

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

✉ llandyrnognews@gmail.com 🐦 [@LlaisLlandyrnog](https://twitter.com/LlaisLlandyrnog)

April 2022 – Volume 7– Issue 7

Incredible generosity

Saturday morning March 5th, at the Cocoa Rooms, people were given the opportunity to donate money towards the people of Ukraine, where they could also enjoy a cuppa, biscuits and sausage rolls (donated by Dan the Butcher)!

£1780 was collected on the morning and the final, incredible sum was £2400. The Red Cross received £1000, Save the Children £1000 and the Disasters Emergency Committee £400. Thanks to everyone for their generosity, and to Bryn and Anwen for the arrangements.



A very big thank you to all who have contributed articles to this edition and to those who continue to donate generously.

When you pick up your copy from the post office or the butcher's shop, please remember to place a contribution in the collection box.

The Denbighshire Urdd National Eisteddfod, May 30–June 5

At last!! After waiting patiently for two long, difficult



years, OUR Urdd National Eisteddfod is on its way!! Entry to the field and to evening Shows and Concerts is free this year, but you have to buy your e-ticket online so that officials can regulate the number admitted and adhere to health and safety regulations. The local fundraising committee are holding one last event to raise money on Saturday April 23rd – come along to our Coffee Morning at the Village Hall from 10–11.30!!



A musical concert by children of the Llandyrnog area and guests to raise funds for the children of Ukraine

Saturday, 2 April at 6pm
Llandyrnog Village Hall

Tickets £5 – available from
Daniel Jones and Son, Family Butchers – limited availability

Refreshments and raffle
on the night

Around the village

Birthday greetings to Mrs Barbie Major who will be 99 years young on April 29th.

Best wishes to Gwil and Myfanwy, Tŷ Newydd in their new home at 2, Maes Tyrnog; to Wendy Grey-Lloyd following her hospital treatment; and to Steve Jukes-Hughes on his retirement as principal mechanical designer with Qioptic – enjoy the cycling and walking!

Congratulations to Mary, Llys y Bryn on becoming a great-grandmother to Gwen, little daughter of John and Anna.

Also to James and Manon, Llanbedr DC, on the birth of a little daughter, Rhiannon. First grandchild to Bryn and Anwen, a great-granddaughter to Gwen Davies and Rev. Bernant Hughes.

Condolences to the family of the late Clwyd (y *Butch*) Williams, our butcher, who started a shop at the corner of the village square in the early 1990s. His father John Williams had a butcher's shop at the bottom of Denbigh town, and Clwyd followed in his father's footsteps. Later on, Clwyd kept a butcher's shop in Ruthin, before moving to Llandyrnog. A truly likeable character and benefactor, always with a smile on his face. We can only endorse Daniel, the present owner's tribute to him: *'This man has taught me everything I know today. I would never have had the opportunity to prove myself if it wasn't for Clwyd. When I was 19, he gave me the offer to buy the shop from him – I did not hesitate. The biggest thing for me was to keep the top quality produce that Clwyd had served the customers for decades. This man was a true gentleman.'* We send our sincerest condolences to Val, Bryn and all the family.

Condolences also to Richard, Karen, and the family and friends of Mrs Ruth Williams, Stabal, Rhiwbeyll Isaf who passed away recently after a short illness. Ruth and her late husband Mike had lived at Stabal for 28 years. Prior to moving to Llandyrnog they had a

restaurant in Portugal. Ruth helped her nephew Graham at Greenfingers for a number of years.

It was very sad to hear of the recent death of Margaret Jones, Hafan Dawel. We remember her especially for her cheerful welcome in the Cocoa Rooms at election time. Our sincerest sympathy to Dafydd and Heddwen and family.

Children's afternoon at Capel Dyffryn:

Following a bleak, unusually quiet two years, it was lovely to hear the chatter and laughter of the Dyffryn Chapel Society in the vestry once again. After everyone had enjoyed a cup of tea and delicious cakes, the children, at last, were able to perform in front of a live audience! Efa, Anna, Beth, Alys, Nest, Mabon, Medi, Steffan, Nansi, Loti, Magi and Luned sang and recited to the delight of the audience. The society officers were thanked for the arrangements and Bethan, Alaw, Fiona and Gwen for the tea.



