop and Llangwm district for a nurse, the Chairman said it seemed an extraordinary thing that in a district such as this nobody could be found to let a room or take in the district nurse. There was now a vacancy in the district, and no applications had been received to advertisements.

With reference to the shortage of medical practitioners at Pembroke Dock, the Clerk (Mr. W. E. Bufton) said that representations had been made by the insurance committee to the Welsh Board of Health, who had replied that they had no power of direction in this matter at all and could do nothing.

It was stated that there were two doctors in Pembroke Dock, which has a population of 8,590.

[Left]  
Nothing is new  
in health care  
Western Mail  
16 June 1947

Sales by Auction continued

Herefordshire, Pembroke-shire, Breconshire, and  
Worcestershire.

BY MR. T. RULE OWEN.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

PARISH OF FREYSTROP, NEAR TO MILFORD  
HAVEN.

VALUABLE FARMS AND LANDS, AND  
MINERAL PROPERTY FOR SALE.

MR. T. RULE OWEN, will SELL by  
AUCTION, at the CASTLE HOTEL, HAVERFORDWEST,  
On TUESDAY, the 31st day of OCTOBER, 1882,

At Two for Three o'clock, the

LITTLE MILFORD ESTATE

In One Lot, comprising:

Several HOMESTEADS and FARMS, called HIGH  
FREYSTROP, SUMMERHILL, CLAYSTON, and the  
GENTEEL RESIDENCE in the occupation of the Rev.  
Jackson Taylor, rector of the parish, the LICENSED  
PUBLIC HOUSE called the COLLIER'S ARMS, on the  
Turnpike Road, from Haverfordwest to Pembroke Ferry,  
SIXTY-ONE ACRES OF WOODLAND,

AND

235 ACRES of PASTURE AND ARABLE LAND,

Together with the valuable

UNWORKED VEINS OF COAL AND CULM

Underlying the same.

The COLLIERY is situate about three miles from the  
town of Haverfordwest, about seven miles from Milford  
Haven, on the banks of the river Cleddau, where there is a  
Shipping Place, and arrangements could be made by which  
the Minerals could be conveyed to the Johnston Station of  
the Great Western Railway by means of a Tramway run-  
ning through a continuation of the mineral district.

The unworked Culm, which has, however, been well tried,  
consists of 42 Acres of the Main or Timber Vein, the best in  
the district, and a considerable extent on the dip side of  
the tumbling Vein which overlies the Main Vein.

There is also a VALUABLE STONE QUARRY imme-  
diately adjoining the Turnpike Road, from which any  
quantity of excellent Building Stone could be obtained at  
little cost. This Stone has been used extensively in Haver-  
fordwest and neighbourhood.

The Lands, &c., are all let as Annual Tenancies, and at  
Low Yearly Rents.

Maps, with particulars and Conditions of Sale, will shortly  
be ready, and may be obtained of Messrs. Curtler and Davis,  
Solicitors, Sansome Place, Worcester; of Messrs. Bennett,  
Dawson and Bennett, Solicitors, Lincoln's Inn, London; of  
the Auctioneer, and of Messrs. John Harvey and Sons, Land  
Agents, Haverfordwest. 8637

The Sale of Little Milford Estate  
Hereford Times  
28 October 1882

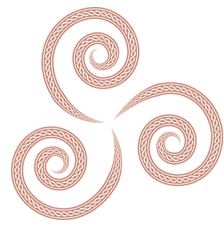
Memento Mori  
The Cambrian  
23 April 1836

The Freystrop carpenter who made his own coffin

pieces of the reign of his late Majesty George the Third.

