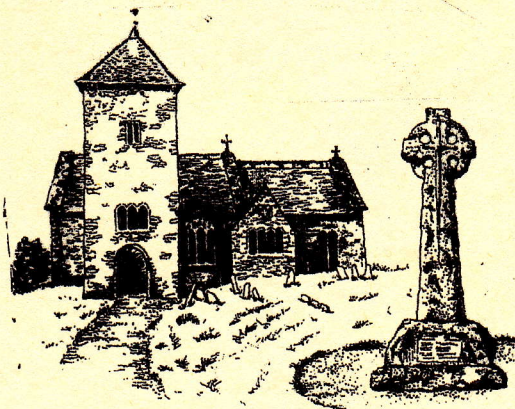


**Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel**

**Roy G Nicholas**

**Clerk to the Council**  
**Proper Officer of the Council**

**16 Rushey Meadow**  
**MONMOUTH**  
**NP25 5BT**



**(01600) 714181**

**Clerc y Cyngor**  
**Swyddog Priodol y Cyngor**

**16 Dôl Frwynog**  
**TREFYNWY**  
**NP25 5BT**

22 February 2016

To Each Community Councillor

**What you should know about the LVACC Churchyard**

This ring-binder on the above matter is issued to each of you for your retention whilst you remain a Community Councillor. When you retire from being a Community Councillor, please return it to the Clerk so that it can be issued to the new Councillor.

**Some History!** The LVACC Churchyard has been the responsibility of this Council since 1920.

At the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1984 Community Council Meeting, it was suggested that an attempt should be made on the 'clearance' of the Churchyard. But, from the Minutes, we learn that Cllr Dr J Keidan "felt nothing should be done as the Council had already tried in vain to carry out such a scheme". It is apposite to mention that Dr Keidan lived at the Manor House immediately alongside the Churchyard.

When I was appointed Clerk and Churchyard Safety Officer twenty years ago, a proper start was made to clear the Churchyard and the completed clearance lasted until Cllr Ray Bowen a year ago spent two days with his tracked digger removing the final obstacles to safe passage of visitors and others; this was at no cost to LVACC. Please see photos attached. Costs have been kept to the minimum as a result of the help of volunteers (myself included!).

We can be proud of what has been achieved. Don't let it slip again!!

Roy G Nicholas

Churchyard Safety Officer – Appointed Officer to the Burial Authority





Cllr Ray Bowen using his tracked digger over two days –free of charge – to remove last of obstacles. His helpers are Cllr Len Lane and his gang.



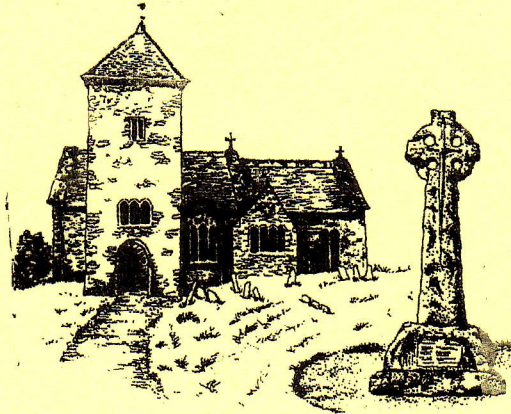
**Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council**  
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Page 1 of 4

Roy G Nicholas

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7<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**LVACC Section of Perimeter Wall to Llangattock Churchyard**

From its 1920 transfer to the Parish/Community Council, the perimeter stone wall had not received any attention of note until 2009/10 when safety issues arose in preparation for the Charles Rolls Centenary Anniversary when very large numbers of visitors were expected.

It was necessary to award the work to a stonemason who submitted an estimate of £3,500 to 'make safe'. It so happened that the Clerk was able to obtain an award of £1,000 from a very unexpected source and this allowed the top-section wall to be fully restored which brought the total cost to £4,050.

Prior to the commencement of the work, there was a section where *Lonicera* bushes from the neighbouring ground had penetrated and undermined the wall. In preparation to the stonemason's work, the Clerk spent two days clearing the dislodged stones and made ready the foundation for the stonemason to commence work.

As Safety Officer for the Churchyard, the Clerk on his routine inspections periodically checks the perimeter wall for any signs of *Lonicera* penetration in/on the stonework.

On his 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013, he recorded "Cllr R Bowen and self inspected the perimeter wall – satisfactory. Also called on neighbour to request that he controls his *Lonicera Nitida* from penetrating the wall".

On his 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 inspection he recorded "All monuments inspected. None requiring attention. *Lonicera* growth from neighbouring property a cause for concern".

On his 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 inspection he recorded "Checked perimeter wall. No sign whatsoever in presence of intrusive *Lonicera* in stonework". He reported this in the Minutes of the February Public Meeting.



Only two other instances of major wall damage have occurred during the past twenty years.

