

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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April 2021 – Volume 6 – Edition 7

Watch this space

At a committee meeting of the Llandyrnog Flower and Produce Show, it was agreed that holding a show at the Village Hall was not a prospect, given the uncertainty due to COVID-19 regulations. Even if large gatherings indoors would be allowed in August, there would be insufficient time to organise the show to its usual standard.

Therefore, it was decided to have a photographic exhibition of items produced in the village and its environs, subject to the usual guidelines (these will be provided along with further details of the exhibition).

Photographs can be sent via e-mail to the show secretary or submitted on the show's Facebook page, which will soon be available. Arrangements will be made to enable those without access to the internet to submit their photographs, ensuring that no one who wishes to take part will be excluded. A booklet will then be printed, showcasing the entries.

Further details will be available in next month's edition and on posters/fliers in the village.

In the meantime, here are a few of last year's photographs.



**HAPPY
EASTER**



Thanks to
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for sponsoring
this edition

Around the village

Sincere condolences to the family of Alby Roberts, formerly of Sŵn y Nant. Alby passed away at Pendine Park, Wrexham. There is a tribute to him on page 4. Condolences also to the family of Ted Rawsthorne, Maes Tyrnog.

We also sympathise with Hugh ,Groes Efa, and Robot, Pentre Bach, and their families on their recent bereavement. Their father, Gordon Edwards, Y Fferm, Llanfwrog, passed away recently. Mr Edwards was a very well-respected drover in agricultural throughout Wales.

Here's wishing Keith Jones and John Postman a speedy recovery, both having been unwell recently – get better soon, both of you.

Elwen Evans, formerly of Ty'n Llan, normally shies away from publicity. However, she has recorded two programmes on Radio Cymru, *Elwen QC*, about her career in law. It is available on BBC Sounds (in Welsh).

Professor Elwen Evans QC is Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean for the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Swansea University and also holds the university portfolio for Welsh Language and Culture. But to us, the older residents of Llandyrnog, she'll always be the same down-to-earth, modest Elwen Ty'n Llan.

We also wish Elwen's father, Elwyn Ger y Llan, a very happy birthday at the end of the month. Best wishes from all your friends and neighbours, Elwyn!

Congratulations also to John Adrian or JA to all his friends, who celebrated a special lockdown birthday on 20 March. JA refused to divulge his age – but we'll catch up when he's 81 next year. Well done John – you're looking good!

Belated birthday greetings to Paul Clarke, Cefn Bithel, who recently reached his half century. Perhaps you'll be able to celebrate indoors next year, Paul!

Looking for new members

Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan WI is looking for new members!

The Llandyrnog branch of the Women's Institute is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. The first official meeting was held in the Cocoa Rooms on 3 March, 1921.

Depending on Covid rules we are hoping to host a centenary celebration to include Porthmyn male voice choir, possibly outdoors with a picnic.

Our other planned activities include craft evenings, gin tasting, short hedgerow walks ending in the pub for lunch, armchair exercise, interesting talks. Maybe a bus tour. We are always open to suggestions for our monthly activities. If you have a special talent or interest, we would love to hear about it. We meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month in the Village Hall.

We will have our first meeting of 2021 as soon as Covid restrictions allow. A notice will be posted in the shop window.

Membership fees for new members is reduced pro rata, depending on your joining month. This year, if we are unable to meet in person, fees may be reduced to reflect that. DO COME!

We are a friendly, warm group and would love to welcome new members. All women aged 18 and over.

Enquiries to Cal Venning (secretary) 07977 934544 or Rhian Chapman (treasurer) 07765 852922



Post Office Opening Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

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Wednesday & Saturday 9am–12.30

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Conwy Council recently asked the public to name its gritter trucks. Although Llandyrnog is not in Conwy, the names definitely deserve a mention in our magazine.


