

# The Black Diamond

HOOK VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

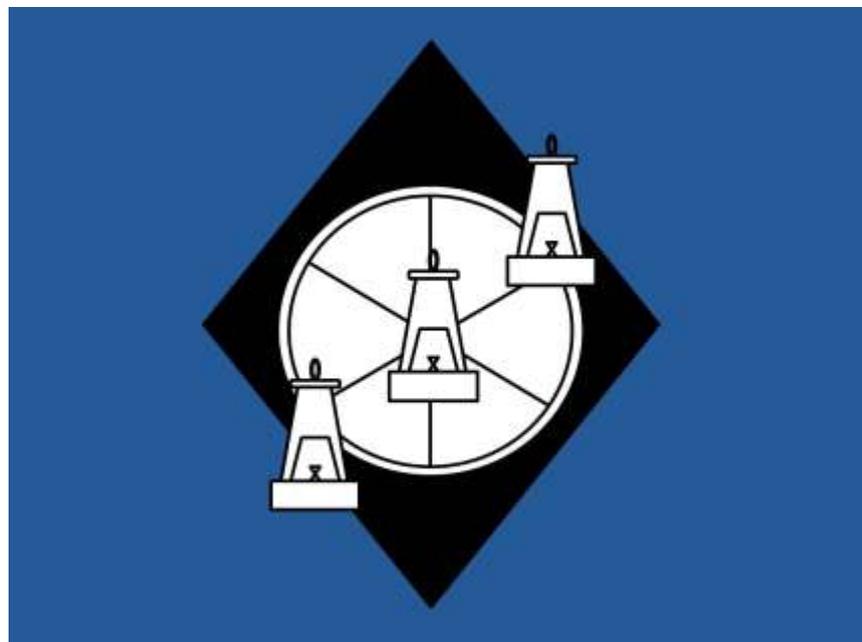


No2/14



## Fly the Flag for Hook

HookFest14 is upon us and it's time to dust off your Welsh Dragons, Pembrokeshire Flag, and Union Jacks and yes, print off the newly elected Hook Village Flag for your windows and cars. Last HookFest the village came to life by flying flags and displaying bunting. No-one who came through the village could be in any doubt that this was a special week in Hook. This year we are able to boast our own village flag following a competition that saw eight excellent entries which were voted on during the Black Diamond Village DVD presentation evening. Of the 82 votes cast the below entry received 38 votes and was a clear winner. It has now been adopted as the Hook Village Flag. Unfortunately we haven't been able to purchase any actual flags as yet but if you would like to print an A4 copy and put it in your window or car you can find the flag on the Hook Village web site [www.hookvillage.co.uk](http://www.hookvillage.co.uk)



## **The story behind the design**

All the entries were accompanied by an explanation of how they were conceived. As you would expect the themes of the Cleddau River, the green fields of our countryside and the heritage of our coal mining industry were present in most of the entries. The winning entry was based on **BACKGROUND** - The blue symbolises the River Cleddau and its importance to the village's identity and history **THE BLACK DIAMOND** - the symbols of our village's industrial heritage that has been adopted as the title of the village newspaper.

**THE THREE MINER'S LAMPS AND WHEEL**- is a combination of the symbols of the Village's institutions and Hook Cricket Club that has been central to village life for so long

### **This issue**

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# BLACK DIAMOND

## LAUNCH

### A HUGE SUCCESS



Well over 150 people attended the launch of the Black Diamond Village ....a DVD dealing with the history of Hook and produced by the village History Society.

The production tells the story of Hook as a former mining village when it was producing over 40,000 tons of top quality anthracite each year. Anthracite, which was exported literally all over the world, and used extensively in the Royal Palaces of Victoria.

The story of the famous compass fishermen was also related as was the unrelenting struggle the villagers had to construct a road into Hook. Until the 1920's there was no direct road link to Hook and the County Council of the day said it would only construct a road if the villagers could donate £1200 towards the cost. This was at a time when miners struggled to survive on meagre wages and by today's prices that would be in the region of £300,000. A 20 strong committee was formed; they met 200 times but managed to raise the cash and told the County Council to "get on with it".

The work behind the DVD project was outlined by History Society member, Richard Howells, who explained that a decision had been taken to keep as much of the work on the Lottery Fund aided scheme as possible within the village.

Villagers provided the technology for production; the script writing and research; the voice over and even a Hook resident who provided the magnificent aerial photography which is one of the highlights of the DVD. Mr Howells was introduced by Mrs Jeanette Phillips.

The speaker for the evening was Tegryn Jones, the Chief Executive of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

Said Mr Jones," While much attention is given to the fact that the national park is a landscape designation perhaps less attention is given to the fact that the purposes of the national park include the need to preserve the cultural heritage of the area and we have seen an excellent example of that in action tonight with the Black Diamond Village film. It proves that Hook is a vibrant community that brings the school and community together to share past glories and work together in the present and the future." Mr Jones was introduced by David Harris.