During a major sewerage blockage affecting the Mansion sections, part of the wall had to be removed to allow construction of an adequate 'connection'. This was restored at no cost to the Community Council – but it took a long time!

Near to the Rolls Graves, a large tree collapsed onto the wall and damaged a section. It took a very long time for the 'owner' to pay for the repair as he argued at the time that the actual freeholder of the land had not been established. It should also be mentioned that the nearby Yew Tree was badly damaged and is the reason for some missing branches.

**February 4<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting..2016**

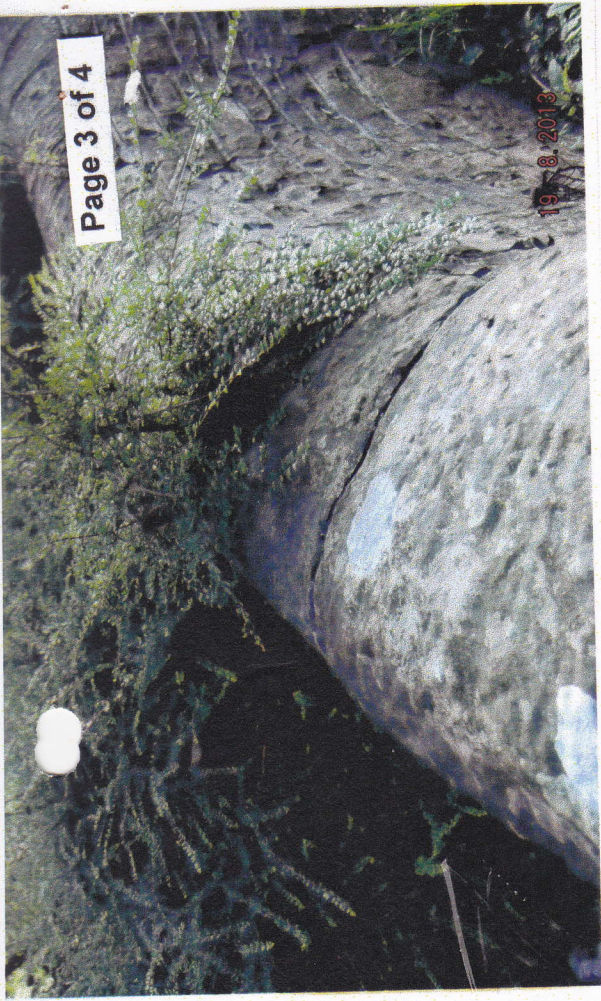
The Clerk announced that there was no longer any invasive *Lonicera* in the wall!! Marvellous news.

However, as the *Lonicera* is still thriving strongly on the owner's land adjacent to the perimeter wall, regular checks will continue to be essential.

Roy G Nicholas  
Clerk and Proper Officer of the Council  
Churchyard Safety Officer  
Appointed Officer to the Burial Authority