- * Auntie Freeze
- * Gritasaurus
- * Sir Gritlot
- * Miserable Ôl' Grit
- * Snow Donia
- * Professor Chris Whitty Gritty
- * Eazy Peazy
- * Anti Freezy
- * Jack De-Frost
- * Dave
- * Van Halen
- * Social Distancing Freezy Rider
- * I'm a Celebgritty



North East Wales Archives, which covers both Denbighshire and Flintshire archives, has been awarded a Welsh Government grant to work alongside Theatr Clwyd to create monologue-style films. These re-tell rousing stories of strong and inspirational women and are based on real stories discovered in the archive collections held at Ruthin and Hawarden. They include a headmistress who devoted herself to education, a widow of a miner killed in the Gresford colliery disaster, the famous Marged ferch Ifan – ‘an extraordinary female who was the greatest hunter, shooter, and fisher, of her time’, and a mother reflecting on postnatal depression, portrayed by Lowri Jones of Nant Glyd.

The videos can be seen on YouTube – search for Women Rediscovered: Denbigh.

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Obituary: Albert Edward Roberts (known as Alby)

Alby, a fluent Welsh-speaker, was born and brought up in Ruthin and was an only child. He went to Borthyn Primary School and then Brynhyfryd Secondary School, both in Ruthin.

Alby undertook his National Military Service with the Army, assigned to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and was posted overseas to Cyprus. Alby was very proud of his connection to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and military parades such as Trooping the Colour and Remembrance Sunday were very important to him. He was a member of the Royal British Legion, and until his health declined, was involved in the running of the local branch in Denbigh.

Alby met his wife, Gwyneth, when they were both in their twenties, and they married in 1954. They had three children – Graham (deceased), Moyra and Brenda. Throughout their married life they lived in the village of Llandyrnog and brought their three children up in the village. Gwyneth passed away on 18 August 2018, just short of her own 90th birthday. Alby and Gwyneth had been together for nearly 70 years, 65 of them as husband and wife.

Following his National Military Service, Alby became a local government officer working at both Glyndŵr District Council in Ruthin and Flintshire County Council in Mold until his retirement. Upon retiring, he became a local Community Councillor in Llandyrnog, and went on to become a County Councillor serving under Glyndŵr District Council. Whilst a County Councillor, Alby became Head of the Planning Committee, which led to him being appointed as the last ever Chairman of Glyndŵr District Council for the year 1994/1995 before it was abolished under local government reorganisation and became what is today known as Denbighshire County Council. One of Alby's proudest moments, serving as the last ever Chairman of Glyndŵr District Council, was leading a successful campaign to have the Clwydian Range of



The last ever Chairman of Glyndŵr District Council, 1995/96

mountains granted the status of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Alby was heavily involved in village life in Llandyrnog not only as a Community Councillor, but helping in the running of the village football teams, snooker club, youth club and caring for the village churchyard, and he even helped out behind the bar in the local pub, the Golden Lion. He was

a member of the local church in Llandyrnog and enjoyed going to church on a Sunday morning. Alby was also a member of other local clubs and associations in Llandyrnog.

Alby is survived by his two daughters, Moyra and Brenda, his son-in-law, Dilwyn, two grandchildren, Mathew and Amy (and Tom, Amy's husband), and great-grandson, Osh.

Brenda Roberts (daughter)



Dyffryn Chapel

Apart from the usual Zoom services every Sunday morning with the Rev. Andras Iago, a special St David's Day service was held on 28 February. Ffiona and Catrin coordinated the service with 25 children and young people taking part in readings, singing, etc. As a treat, Ceri and Ffiona had delivered Welsh Cakes to members' doorsteps (with the usual precautions), to be enjoyed with the cup of coffee, while watching the service!

Notes from Plas Ashpool

Isn't it good news that, at last, we are getting our vaccinations and that some of the restrictions are lifting? Along with this, the weather too is beginning to lift. A little sunshine goes a long way in helping us feel a little more cheerful and optimistic. The sunshine has also made a huge difference to the garden this last month. Suddenly everything is starting to emerge. There is such energy in the air now.