The performers, along with Lili, Bela and Jini (daughters of Siân, formerly of Rhydonnen)

A reminder to register to vote

Make sure you are registered to vote in the County Council and Town and Community elections on Thursday, 5 May – visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. The deadline is 12am Thursday 14 April, 5pm Tuesday 19 April to apply for a postal vote, and 5pm on Tuesday 26 April to apply for a proxy vote).

Services in April

Dyffryn Chapel

3rd April 9.45 Local arrangement
10th April 9.45 Debbie Roberts
17th April 10.00 Circuit Easter service
24th April 11.00 Phil Jonathan

St Tynnog's

3rd April 11.15am Eucharist
10th April 11.15am Palm Sunday
17th April **9.30am** Easter Eucharist
24th April 11.15 Eucharist

St Cwyfan's

3rd April 9.30am Morning Prayer

Messy Church

10th April 15.30–17.00 at the Village Hall

Coffee Morning

Village Hall

Saturday 23 April

10.00 – 11.30



Proceeds to the Urdd National
Eisteddfod 2022

Contributions gratefully received
towards the local produce stalls
All welcome

Coffee Morning

Village Hall, Saturday 9 April

10.00 – 11.30

Proceeds to St Tynnog's and St
Cwyfan's churches

Contributions gratefully received towards
the local produce stalls
All welcome

Village Hall hiring charges

Until the end of September 2022, the main hall and kitchen will be available for hire for a special charge of £28 for two hours. This will only be to local residents wishing to arrange a coffee morning to raise funds for recognised charities. The organisers will be expected to lay out the tables and chairs and put them away.

To book the Village Hall, contact Mrs Wyn Wilson on 01824 790447.

What's on at the Cocoa Rooms

4th April Trefoil Guild, 2pm
5th April Book Club, 10am
Llais Llandyrnog committee, 7pm
19th April Book Club, 10am
20th April Tuesday Club, 2pm
26th April Llais Llandyrnog committee, 7pm

The Community Council needs someone to clean the Cocoa Rooms – about two hours a month, alternate weeks. Contact Bryn on rbynd1@gmail.com for further information.

Thanks Edith Hughes wishes to thank family, friends and neighbours for gifts, cards and phone calls on her 90th birthday. It was very much appreciated – thank you all.

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Successful competitors

Congratulations to the following who competed at the regional Urdd eisteddfod:
Mason Powell: 2nd, wind instrument solo, Years 7–9

Lloyd Powell: 2nd, percussion instrument solo, Yr 6 and younger

Beca Evans: 3rd, Solo from musical, Year 10–under 19)

Gwenan Mars Lloyd: (all competitions Year 10–under 19): 1st, solo from musical; 1st, folk song solo; 1st, girls' solo; 1st, solo recitation; 2nd, cerdd dant solo; 2nd, cerdd dant duet with Ynyr Rogers.

Nest Lloyd and Beth Evans, 3rd, cerdd dant duet, Year 6 and younger

Mabon Evans, 2nd, cerdd dant solo, Yr 2 and younger.

Congratulations also to Loti Jones, Hannah Jones and Olwen Conry who were also awarded certificates at the local eisteddfod.

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My trip to London

During half-term I had a trip to London with my family, Dad, Mum, Jac and Beca. The train journey took less time than I expected, and we had arrived by lunch time. On the



first day, I went up the highest building in the United Kingdom, *The Shard*. We took the lift up to the 68th floor, and it took 30 seconds – unbelievable! The view from the top was amazing - London Bridge, 'Walkie Talkie' building, and Big Ben, and everything looked so small. It was possible to go outside to the open air on floor 72, and it was very cold and windy!

We went to the Hard Rock Café for supper, the burgers were wonderful, and we shared a huge chocolate pudding!

Then it was a day for the red open air bus, hopping on and off in different places. There were splendid views from the top, but sometimes it was rather cold. I was glad that Mum had brought along a warm hat for me. I saw Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Harrods, Tower Bridge, Picadilly Circus and Leicester Square.