Copies of the DVD are available for Society members or the local village shop.

## HISTORY SOCIETY DONATIONS

Such was the success of the launch of the Black Diamond DVD last month the History Society finds itself with a modest financial reserve. Members of the management committee were unanimous that it was never the purpose of the Group to accumulate funds so it has been agreed to donate £100 to Hook Gospel Mission and Mount Zion Chapel towards the upkeep of the cemeteries and a similar amount towards the upkeep of the Miners Memorial Garden.



## Hook Community Council New Councillors and Clerk needed.

Two new Community Councillors are needed following the departure of Chrissie Holder and Dot Morgans. The Community Council are also the Trustees for the Hook Miner's Memorial Ground and Garden so anyone interested would need to be aware that they will be 'signing up' for both roles. The Council/Trustees meet usually on the third Tuesday of each month every month of the year except August and December. If anyone is interested please get in touch with either Stuart Blaxland – email [sblaxland@btinternet.com](mailto:sblaxland@btinternet.com) or phone- 07528 234412 or Richard Howells on 890458 or email [richardhowells45@btinternet.com](mailto:richardhowells45@btinternet.com)

The Council is now also without a Clerk. Jane Clark has moved on to serve as Clerk to Neyland Town Council and we are therefore seeking a replacement. The post is modestly paid and requires secretarial and IT skills. Please contact Stuart Blaxland for a full role profile and application form if interested.

The Area to the South West corner of the recreation field that borders the property 'South Down' known to the children as the 'bank' has been assessed by the Trustees as unsafe for play by children. While the best long term solution is considered in conjunction with proposed development plans the Trustees are prescribing this area as being 'out of bounds'. We are asking that all parents make it clear to their children that they cannot play beyond the signs.



### Jeff's making progress

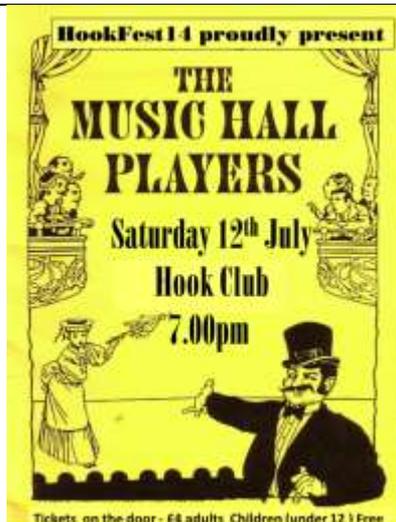
Jeff Evans is now at Rookwood Rehabilitation Hospital in Llandaf, Cardiff where he undertakes intense physiotherapy in the gymnasium and hydro pool. His progress is still sometimes agonisingly slow and dogged with other problems such as tendonitis in his shoulder but progress is being made. Jeff now has the use of a motorised wheel chair that gives him the freedom to go to the gym when he wants to and also spend time in the gardens. As usual with Jeff, his irrepressible sense of humour is never far from the surface. "Getting my licence to go solo with the wheel chair wasn't straight forward."

He explained. "You have to demonstrate that you can navigate streets and safely cross the road. It sounds simple, but when you haven't been outside for months, and you're trying to get into position to press the button on the pelican crossing with the possibility of a muscle spasm coming on it makes for an interesting morning." When asked about his immediate future he said "I'm still improving and that's the important thing and what I'm focusing on. Although I need to be supported I am walking more each time and I can get from my chair into my bed myself. I'm so grateful for all the hard work of the staff here and all those friends and relatives who continue to support me, Helen, Sarah and the rest of the family. I'm looking forward to getting home and seeing everyone."



## The weeks programme at a glance

Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Music Hall Players <i>Come and be entertained</i>	Hook Club 7.30pm
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Hymn Service in Memorial Garden	11.00am
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Lunch	Hook Club 12.00pm
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Cricket <i>The Skelfayre Cup Final</i>	Hook Field 1.00pm
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Treasure Hunt	Chapel Hall 6.30pm
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Hook School Cricket and Rounders Tournament	Hook Field 1.00pm
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning <i>Photography Competition</i> <i>Single Bloom Competition</i>	Hook Club 10.30am
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	History Society Talk	Chapel Hall 7.30pm
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sound and Vision Quiz	Hook Club 8.00pm
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Family Fun-Day	Hook Field 1.00pm



**Come join us for a bonanza of wit  
and song**

The renown Music Hall Players will provide  
entertainment for all the family.

£4.00 entry – Children under 12 free.

Great prize raffle.

7.00pm



# Family Hymn Service



This will take place in the Hook Miner's Memorial Garden on the  
13<sup>th</sup> at 11.00.

Rev.s Steve Woods and Chris Gillham will speak and there will be  
songs by the Ladies Choir of the Hook Gospel Mission and  
Mount Zion Chapel.

Everyone is welcome! Please come and join us.