Here too, at Plas Ashpool there has been a sudden burst of energy from the occupants. One of my long-term aims for the garden has been to reduce the number of shrub and flower borders, to make things more manageable. So, with this in mind, we have been clearing some very old and overgrown shrubs. What a difference it has made! It feels as though a weight has been lifted. Already the surrounding plants have sprung into growth and I now have an opportunity to enrich the soil and replant with a new, more easily maintained look. If you have an overgrown patch in your garden, it is not too late to have a clear-out. Your garden will thank you for it.

The daughter of a friend of mine has just landed her first job with a company called Freddie's Flowers. She is to be an assistant stylist, helping to create arrangements and sets for all their promotional work. I never knew selling flowers could be so involved! I have noticed, however, that buying flowers grown in this country is certainly gaining in popularity. We are lucky enough to have a few local growers. It feels so much better knowing that the flowers we can buy locally have not travelled halfway around the world.

Of course, along with the buzz of spring, I have found myself longing to have a cut flower patch of my own (another project to add to my ever increasing list). With this in mind, I have been looking through the seed lists which appear, on a regular basis, in my e-mails or through my letter box. Browsing through the other day, I was reminded of how delightful some of the common names of our popular

cut flowers are. These were just a few of my favourites: Love-in-a-Puff, Beeblossom, Bunny's Tail, Baby's Breath, Prince's Feather, Shoo-fly, Granny's Bonnet, Winecup and Forget-Me-Not, to name but a few. Do you know of any more to add to this list? If so, please let *Llais Llandyrnog Voice* know.

I am off now to tackle some more clearing, enthusiastically assisted by the hens who are, of course, by now wild with excitement at the prospect of a light lunch of worm, beetle, and grub. Until next month, happy gardening to you all.

Fiona Bell

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Three places ... Earle and Elaine Wright

London is one of our favourite cities with so much to do and see in a relatively small area.

We normally travel down by train and explore as much of the city as we can on foot. It pays to have a plan so we usually include a gallery or museum, film locations and a few historic hostelrys (it's amazing how many of them were Dickens' tavern of choice!).

In spring 2018 we went to the National Gallery with two friends from North Wales, to see a temporary exhibition entitled 'Manod: The Nation's Treasure Caves'. It was of special interest to us because Manod Slate Quarry in Blaenau Ffestiniog housed many of the gallery's paintings during WW2.

When we came out of the gallery the weather had turned very cold with sleet showers so we headed for Liberty's elegant café for warmth and refreshment, after our taste of history and culture.

Two years ago we stayed at Crystal Palace Caravan Club Site that is ideally situated for travelling into the capital by train and bus. It was a treat to have London 'on our doorstep' and we made many trips into the city.

One of the highlights of this holiday was a visit to the Tower of London, somewhere that we had avoided in the past because of the long queues.

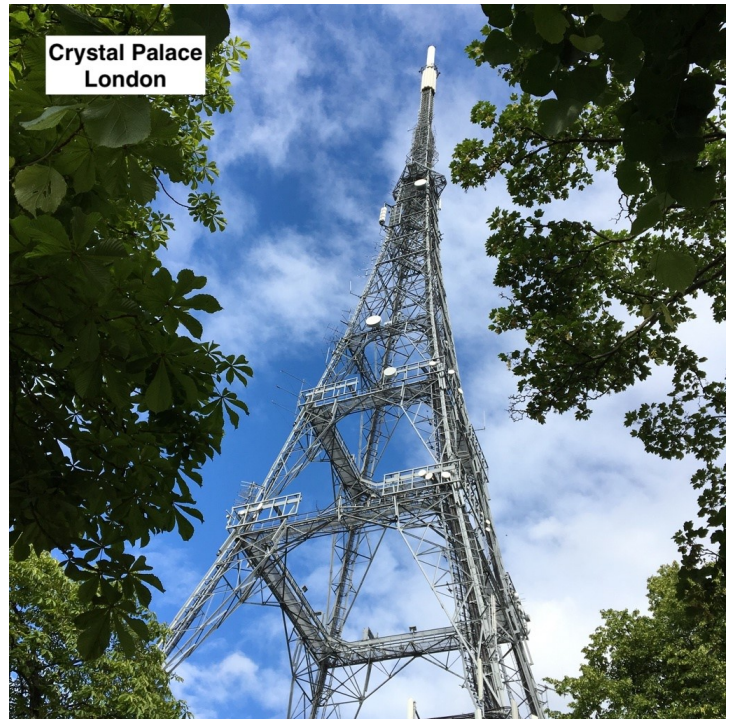
We always enjoy crossing the Thames, strolling along the South Bank and seeing the famous landmarks from another vantage point. The OXO tower has a cocktail bar on the top floor 'with unparalleled views of St Paul's Cathedral and the city's skyline'. A lovely way to finish off a day's sightseeing!