We had to go to a museum whilst we were there, so we went to the Tate Modern. The art work was very different there, it was an eye-opener, it was simple artwork but very effective.

There were splendid views from Sky Garden although the building looked odd from the outside. On the last day we went to the Market Hall Victoria food market. It was a good place to visit because there were lots of different foods from different countries there.

The best thing about London was going to the Hard Rock Café, going on the underground tube train, and shopping!

Beth Evans (Year 6)



The Wright Life

Back in the early 1970's my parents bought a dilapidated smallholding nestled below Moel Arthur, which was being sold by Denbighshire County Council (pre Clwyd County Council 1974 to 1996). They had decided to give up the 'rat race' and move to Wales to live a self-sufficient lifestyle. Their inspiration was Tom and Barbara Good in *The Good Life*. For our younger readers who probably have never heard of this, it was a British sitcom which ran from 1975 to 1978. They had dreams of growing vegetables, having a few animals and living a simpler life. So in 1977, the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, we packed up and started our new life in Wales.

It was a carefree time for a child, summer holidays went on for ever and I had the Clwydian Range to explore on my new pony. For us the garden was the focus, this would provide our food and, in a way, it still does to this day. Moving forward to 2022, when we are all trying to be more environmentally friendly and conscious of our food miles, I am continuing that legacy – after all who doesn't like home-grown veg.

April is when the activity in the garden becomes more intense with the sun warming the soil making it easier to work. Following on from my father I spend the winter adding well-rotted horse manure onto the veg patch, and in the spring, hire a cultivator to mulch it in. That is until the pandemic struck and I had a radical re-think as many hire shops were closed. I'd heard about 'no dig' methods of gardening and thought, hey, let's give it a go. I



went online and discovered Charles Dowding who pioneered the no dig and organic soil management system for years (charlesdowding.co.uk). So I left the manure and just raked it over and started planting. It's only two years in now, but I have noticed fewer weeds, less watering and most important less backache. It's better for the wildlife too as it locks carbon into your soil and gives nature a helping hand to do what it is meant to do. Let's see how this year pans out and whether I get lots of lovely vegetables.

Gardens evolve over time, and we have all been spending more time outside over the last couple of years. In March 2020 I decided to plant an asparagus bed. I nor my parents have ever grown this tasty and sweet vegetable probably as it takes up a lot of precious space which can be used for more essential vegetables, but I felt it was worth a try. The crowns arrived by post, looking like large lanky spiders but I planted them as instructed straight away. Last year I had a few spears, but advice is not to pick them all for the first 2–3 years so I am hoping this year I will have plenty to enjoy. However, Penelope hen and her friends will soon be enjoying their freedom and they do love the bare patch of soil to scratch and dust bathe. My plan, following the recycle ethos, is to make an enclosure to protect the delicate crowns, using some old wooden ladders and the roof timbers from the outbuilding. I lost the roof of this during Storm Arwen which flew off hitting the house. It's a work in progress.

What to watch out for this month?

Swallows, swifts or martins join us again (who will see them first?) and listen out for the cuckoo. The bluebells are starting to make their presence known in our woodlands.

Hazel

A warm welcome to Hazel Wright, who will be a regular contributor. We look forward to hearing more about her life on the smallholding.

Three places: Iestyn and Ann Jones Evans

Porthgain, Pembrokeshire



Every time we go to Pembrokeshire, we have to pay a visit to Porthgain, a small picturesque village and harbour, north-west of St David's on the A487 to Fishguard. It was in a small cottage here that Iestyn's mother was born. The village is full of historical artefacts from the early 1900s, when it transformed itself from a sleepy fishing village into a thriving industrial hub. Old railway tracks can still be seen – these transported slate from neighbouring villages Abereiddi and Trwynllwyd and from the Porthgain quarry itself to the harbour, to be cut to size at the water mills, before shipping. When the slate industry declined (because of the poor quality of the so-called black slate), Porthgain survived because of the Tŷ Mawr brickworks in the village (1889–1912) which used the quarry waste. This is where Iestyn's grandfather was manager. Hard dolerite from nearby coastal outcrops was also brought by tramways to Porthgain to be crushed and used as road-stone (1889–1931), and this was stored in giant hoppers, the remains of which can be seen today. Today, Porthgain has reverted into a quiet fishing village during the winter months, but thriving in the summer months with sailing, rafting etc. Today there are two art galleries, a bistro and the renowned Sloop Inn (1743 – *once a haven for sea robbers!*), where a warm welcome awaits the visitor. It is also a popular resting place for walkers on the Pembrokeshire National Park Trail which

passes through the village, with the *Strumble Shuttle* Bus stop in the village.