Copy All Members – February 2016





Invasive Lonicera bushes from adjoining (Greenwood) land

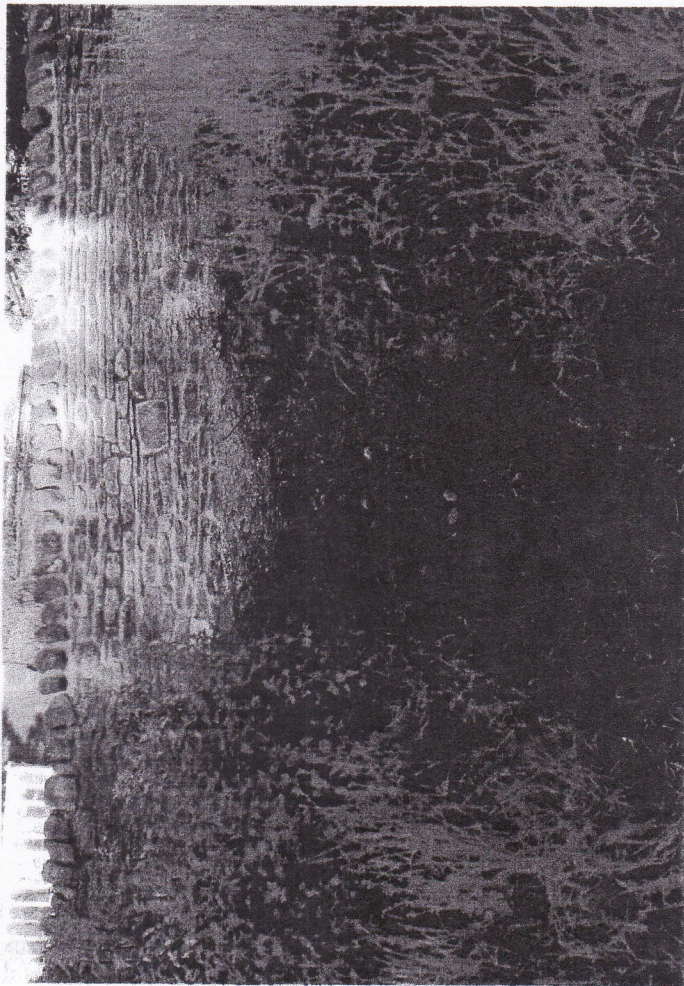
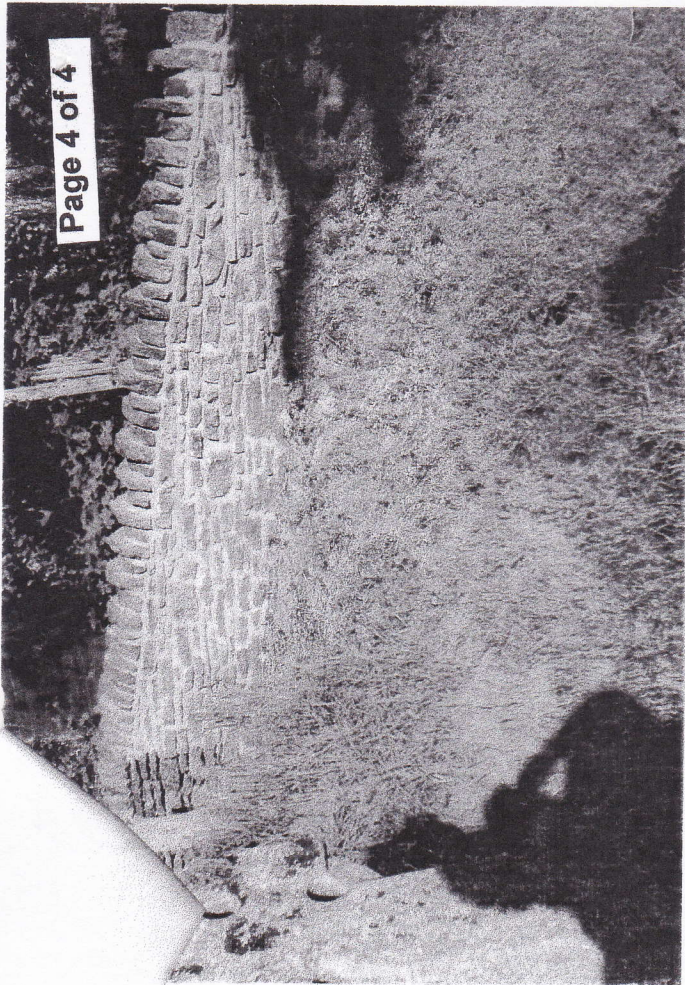


Take close look for camera self-dating of 19.8.2013



# 2009 - SAFETY- WALL REPAIRS & STABILISATION

Page 4 of 4





# Monmouthshire Beacon

Established October 1837

Wednesday 21st July 2010 Price 35p

## *Rolls thanks*

SIR

I would like to express my thanks to the many people who helped to make the Rolls event, held on Monday 12th July, such an enjoyable day – many of them volunteers.

Paul Matthews, Chief Executive of Monmouthshire County Council, without his support the whole event could not have gone ahead.

Rev David McGladdery, for the service which started the event.

The One Stop Shop, Mr and Mrs Gwyn Jones for Vauxhall Fields, Mike Booth, manager of the Shire Hall, Mr Glyn Edmunds for his dedication to duty and professionalism and of course Simon and all the other Monmouthshire County Council helpers.

The regiment for supplying and erecting the dais.

St John Ambulance, Jeff Harris, sound system, the police, Sgt Bull and PCSOs, Richard Wills, chairman of the Shire Hall Stewards, Barbara Wright, secretary, Eira Sheggles and Grahame Thomas.

Norman Williams and members of the rotary, Andy Raynor and members of the Lions, PJ Caterers for the delicious food, Rolls-Royce PLC, Rolls-Royce Vintage Car Club, Millbrook nurseries for planting the planters in front of the Shire Hall.

The Rt Hon Geoffrey Somerset, Lord Raglan for unveiling the plaque and for the wonderful speech, Mr Roy Nicholas whose advice and information was invaluable.

Last but not least the three other members of the Rolls working committee, their support and hard work must not go unrecognised.

Councillors Sue White, Gerry Bright and Chris Munslow, Town Clerk Sue James and Jane Lloyd.

The reception in the wonderfully restored Shire Hall only took place because at the last minute the workmen pulled out all the stops and completed work over the weekend. It all looked beautiful.

Everyone will have a chance to see it soon, as conducted tours are being arranged.

Thank you again.