Spitalfields was on our list and it was well worth a wander, especially to find out more about the French Huguenots who settled in the area during the seventeenth century and made a living weaving silk fabric.

The large indoor market in Spitalfields is a bustling vibrant place selling all sorts of goods and food. The food outlets arranged around the internal perimeter sell reasonably priced

dishes from around the world.

It might be a while before we can plan another trip to London but we still have plenty of places of interest on the ever-expanding list!



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Three places ... contd

Over thirty years ago my brother, his wife and their eleven-year-old son, emigrated to **Perth** in Western Australia. It has become a very special place to Earle and I and we have visited it many times.

Perth is the only major city on the western side of Australia but despite its perceived isolation it has everything you could want! It is a university city with lots of arts venues, sports stadiums, shops and eating places, and all of this on the beautiful Swan River.

The guaranteed sunshine almost all year round makes outdoor living very easy and is embraced by most people, especially visiting Brits! We've spent two Christmases 'Down Under' when temperatures regularly exceeded 30 °C. A trip to the beach with a dip in the Indian Ocean was a necessity.



King's Park with its native trees and flowers is somewhere that we love to revisit. It has spectacular views over Perth city and the Swan River. It's a popular place for picnics or coffee and cakes. You often see groups of people celebrating birthdays and weddings in this stunning setting.

Our most recent trip was in February last year and was one of the most memorable. We had been invited to our nephew's wedding that took place in the Margaret River region, south of Perth.

While preparations were underway for the event, Earle and I explored Perth's suburbs by train, hopping on and off at places of interest.

The rail network has six branches with Perth city in the centre. These go to the north, the east and the south, connecting the various suburbs to the heart of the city. Over several days we travelled to the ends of each of the six lines to enjoy a coffee and a look around; each was different and each was interesting.

We knew that the ceremony was due to take place outdoors but were amazed to find ourselves in a clearing of the Boranup Forest surrounded by magnificent Karri trees. Celebrations continued in and around a wooden lodge deep in the Australian bush.

Returning to the UK a few days after the wedding we were confronted by lockdown and all that it entails – what a welcome home!

I imagine that most people have a special place from their childhood, mine was **Aberdaron**; tucked right away at the tip of the Llyn Peninsula. Now, in my adult life, it still remains a special place to me, with lots of fond memories. As a spoilt only child of the 50s, I was fortunate, in that for year after year, we spent our summer holidays there. I never tired of it; familiarity never dulled the pleasure.

How did my parents come to know of Aberdaron? I had an uncle and an aunt to thank for that; they never had children of their



A young Earle in Aberdaron

Three places ... contd

own and maybe partly because of that, always made a fuss of me. They loved to explore Wales and on one trip, just after the Second World War, found themselves in Aberdaron, or more precisely in Uwchmynydd, just on the road beyond it; one chapel, one phone box and one tiny shop. My aunt made enquiries in the shop, asking whether there was any accommodation nearby, as by now it was getting too late to travel home. No, the shopkeeper didn't know of anywhere, but she kindly offered to put my aunt and uncle up for the night herself.