Cinque Terre

Cinque Terre is a rugged coastline region, renowned for its beauty within Liguria, north-west, Italy. Cinque Terre means 'Five Lands', and comprises of five beautiful villages, built on cliffs overlooking the sea: *Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore*. In the old days, only one mule path, the renowned *Sentiero Azzuro* (Blue Trail) 12 km long, linked the villages. Today, if you feel energetic, the best way to explore the villages is by foot. One alluring walking trail, and the most popular with visitors is the *La via del'Amore* (*The Way of Love*) between Riomaggiore and Manarola. To visit the villages, tourists are advised not to drive down to the villages because of the narrow streets, and encouraged to use the train that run along the coastline. Each village has its own special attractions e.g. *Manarola* and *Vernazza*, the most beautiful village of the five suffered devastating floods in 2011, but has been returned to its former glory. Every year, between 8 December and 31 January, the Nativity scenes and sets dominate the village – the biggest set in the world! Cinque Terre should be on everyone's bucket list because of its quaintness, scenery and beauty.



Monterosso

Dublin

Dublin gives you that leisurely feeling and that things will happen in their own time and not before. We enjoyed our visit to Ireland's capital and went to many of the usual tourist attractions – the Cathedral, the Castle, Ha'penny Bridge and all the famous streets, and one museum! And of course, we had to test the proper Irish Guinness. But what were the two things that stood out amongst the dignified buildings: the magnificence of the Castle? No! There was a fascinating sand sculpture in the Castle Square by Daniel Doyle with its theme 'Regather' – a fitting title after so many lonely lockdowns. He also made the point that we can use this time to regather our thoughts and reevaluate our lives and society.

The dignified, historical Cathedral? No! On a small side-street nearby called *Fishamble Street*, we came across an inconspicuous plaque stating that Handel, in 1742, had arranged the first ever performance of the Messiah in a little hall called *Neal Hall* at that site. So, why would Handel, a German living amongst high society in London want to introduce the Messiah – the most performed classic in the world – there? Things weren't going too well for Handel in London and he had amounted huge debts. He loved the openness of the Irish people and could also avoid his debtors! 700 people were squeezed into the hall that usually held 600. The ladies had been warned not to use hoops under their skirts and the men had to come without their swords!! Food for thought when listening to the Messiah next time!!



The Trefoil Guild

The Trefoil Guild are pleased to be back in the Cocoa Rooms again. In March, to celebrate St David's Day, we had a very interesting talk by Anwen Davies about the forgotten Welshmen and their connections in the past. We were shown photographs of them all and felt very proud to think of what they had contributed to Wales and the World. We enjoyed a cup of tea and Welsh Cakes donated by Anwen.

We would love to have more members. If you have ever been involved in Girl-guiding, do come and join us and have some fun. We meet the first Monday of the month at 2pm in the Cocoa Rooms

Ruth Griffith

Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

Ruth Griffith (chair), Ivan Butler (treasurer and compositor), Ed and Catherine Howarth (co-ordinator), Anwen Davies (compositor and translator), Gwen Butler (co-ordinator), Bryn Davies, Ann and Iestyn Jones-Evans (co-ordinators), Rhian Jones, Rod and Margaret Williams, Sian Gwyn Ifan.