**MEMENTO MORI.**—An honest carpenter residing at Freystrop, having passed upwards of seventy years in this sublunary world, has thought it necessary to make some preparations for leaving it. Impressed with this idea, on Saturday last he seized the opportunity of his wife's attendance at Haverfordwest market to set to work in good earnest in this laudable undertaking, and by the time of her return he had actually completed his own coffin! It is said that he has had the wood laid up for this purpose upwards of three years, and that it is his intention to prepare a similar article for the accommodation of his better half, he having provided a sufficient quantity of materials to make it. Whatever may be the motive, he has prepared a remembrance of the instability of human life, and the certainty of its termination, far preferable to the death's head of the ancient devotees.—*Welshman.*

The plan for forming a railway from Gloucester to



FREYSTROP  
COMMUNITY

# Freystrop Community Get Together



All welcome at the  
Village Hall  
Join friends &  
neighbours

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits and, usually, Cake

1.30pm – 3.30pm

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (5<sup>th</sup> May is a Bank Holiday)



The Freystrop Community Get Together continues to be popular. We have a number of regular attendees. EVERYONE is welcome. It is just a nice way to spend a few hours getting to know others in the area.

It is great to see people from different parts of the Freystrop Community come together for a few hours.

Homemade biscuits & cakes are normally on offer. Thank you Gwyneth for your amazing biscuits.



During the summer of 2024 the group was attended by Michael Hughes, a Digital Champion with Age UK Dyfed. Michael offered advice about ways to claim grants, sign up for better deals with utilities and help with getting connected via the internet amongst other things. A number of residents have been helped and continue to be supported by the scheme outside of the Get Together.



For 2025 your Community Council can apply for funding to provide activities such as exercise, arts and skill-building workshops – anything you want, really. Let a Community Councillor, or the community clerk know your ideas and how many are also interested for an application to be made.



# **CONTACT DETAILS OF CLERK AND COUNCILLORS**

Details correct at 15 December 2024

## Freystrop Community Councillors

Dawn S Harries	Maddox Moor		<a href="mailto:cllr.dawn.harries@freystrop.wales">cllr.dawn.harries@freystrop.wales</a>
M Ross Harries	Moorland Road		<a href="mailto:cllr.ross.harries@freystrop.wales">cllr.ross.harries@freystrop.wales</a>
Thomas Holder	Maddox Moor		<a href="mailto:cllr.thomas.holder@freystrop.wales">cllr.thomas.holder@freystrop.wales</a>
Anna M Simpson	Moorland Road		<a href="mailto:cllr.anna.simpson@freystrop.wales">cllr.anna.simpson@freystrop.wales</a>
W David Thomas	New Road	01437 890297	<a href="mailto:wdavidthomas207@gmail.com">wdavidthomas207@gmail.com</a>
Esme Utting	Freystrop Cross		<a href="mailto:gutting@pobroadband.co.uk">gutting@pobroadband.co.uk</a>

## Freystrop Community Clerk

Russell D Lavis	Sivalrid Moorland Road Freystrop SA62 4LE	07812508202	<a href="mailto:community.clerk@freystrop.wales">community.clerk@freystrop.wales</a>
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## Pembrokeshire County Councillor – Llangwm Ward

Michael J John	Millbrook House 23 Main Street Llangwm SA62 4HP	01437 890175	<a href="mailto:cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk">cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk</a>
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## **Freystrop Community Council Meetings 2025** **Freystrop Village Hall & Playing Field Meetings 2025**

Meetings are held 10 times in the year. There are no meetings in August and December. The scheduled dates may be subject to change. Changes will be posted to FCC websites and alterations made on noticeboards where time allows.  
Separate FCC & FVH meetings are a trial and may be re-combined

All meetings unless otherwise advised are held at Freystrop Village Hall

Freystrop Community Council			Freystrop Village Hall	
13 January	19:30		6 January	19:00
10 February	19:30		3 February	19:00
10 March	19:30		3 March	19:00
14 April	19:30		7 April	19:00
12 May	19:30	5 May Bank Holiday	19 May	19:00
9 June	19:00	Includes AGMs	2 June	19:00
14 July	19:30		7 July	19:00
8 September	19:30		1 September	19:00
13 October	19:30		6 October	19:00
10 November	19:30		3 November	19:00