The shopkeeper was Mrs Mary Williams, who sold all local needs from bread to thread. Her husband, Humphrey, had a workshop attached to the shop and amongst other things made coffins; so all was catered for. After the experience of taking in my uncle and aunt, thereafter each summer, Mrs Williams took in paying guests and that continued well into the 1970s. My aunt and uncle went back many times and eventually my parents also went to stay with Mary and Humphrey.

In later years we stayed in Aberdaron itself, at The Ship Hotel (Gwesty'r Llong). For a small boy, Aberdaron was a long journey from our home in Hawarden. There were no bypasses around Northop, Conwy, Llanfairfechan, Bangor or anywhere else at that time. Cars only had three gears and seat belts were something that only pilots wore. The last twenty miles from Pwllheli were the longest; the roads seemed to continually narrow, whilst the banks and the hedges appeared to increase in height. Then at last, the road sign for Aberdaron was passed, heralding the end of the journey. It wasn't until the last final steep hill that Aberdaron revealed itself. Over the years, that first glimpse was always reassuringly the same: the bakery, the white cottages, the stream flowing under the small stone bridge, the shop, the two hotels; all there, in their correct places.

Earle's contribution will be continued in next month's edition.

The polio vaccine

While we today can appreciate the work of those who developed the vaccine against COVID-19, we can also thank an American doctor for almost eradicating another serious illness, polio. Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria are the only countries where the disease is still transmitted.

In the 1940s and 1950s, polio was the disease dreaded by parents. Healthy children were being struck down, paralysed and confined to 'iron lungs', either temporarily or for longer periods as a result of picking up the virus from something as simple as going to the swimming pool.

Albert Sabin, son of Polish-Jewish parents, developed an oral vaccine and worked with Russian colleagues to perfect it. Sabin's first vaccine for use against type 1 polio-viruses, was licensed 60 years ago in the US in April 1961, and the vaccines for type 2 and type 3 licensed in 1962. At first, the vaccines were administered together by being put on a sugar cube – it's certain that people of a certain age (the over 60s!) remember having this.

Sabin refused to patent his vaccine, waiving every commercial exploitation by pharmaceutical industries, so that the low price would guarantee a more extensive spread of the treatment. Sabin did not gain a penny from the development of his vaccine and continued to live on his salary as a professor.

The Sabin Vaccine Institute was founded in 1993 to continue the work of developing and promoting vaccines. The institute annually awards the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal in recognition of work in the field of vaccinology or a complementary field.



From the Rector

We have just marked the anniversary of the first lockdown. The challenges we faced during those early days meant we were constantly having to deal with situations we knew nothing about. For scientists and the NHS, it was a very steep learning curve as they battled to learn more about the disease and how to treat it. The selfless care of so many in the face of adversity is to be honoured and we are grateful for their compassion and care. As we prepare for the second Easter of the pandemic, things that were unheard of twelve months ago are now accepted as reality. At the time of writing, churches are preparing to reopen as lockdown gradually eases and we look towards Easter. This year Good Friday comes at the very beginning of April. Good Friday is a day of sadness and suffering but a day that leads to the joy of the Resurrection.

There is a legend that tells the story of three trees. On a hillside, three small trees grew side by side. They dreamt about what they would be when they grew strong and tall. The first tree wanted to be a beautiful treasure chest, with gold and silver and priceless gems, a thing of great beauty. The second wanted to be a strong ship that would sail the oceans taking people to far-off lands. The third simply longed to stay on the hillside to enjoy the beauty of the earth.

After many years, the woodcutter came to cut them down. The first was made into a feeding trough, the second into a small boat that sailed on a lake, not the mighty oceans. And the third became beams that were stored in the woodcutter's yard until needed. They each dreamt of what might have been.

But years later the feeding trough was used to hold a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem, it held the greatest treasure in the world. The boat was used by fishermen on a lake in Galilee. When a strong storm whipped up the waters a man stood up in the boat and commanded the wind and the

rain to stop. The third tree remained in the woodpile until one Friday, when it was taken and made into the shape of a cross and carried to a hillside, to hold the King of kings.