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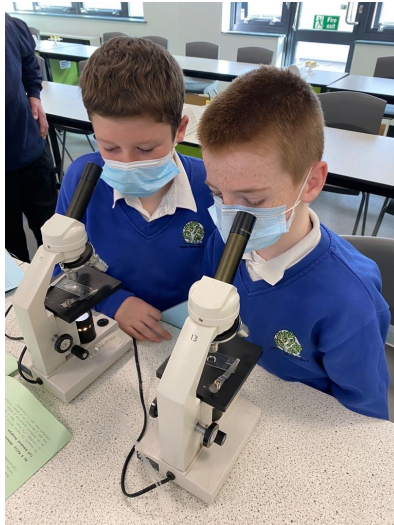
Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

Pupils from junior class have been taking a course in Bikeability. This teaches the pupils to ride their bikes under full control and when they are able to do that they learn how to ride safely on the roads with other road users. So look out for new young road users if you are driving through the village.



As part of the topic on Kings and Queens the younger children had great fun building London Bridge.

Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to experience life at high school on their Transition Day at Ysgol Brynhyfryd. They are seen here in the science department taking part in a forensic challenge from an imaginary theft.



Proudly displaying their certificates from the Urdd local eisteddfod are Nellie, Hannah, and Olly.



On World Book Day the pupils were challenged to represent a favourite book in the form of a hot air balloon creating some fabulous work.

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History Society challenge

What do the following have in common:

1. An 'Assay Master' who tested and graded the silver and gold of Chester for 45 years.
2. A family emigrating to America on a ship from the same line as the Titanic.
3. A holder of an unusual record of having lived in 3 centuries.
4. The young man who was let down by the Manchester to Denbigh train companies which almost led to a grave mistake.

The answer is, they are all either buried or commemorated in the Churchyard at Llangwyfan Church.

You will have the opportunity to read more about these and many other local characters when the next publication from the Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society is published towards the end of this year. It is based on a major piece of work undertaken by members of the Society and published as a book in the early 2000s. The new edition will include updates and extended content. The working title is ***Eglwys Sant Cwyfan a'r Plwyf ddoe a heddiw*** (*yn cynnwys Aysgrifau'r Fynwent*) / ***St Cwyfan's Church & Parish yesterday and today*** (*includes Churchyard Inscriptions*).

The intention is to include any information which is known about the people commemorated there. Do you have any relatives, friends or acquaintances buried in Llangwyfan? Do you know any stories about them which would interest others, especially those who might be researching their family trees? If you have any information, however irrelevant or small it might appear, please e-mail to the Society – llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com.

Useful telephone numbers

Denbighshire CC Customer Service Centre
01824 706101

Out of hours: 03001 233068

North Wales Police: 101 (Non-emergency)
Report dog fouling free 0800 2300 2345

The Tuesday Club

The March meeting of the Tuesday Club was the first of the year. Gwilym and Glenys Evans were thanked for their hard work over the past 16 years by the new organiser, Anwen Davies.

A warm welcome was given to the guest, Terry Duffy and his wife Julia. Terry sang a variety of songs in Welsh and English to his own guitar accompaniment. The members also enjoyed humming and singing along to the familiar ones. Terry was given a sincere vote of thanks for a thoroughly enjoyable presentation.



Light refreshments were served and the raffle drawn. Members were reminded the next meeting will be on 20th April.



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Tuesday–Friday 8am–5:30pm

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Spotlight on Margaret Evans



Margaret, or *Anti Magi* (formerly of Ty'n Llan) is one of Llandyrnog's stalwarts, and has lived in the village for nearly 70 years. If you happen to meet her in the village, you'll soon understand that

she knows nearly everyone here. By the time she's greeted everyone and had a little chat, you've forgotten the thread of your own conversation with her!! Under duress, she agreed to answer a few questions, and was asked first of all about her life before moving to Llandyrnog.

Where were you born and raised Margaret?

I first saw daylight in the village of Nantglyn, in a place called Rhiw Gerwin, but when I was three years old, my mother, father and two brothers moved to Garth Farm, on the hillside above Cilcain, one of many farms on the large *Penbedw* estate. I remember the snow of 1947 when we were snowed up for weeks on end. Dad had a good horse and sledge, and amazingly, he was able to feed all the animals throughout that terrible winter. On sunnier days, we would go in the pony and trap over the mountain to Bancer Farm, Llandyrnog – my mum and Mrs. Davies knew each other since their school days in Nantglyn. We would be laden with fresh fruits from the farm on our homeward journey!!