**Councillor Sue Chivers**  
(Monmouth)



**Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel**

Page 1 of 4

**Roy G Nicholas**

**Clerk to the Council**  
**Proper Officer of the Council**

**16 Rushey Meadow**  
**MONMOUTH**  
**NP25 5BT**



**(01600) 714181**

**Clerc y Cyngor**  
**Swyddog Priodol y Cyngor**

**16 Dôl Frwynog**  
**TREFYNWY**  
**NP25 5BT**

**7<sup>th</sup> February 201**

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Roy G Nicholas  
Clerk and Proper Officer of the Council  
Churchyard Safety Officer  
Appointed Officer to the Burial Authority





Invasive *Lonicera* bushes from adjoining (Greenwood) land



Take close look for camera self-dating of 19.8.2013

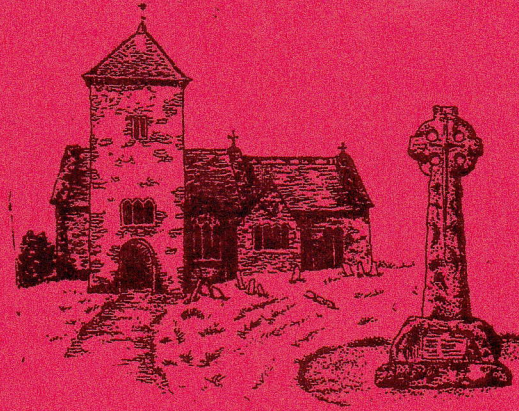


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**NP25 5BT**

# **LICHEN**

**On his visit to the Churchyard**  
**on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**The Clerk/Churchyard Safety Officer**  
**found no signs whatsoever of Lichen**  
**on any flat stones.**

**It was safe to walk**  
**without any fear of slipping.**

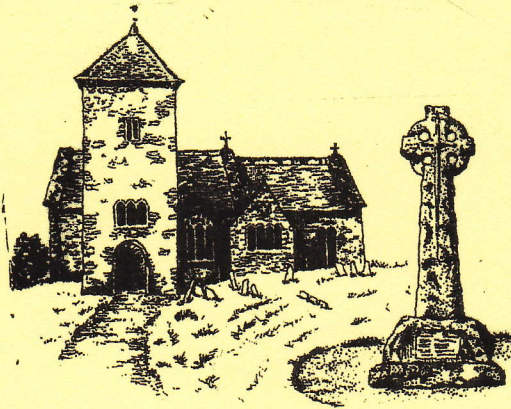


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Page 1 of 4



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**Costs and Care of Perimeter Wall**

**Great care and checking is required to avoid unnecessary expense in maintaining this wall in safe condition.**

**Periodic checking is absolutely necessary!**

**Pages 2 and 3 refer to damage of unknown origin.**

**Page 4 shows damage caused when a tree fell from a private garden alongside the Rolls Monument. The owner of the garden had to repair the wall and remove all the timber at his expense.**

**This was also an example where members of the public were prohibited from entering a cordoned-off section.**

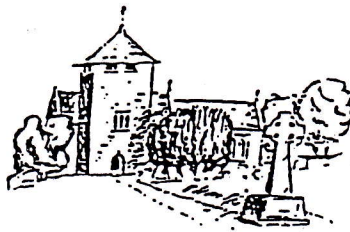
**Any repairs to the wall must be carried out by a competent builder.**



# Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council *Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel*

Clerk to the Council R.G.Nicholas *Clerc y Cyngor*  
01600 780362

Policemans Cottage  
Llantilio Crossenny  
Abergavenny NP7 8TF  
Monmouthshire



*Bwthyn yr Heddwys  
Llandeilo Gresynni  
Y Fenni NP7 8TF  
Sir Fynwy*

13 October 2000

Mr Andrew Greenwood  
The Old Manor  
Llangattock Vibon Avel  
MONMOUTH NP25 5NG

Dear Mr Greenwood

## LLANGATTOCK CHURCHYARD

Thank you for your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2000 the contents of which have been noted.

I shall raise the matter at our Community Council Meeting when it next meets on 2 November and will communicate with you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Roy G Nicholas  
Clerk to the Council

*Telephoned  
12.30 a  
MRS Greenwood  
Friday 10-11-00*



The Old Manor  
Llangattock-Vibon-Avel  
Monmouth  
NP25 5NG  
tel: 01600 719445  
fax: 01600 719446

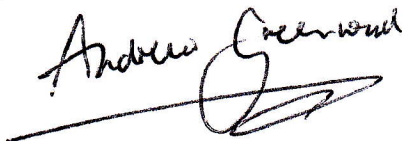
Roy Nicholas  
Policeman's Cottage  
Llantilio Crossenny

10 October 2000

Dear Mr Nicholas

We were given your name by Ted Barrell as being the community councillor responsible for the upkeep of the churchyard at Llangattock vibon avel. Our garden adjoins the upper wall of the churchyard. We recently noticed that a short stretch of wall has collapsed and needs rebuilding and hope that you can arrange for this work to be done before the wall deteriorates further.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Greenwood