According to legend the three trees played their part in the life of Jesus: the tiny baby in the manger (Luke 2: 7), the calming of the storm (Mark 4: 35–41) and the crucifixion on Good Friday (Mark 15: 33–39). Good Friday is always followed by Easter Sunday and three days later Jesus rose from the dead (Matthew 28: 1–6), and now lives for evermore.

Easter is a joyous time, a time of hope and promise. We have over the past few days enjoyed the warmth of spring days and with it has come the new life it brings. New life and light that follow the dark days of winter. In many ways it almost seems that nature waits for Easter to bring new life into the world, as we celebrate the new life in Christ Jesus.

May the peace and joy of the Risen Christ be with you.

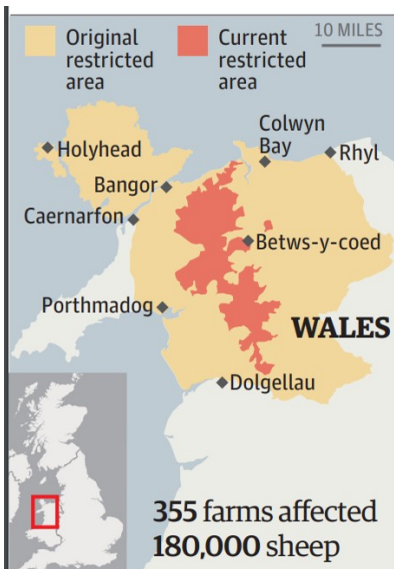
With every blessing,
Val Rowlands

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The Chernobyl Disaster and Farming in North Wales

Some people remember where they were when Kennedy was shot in November 1963 – the significance of that did not bother a five-year-old with more important things on his mind. Fast forward to 26 April 1986 and yes, I remember distinctly the day that Reactor 4 in Chernobyl exploded. A friend much more informed than me in these matters said that the radiation would soon be hovering over us. Chernobyl is about 2,000 miles away – what’s he on about ?

However, little did we know that through a process of what is apparently known as precipitation over high ground, these clouds of doom, sprinkling radioactive caesium as a result of this disaster, would within days be hovering over the uplands of Wales. Particularly hard-hit were the uplands of Gwynedd – think of the Migneint area, Ysbyty Ifan and Dolgellau.



This was the situation in Wales in 2009

The explosion forced the evacuation of more than 100,000 Ukrainians and Belarussians, laying waste an area measuring 3,000 sq. miles that remains uninhabitable to this day. In Ben Fogle’s recent programme, *Inside Chernobyl*, some of the information was mind-boggling. At the current rate of natural reduction of radiation, it will take 20,000 years before anyone can live a normal life in the immediate vicinity of Reactor 4.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster

in April 1986, the movement in Britain of a total of 4,225,000 sheep was restricted across a total of 9,700 farms, to prevent contaminated meat entering the human food chain.

Government officers visited every farm affected to scan any sheep that were ready for the food chain and any animal that showed a reading exceeding 1,000 becquerels per kilogram (BK/KG) were marked with either apricot, green or blue paint depending on the readings. They could not be released for a further three months at least – the effect on many farms were devastating.

It must be difficult to comprehend the effect this had on the mental state of some farmers who were justifiably proud of their sheep, but which were now grazing their land with differing colours on their backs. They were sometimes referred to as ‘dirty’ stock – through no fault of their own and down to an incident over 2,000 miles away and in some cases 20 years ago.

The restrictions applying in Scotland were lifted in 2010. However, in Wales restrictions were in place for more than 300 farms until 2012. The initial three-month maximum time-frame the government had given initially stretched to 26 years.

I guess the point I am trying to make is that the farming industry knows how to deal with a pandemic. In the aftermath of both Chernobyl and the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001, it has adopted, coped and survived to live another day.

Let it be noted that because of these two incidents, there is extremely strict guidance on movement of animals, disposal of animals, what medications are used – when and why, inspections of buildings and welfare facilities. These records are checked meticulously so that the eventual consumer, i.e. you and I, can enjoy our Welsh meat in complete confidence.