## SUMMER LUNCH

The Hymn Service will be followed by a Summer Lunch in the Club Hall  
Cold meat buffet with hot potatoes and salads followed by a  
selection of desserts.

Again everyone is welcome and tickets cost £8.00 for adults and  
accompanied children under 12 eat free

Ticket are available from Dot in the Shop or from Stuart or Richard

## Ladies Skylefare Cricket Final Burton v Cresselly

1.00pm - 2 innings of 20 overs

The match is sponsored by -

**G.G.T. Thomas and Son**



## Car Treasure Hunt



Time to test your brain and problem solving skills

A prize treasure hunt around the locality starting at the  
Chapel Hall at 6.30pm and finishing at the Club.

A cup of tea and a biscuit awaits and then perhaps something  
stronger.

Come and join the fun. £5 per car



# Coffee Morning



Please join us for a cup of coffee and a scone,  
jam and cream. Entry will be £2.00

Enjoy the Photo and Single Bloom Competitions. If you would like to enter – see below  
Mrs Joy James who is the Pembrokeshire County Council Carers Strategy Co-ordinator  
will be there to give advice and information.

## Photography Competition

The theme for the competition is: Hook Village (e.g. depicting people, wildlife, nature, places in and around Hook and the river)

### Entries:

1. You may enter up to three photographs, which should be no smaller than 6x 4 and no larger than A4 in size. (8 x 10).
2. Photographs must be your own work.
3. Any photographs of people, especially under the age of 16 must have the permission of that person or parent/guardian.
4. All photographs should be submitted in an envelope. Print your name and contact details on the outside of the envelope. [State your age if under 18.](#)
5. **CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES:** Envelopes containing the photographs should be left in the **Village shop by Friday the 11th July.**
7. The judge's decision will be final.
8. The results will be announced at the Coffee Morning being held in the Social Club on Tuesday 15th July, when the photographs will be displayed.
9. The committee accepts no responsibility for loss or damage of photographs. Photographs will be replaced in envelopes and returned.
10. Prizes for the best entries

## Single Bloom Competition

This competition will be held on **Tuesday 15th July** during the coffee morning to be held at the Social Club.

Entries should be brought to the Social club between **9.30 and 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday July 15th.**

Each entry should be in a receptacle, which will hold water e.g. vase, jug, milk bottle, bud vase, jam jar!

Entries may be embellished with greenery

The entries will be judge during the morning and the winners announced before the end of the coffee morning.

The judge's decision will be final

**Grateful thanks for prizes donated by Vincent Davies Family Store**

# Hook



## HOOK HISTORY SOCIETY

Presents

### **FIRST WORLD WAR - THE COUNTY'S ROLE**

**Simon Hancock**

**Wednesday - 7.30 – Chapel Hall**

**SOUND AND VISION QUIZ- CLUB BAR 8.00PM**

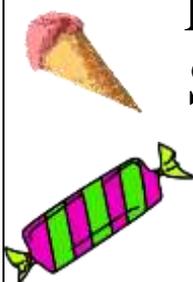
# FAMILY FUN DAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY



Pembrokeshire Falconry present their static display.

Sponsored by Steve Thomas Solicitors and Steve Rich's [Hook Engineering Design](#)

Come and have your photo taken with a magnificent bird of prey!



Dot and Brian from Newtown Stores will be providing sweets icecream and goodybags to all good children

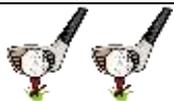


## Children's Fancy Hat Competition



**Sponsored by**

This fantastic prize will be presented to the child wearing the Fanciest Hat. It will be judged on how much work and imagination has gone into the design. Open to under 14 (year 9) and under.



## Golf Course and other Games

### Children's Treasure Hunt



Sponsored  
by



## Food and Drink



## Golf Pitching Competition – Cash Prize

Sponsored by **G.G.T. Thomas and Son**





Tug o war competition sponsored by **Hook Sports Association**



Bouncy castles,  
Family Games Prize stalls,  
Face painting and much, much  
more.



## Notice

The Family Funday will start at about 1.30pm.

If you would like to have a stall or fund raise for your organisation then please get in touch with Stuart Blaxland on 07528 234412.

Please do not drive if avoidable as there will be restricted parking.

All information correct at time of publication but may be subject to change at organisers descretion.

## PLAYGROUNDS UPDATE



The situation now is –

- ❖ **Planning Permission has been applied for and subject to conditions granted.**
- ❖ **A funding application to the SITA Trust has been made and we await their decision.**
- ❖ **The refused grant application to The National Lottery People and Places will be re-submitted as soon as required additional information can be sourced and further criteria met.**
- ❖ **£3,700 has been raised within the Community from The 100 Club and last year's HookFest.**
- ❖ **We will be trying to raise further funds during HookFest 14 to be able to meet the SITA Trust's required 11% donation (£4,800)**
- ❖ **Please look out for the opportunity to show your support and help our funding quest at the Family Funday Marquee.**