*Repaired by contractor  
June 2001  
(delay due to Fest + Month crisis)*





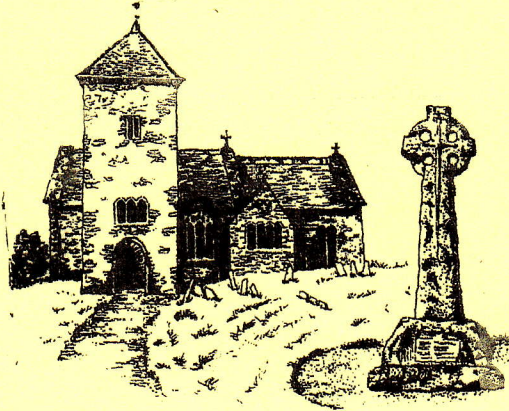


**Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council**  
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**TREFYNWY**  
**NP25 5BT**

**Why are some Branches missing off The Yew Trees ?**

The Yew Tree alongside the Rolls Monuments suffered baldly when a mature tree from the adjoining property collapsed partly onto it following a storm.

There was further damage to it and other trees during a subsequent storm when the Yew Tree nearer the Church was also damaged.\*

A tree surgeon was engaged on both occasions to remove damaged braches leaving the trees to 'look-tidy'.

Please see attached photographs.

\*It would be apposite to mention here that the tree surgeon's report also drew attention to a tree branch which had reached the Church roof (opposite the gate) from land belonging to the nearby farm. As a Community Council, we did not take any action whatsoever other than to pass the report to the Churchwarden. Shortly afterwards, it was noticed that the offending branch had been removed.

**Roy G Nicholas**  
**Clerk and Proper Officer of the Council**  
**Churchyard Safety Officer**  
**Appointed Officer to the Burial Authority**

**Copy: All Members February 2016**



**When tree from adjoining property fell onto the Yew Tree  
alongside the Rolls monuments.**





**Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council**  
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MONMOUTH NP25 5BT



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TREFYNWY NP25 5BT

**Requisite Notices**

**These are displayed on the noticeboard in the Church Porch**

**Example attached – Charges and Parishioners'/persons' entitlement.**

**Charges printed in yellow, 12-point print and laminated**



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**St CADOC'S CHURCHYARD, LLANGATTOCK VIBON AVEL**  
**Section administered by the Community Council (see display diagram)**  
**As from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

The Community Council, being the burial Authority for the above burial ground is responsible for its proper care, maintenance and upkeep. This includes its walls fences, paths, grass and trees and the repairs of any damage.

Registration Fee and the keeping of records	£ 13.00
Additional Inscription on any monument	£ 38.00
Internment of Cremated Remains in Existing Grave	£109.50

**Notes**

**A** The above charges are exclusive of services provided by the incumbent and the *Digging Charges* and the cost of Tablets, their erection and future maintenance.

**B** Only parishioners (ie persons normally residing in the parish) persons dying in the parish, ex-parishioners and persons whose close have been buried in the churchyard and persons on the Register of Electors at the date of death, are entitled as of right, to have cremated remains in existing graves.

**C** No discrimination shall be made between the cremated remains of a Member of the Church in Wales and of other persons.

**Roy G Nicholas**  
**Clerk and Proper Officer of the Council**  
**Appointed Officer to the Burial Authority for the above Section of the Churchyard.**



**Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council**  
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**16 Rushey Meadow**  
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1 of 4



**(01600) 714181**

**Clerc y Cyngor**  
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**16 Dŵl Frwynog**  
**TREFYNWY**  
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**What is not allowed in in LVACC Section of Churchyard**

**No Trees (same as applies to other section of Churchyard)**

**No dogs –except dogs for the Blind**

**No glass, pottery, ornaments**



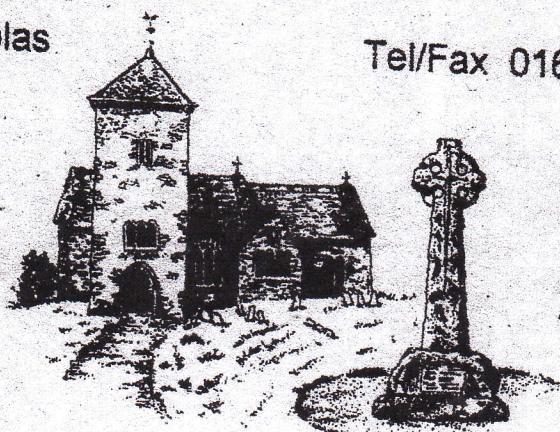
**Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council**  
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Tel/Fax 01600 714181

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16 Rushey Meadow  
MONMOUTH NP25 5BT



Clerc y Cyngor  
Swyddog Priodol y Cyngor

16 Dŵl Rushey  
TREFYNWY NP25 5BT

**TREES**

Under no circumstances whatsoever may any trees be planted in the Churchyard section administered by this Community Council. Maintenance costs of caring for trees planted in the past are a heavy drain on the finances of our Council. We have seen the damage caused by a single tree costing several thousand pounds.