So enjoy your Easter and if you fancy lamb, beef or pork – make sure it’s Welsh!

Bryn Davies



- Myth 6 – Autistic people have an intellectual disability and can't speak
- Myth 7 – One can 'grow out of autism'
- Myth 8 – Autistic people can't learn
- Myth 9 – Bad parenting can cause autism
- Myth 10 – Autistic children are more violent

Some well-known people with autism

- Dan Aykroyd – comedic actor
- Charles Darwin – naturalist, geologist and biologist
- Susan Boyle – singer
- Albert Einstein – scientist and mathematician
- Michelangelo – sculptor, painter, architect
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – classical composer
- Sir Isaac Newton – mathematician, astronomer and physicist
- Greta Thunberg – environmental activist

Since 2007 World Autism Awareness Day has been celebrated on 2 April – one of only seven official health-specific UN Days. It celebrates the achievements of people who have autism with exhibitions and artistic workshops. These occur around the country and showcase work created by children with autism. Also television and radio programmes and newspapers feature stories about people with autism and their lives.

So what is autism?

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterised by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviours, speech and non-verbal communication.

Key facts about autism

- Autism is more prevalent in males than females
- Autism is part of everyday life for 2.8 million people in the UK
- People with autism live independent lives
- People with autism can have difficulty understanding emotions
- People with autism may have some sensory sensitivities

We can help people with autism by using clear, simple language

The most common 10 myths about autism

- Myth 1 – Autism is a disease
- Myth 2 – Vaccines cause autism
- Myth 3 – Autism is becoming an epidemic
- Myth 4 – All autistic people have a savant skill
- Myth 5 – Autistic people don't feel emotion

If you would like an insight into an autistic teenager's world, read *M is for Autism*, co-written by students of Limpsfield Grange School, a specialist school for girls with autism (also available in Welsh, *M am Awtistiaeth*). It is available from local libraries under the Reading Well scheme.



Recipe: Fishcakes

- 1 salmon fillet – 4–5 ozs
- 1 small tin of mackerel fillets in olive oil
- 1lb potatoes
- Good handful of chopped parsley
- Salt and pepper

Cook potatoes and mash them. In a bowl, add cooked salmon and the tin of mackerel fillets, drained. Save the oil. Mix together with the parsley and seasoning. Shape into small cakes and fry in saved olive oil and a little rapeseed oil if needed. Coat in egg and breadcrumbs if liked, but not essential.

Evelyn Weyman

Thanks for the bench!



The new bench at Celynog Crossroads is very popular. Let's hope that warmer weather with the coming spring will enable more of us to rest awhile on it. Llandyrnog Community Council – thank you for installing it! Taking a rest at the bench are young Gwilym Williams, John and Buddug Foulkes, and Gerry and Karen Connell and Jack the dog.

Earth Day – 22 April

Earth Day was created 50 years ago and is a global event that is celebrated on 22 April every year to demonstrate support for environmental protection and raise awareness of it.

Join EARTHDAY.ORG and thousands of groups around the globe for three days of climate action summits from 20-22 April. Hear from activists, educators, researchers, musical artists, influencers and more.



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Obituary: Joyce Jones



All pupils were able to return to school for a fortnight before the end of term and it was great to welcome them back. Naturally, steps were taken in school to minimise transmission of the virus.

During the lockdown period, staff have not only been providing home learning for the children and supervising those in the hub, but also putting their DIY skills to the test, creating a new sensory area in the school, redecorating the library and sprucing up the breakfast club room. *DIY SOS* eat your heart out!

The infants' current topic is holidays. They have been roleplaying different types of travel and learning about famous landmarks around the world.

They had an amazing time on their virtual holiday. The bustle of the airport certainly put them in the mood to kick back with a cool drink of punch and enjoy some beach volleyball.

The juniors' current topic is birds. They have learned how scientists classify animals, including birds, experimented with different bird beak designs, found about starling murmurations and how to use the artistic technique of knocking back to give their starling drawings the illusion of movement.

They finished off their topic by learning to create illustrations using watercolour pencils. They learned the skill by painting a toucan and then chose their own colourful bird to create an illustrated information page about it.

Thanks to all who supported Red Nose Day – the children looked fabulous!

An Easter egg hunt was also held at the end of the term.

(Unfortunately we don't have any photos of the school this month – hopefully they'll be included in next month's edition)

Joyce was born in March 1932 and lived a happy childhood with her mother Lena and sister Morfydd growing up in Llandyrnog. She went to the local school and then on to Denbigh School. She had very strong memories of her childhood, which included growing up during the Second World War.

Joyce left school at 14 and became the office junior at Llangwyfan Sanatorium. She then trained to be a mental health nurse, working at the North Wales Hospital in Denbigh until she married.

Joyce and her friends would go out regularly to Saturday night dances in the area. It was at one of these that she met Gilbert, who she married in December 1956. After marrying they lived in Llandyrnog and her first child Gwen was born in October 1957. Having given up full-time work when she married, Joyce took a part-time job at a local farm – The Wern. She carried many happy memories of those early years of married life and especially parties at The Wern, where she would help out.

She eventually settled in Mold and was a Town Councillor for 21 Years. She served as Mayor of Mold twice – in 2000–01 and again in 2007–08. One of her proudest moments came in August 2007 when as Mayor she welcomed the National Eisteddfod of Wales to Mold in her first language of Welsh.

When *Llais Llandyrnog Voice* was first published, Joyce immediately became one of its subscribers and would look forward to reading it every month.

Matters discussed at the on-line March meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

- * Representatives of Wicksteed have attended Cae Nant and confirmed that the work will start the week commencing 10 May. The play area will be out of action for approximately one week. The start date depends on no further Covid-related issues arising in the meantime.
- * It was noted that the team in charge of the sports pavilion has been working hard in improving it.
- * It is good to see that there has been a much-improved repair to the stretch of road between Groes Efa and the Kinmel Arms. Hopefully this will be more of a long-term repair in readiness for a full resurfacing.
- * The white lining at Llangwyfan crossroads has been redone as well as at many other junctions in the area.
- * The Community Council has received a further £3,000 from the Welsh Government Business Grant, which is being administered by DCC. This is the third payment during the Covid period.
- * There has been a virtual meeting of the MHC Residents' Liaison group. The CEO, Mr Kelly, has confirmed his continued commitment to working with the community. He will assist in trying to deal with matters of concern, which include the speed of traffic at shift change times, inappropriate disposal of PPE in the immediate area around Llangwyfan and improved signage to ensure parcels are delivered to the correct houses within the complex and not to adjoining properties.
- * A representative attended the Ruthin Hospital League of Friends' virtual meeting. It was confirmed that despite Covid restrictions slowing work, they were confident of completing the refurbishment works by December 2021.
- * It is disappointing that the gullies by Maes y Wern have not been emptied, despite a request being forwarded to DCC. Emptying the gullies and clearing the drains would go a long way to alleviating this long-standing problem.
- * Following a detailed breakdown of accounts from *Llais Llandyrnog Voice*, it was agreed to donate £500 as a one-off extraordinary payment as a recognition of the hard work done by all involved in ensuring copies were available during the lockdown period and towards the printing costs during these difficult times. The detailed evidence produced testified that the income had suffered considerably.
- * Tŷ Gobaith has requested financial assistance together with additional information that they are supporting six families in the area at the moment. It was decided to donate £200.
- * A planning application to replace Cwm Hyfryd was discussed. It was decided to support the application, provided the Planning Authority is satisfied that the information supplied by the applicant's agent satisfied the relevant replacement dwelling policy RD4 of the Local Development Plan.
- * There are concerns about the low level of lighting in some areas of the village. Any evidence of such low level of lighting to be forwarded to Cllr Parry who will bring it up with the street lighting section at DCC.
- * Bryn was thanked for his contribution of a flower box on the Celynog Crossroads.

Denbighshire County Council

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