**REGULATIONS**

FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF CHURCHYARDS  
VESTED IN THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF  
THE CHURCH IN WALES

Regulation 18. "**TREES**. No trees shall be planted in a churchyard without the written consent of the Archdeacon".



### **Glass, Pottery, etc**

**No glass or pottery vases except those which are incorporated as an integral part of a gravestone.**

**"Save for silk flowers and Remembrance Day poppies, no artificial wreath or flowers, shrubs, permanent vases or containers, ornaments, chippings, gravel, paving stones or kerbs shall be placed on or around any grave or area for cremated remains in the churchyard".**

**[The old churchyard 'dump' of broken glass, pottery, wire, etc. was taken away from the site by me – yes, by the wheelbarrow load to a large trailer – quite a task! RGN]**

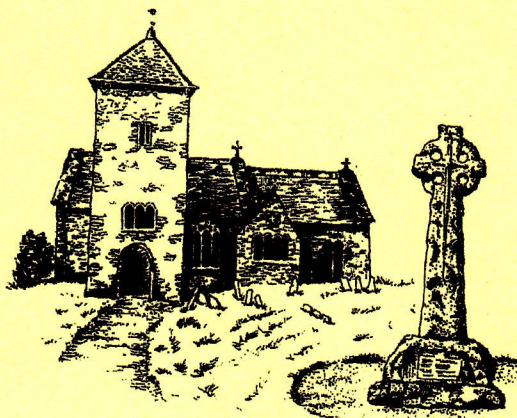



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TREFYNWY NP25 5BT

**PATHWAY TO THE LLANGATTOCK WAR MEMORIAL**  
**AND THE AREA AROUND IT**

**Just look at the 'Before' and 'After' Photographs**



Path to the Llangattock War Memorial

Before



After





**Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel**

Page 1 of 3

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**TESTING MONUMENTS FOR STABILITY AND INTEGRITY**

Page 2 of 3 – The right way

Page 3 of 3 – The wrong way





### Inspection of memorials

A visual inspection should be the next step in assessing the risk of a memorial falling. It takes little time, uses simple common sense and judgment, and yet acts as an effective early warning system to help operators prioritise memorials that need more detailed inspection. ✓

The routine use of mechanical test instruments as inspection tools is not recommended. Results from these instruments are liable to overestimate the actual risk. The approach suggested above will enable the operator to assess the memorials in their grounds as either secure and stable or insecure and requiring action, and a mechanical test will not add to this judgment. However, where this judgment is not so clear, the operator may need to consult a specialist engineer or memorial mason for advice.

- Where a visual check suggests no stability defects, a hand test can help confirm that assessment or identify stability problems – this test involves no tools or equipment and is intended to provide support to the visual checks.

John Healey

Bridget Prentice

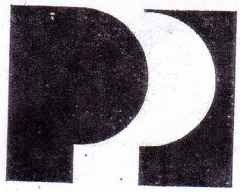
Lord McKenzie of Luton

Judith Hackitt

Councillor Margaret Eaton

<sup>1</sup> Archbishop's Council of the Church of England  
Association of Burial Authorities  
Federation of Burial & Cremation Authorities  
Health & Safety Executive  
Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management  
National Association for Local Councils  
National Association of Memorial Masons  
Society of Local Council Clerks





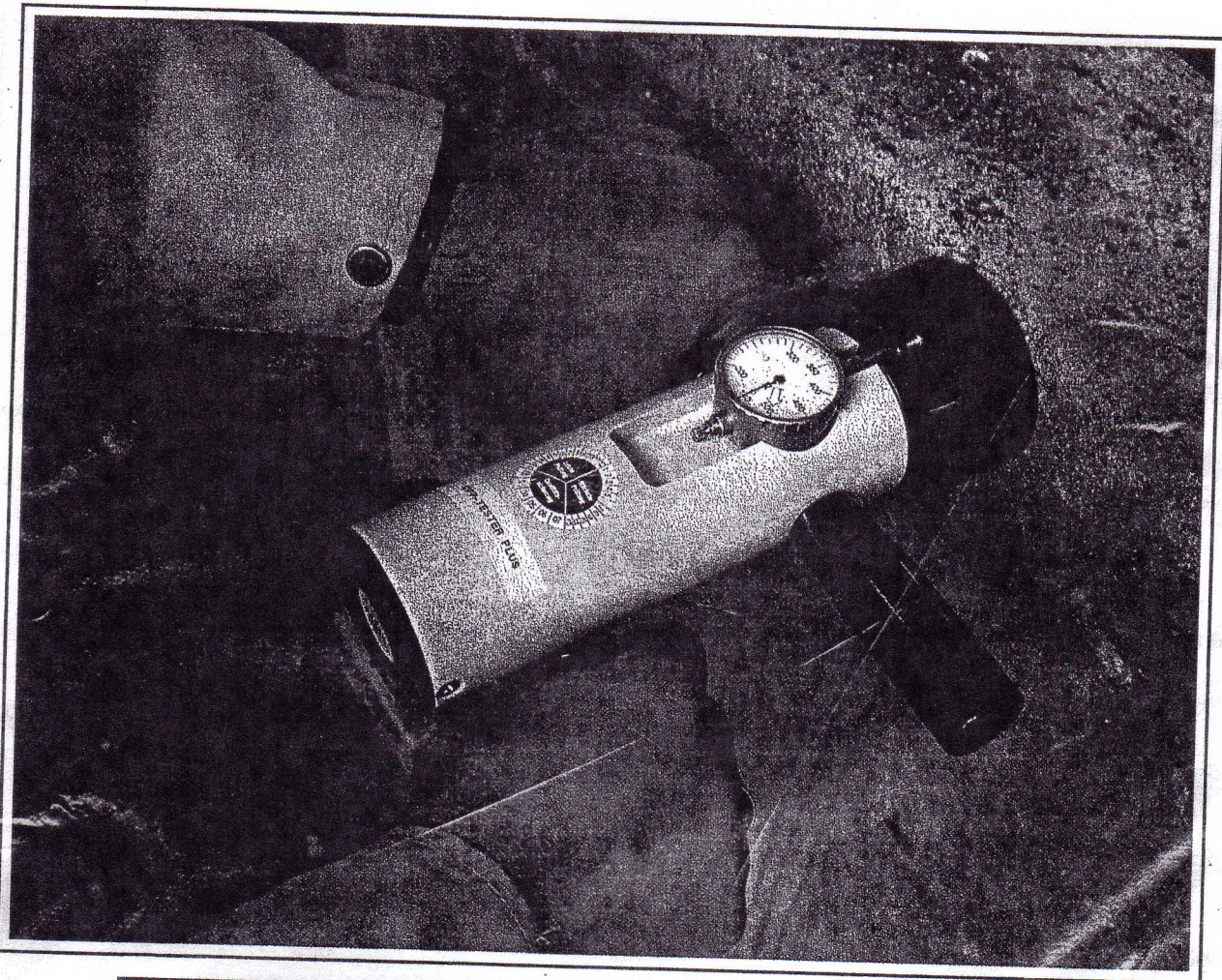
# ToppleTester®



## The Original Memorial Stability Test Instrument



NOT TO BE USED



**The ToppleTester® Proforce TT35**

With Force Readout Retention Gauge

**Are your monuments & gravestones safe?  
Test them with the ToppleTester®**



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1- 3 Hale Grove Gardens  
London NW7 3LR

Tel: 020 8959 3232

Fax: 020 8959 5613

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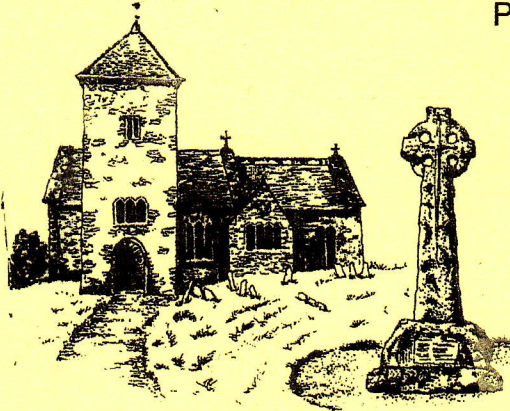
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**Access to War Memorial and Charles Rolls Memorial\***

**A** The Community Council has a legal obligation to allow safe access to the War Memorial and the Charles Rolls Memorial\*. Please see photos page 2.

**B** When the path leading to the War Memorial was tarmacked, we were asked to make it wider than originally planned. This was to allow coffin bearers to walk on a hard surface. (This we did and managed to obtain a grant)!.

**C** As you can see from page 3, we all have a part to play and to use common sense.

Periodically, the very edge of the path and around the War Memorial requires spraying with Roundup (as can be seen at the moment) to avoid grass creeping onto the hard surface.

- "Memorials of well-known people"







**Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council**  
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Page 3 of 3

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**TREFYNWY**  
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**9<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

**The Reverend Canon Simon Guest**  
**Vicar, St Cadoc's Church**

**Dear Simon**

**Macadamised Pathway leading to War Memorial**

I am sorry to have to raise what appears to be such a trivial matter with you. Under the 2009 directive from the Ministry of Justice, as a community council, we have a duty to ensure safe passage to the War Memorial and also the Charles Rolls Memorial.

A problem arises when grass cut in the unused plot is left on the pathway. If swept immediately following its cutting, it only takes 5 – 6 minutes with the brush provided in the porch. When left unswept, the job takes well over an hour using the wire rake and brush. However, despite several requests, we have not been successful.

The other worrying problem is that the edges of the tarmac are being damaged presumably by the tractor wheels. (We see no reason why this grass area should be cut as long grass would not present a fire risk to the Church building).

Again sorry, for having to involve you in such a simple common sense matter. We have tried – but failed.

**Kind regards**

**Roy G Nicholas**  
**Clerk to the Council**  
**Churchyard Safety Officer**




**Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council**  
***Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel***

Roy G Nicholas

Clerk to the Council  
Proper Officer of the Council

16 Rushey Meadow  
MONMOUTH NP25 5BT



 (01600) 714181

Clerc y Cyngor  
Swyddog Priodol y Cyngor

16 Dŵl Frwynog  
TREFYNWY NP25 5BT

**Some of the problems encountered during 'Clearance' !!!**



Problems which we inherited!







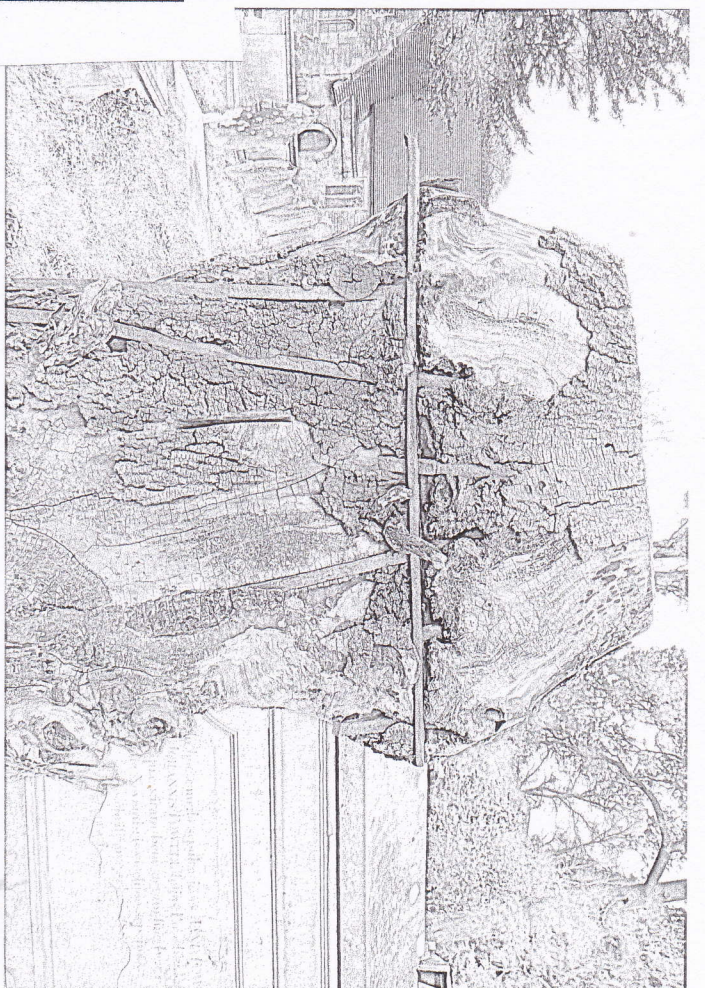
**Photo taken February 2016**

**This illustrates the extent of  
the neglect we found 20 years ago.  
(Proximity to other graves precluded its  
complete removal by Cllr Gerard Davies  
with his metal cutter)**





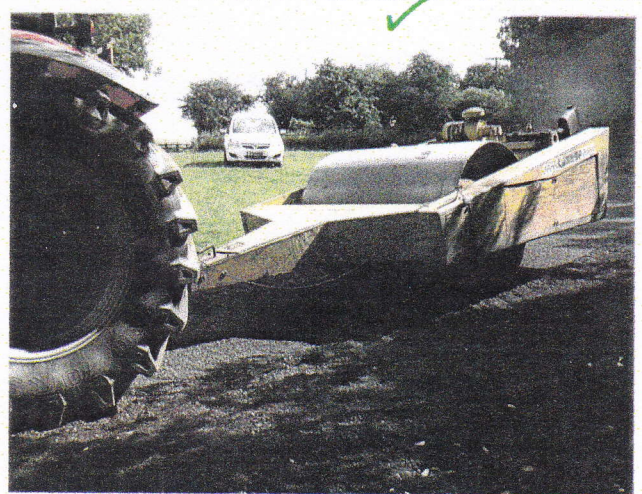
**Photos taken February 2016**





**This page included just out of interest**

**Major refurbishment of circular track alongside Church**  
**All done by Volunteers – free of charge**  
**Year 2010**



**LVA CC has no responsibility for the circular track leading to the Church. It belongs to David Jones and we have always sought his permission prior to embarking on a task. However, we have invariably helped as the occasion has arisen, for example spraying with Roundup. There is a public footpath through the track.**

**The particular job illustrated above was done mainly by – Roy Nicholas obtaining the road scalplings free of charge, Cllr Len Lane arranging transport/delivery and spreading and Cllr Gerard Davies hiring the compactor at his own expense.**