I remember as a Cilcain School pupil, I swallowed a halfpenny (old money) – it was totally stuck. I had to be admitted to the Denbigh Infirmary, and lived on bread and milk for a whole week!! Ultimately, the coin did reappear, and I still have that halfpenny safely hidden away in a box!!! After leaving the primary school in Cilcain I went to the secondary school at Mold.

What was the next move?

At fifteen years of age, I went to Pontruffydd Hall to look after the Mostyn family's two children, and then did similar work in Mold for a few months.

But in 1953, I was tempted by my cousin Rhiannon and her husband Bob, who was the village Bobby at the time, to apply for work in Tyn Llan Farm, right in the village centre. Olga and Elwyn Evans needed an extra pair of hands to go on the milk round in the Llandyrnog area. And that was it – I helped to deliver the milk and prepare the milk bottles and other jobs until the milk round came to an end in 1998.



Margaret and Elwyn outside the Kinmel Arms

Which area did you cover on the milk round?

Elwyn was in charge of the milking, so Olga and I would start off with the milk bottles from Tyn Llan at 7 in the morning. We would go as far as Llanbedr, Rhewl, Llangynhafal – with a few welcoming cuppas in Bryn Egwallt on cold mornings! Then across to Llangwyfan and back down to Llandyrnog by about 10 o'clock.

After a hearty breakfast, I would go towards Bodfari as far as Plas Ashpool and work my way back to Llandyrnog – after sometimes stopping for a nice cuppa and mince pies from Frances and then Menna at Gader Goch.

Lunchtime wasn't your usual lunch, but another cuppa – we'd still be quite full after a late breakfast! The afternoon was spent, among other things, washing the milk bottles – by hand, then with a machine that washed two bottles at a time!! The machine that came afterwards was truly wonderful – it washed one crate of 20 bottles at a time!

How did you carry the milk on your rounds?

A bike with a large, front basket at the beginning – it held about 40 bottles at a time. Then a three-wheeler bike, with a platform. We also had a pony and trap, which was very useful. Then the red pick-up – that was Elwyn's mode of transport, and Olga and I had the 'tangerine' pick-up as we used to call it.

After so many years, I suppose you have many memorable experiences?

Well, we were lucky – we had no major problems, but I **do** remember having to stop in the snow on the steep hill leading to Lodge Farm!! We were totally stuck – there were people waiting for their breakfast milk and mobile phones hadn't been invented!!

You truly deserved your medal in the Royal Welsh Show in Builth for 40 years of service to agriculture!! What about the hours outside your daily work routine?

In the early years, Olga's mum (Mrs Gwladys Ffoulkes) organized a *Young Ladies Club* in Llandyrnog and we did all sorts of interesting things – visits to see different plays, dancing classes, helping the village carnival organizers, and enjoying the end of term parties!

Members paid 2 shillings and 6 pence, and we would always be collecting money for various causes – a new bench, litter baskets, a street lamp and even land to build two bungalows for the elderly – Bryn Awelon. A fortnight before Christmas we would go everywhere in and around the village to sing carols, and the money collected would go towards an annual trip for the elderly. (For more information see *A View of the Past*.)



(Margaret, 1st left, front row. Photo from Trem yn Ôl – A View of the Past, published by Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society)

I also enjoyed the various Dyffryn Chapel activities along the years – the services on a Sunday of course, and the cheery Vestry meetings of the chapel Society nearly every Monday evening. I'll never forget the fun we had practising for various shows and 'Noson Lawen' – the *Pantolawen*, 'On Your Bike' and so on. We even ventured as far as Bala once with the show, and had a bellyful of food and laughter!

I used to enjoy going to three or four homes in the area to look after the children every now and again – they all knew me so well and called me 'Anti Mag' to this day! Happy memories!

After her retirement in 1998, Margaret is still willing to help the village community. All those coffee mornings in the Cocoa Rooms would not have been the same without Margaret taking our entry fee, and persuading us to buy so many raffle tickets, with Grace's help. Our new venue in the Village Hall has meant that now both Margaret and Winnie are in a much cosier corner to persuade us to part with our pounds!

Thank you so much Margaret for your unstinting contribution and service to Llandyrnog village life and community throughout the years.

Dyrninium

You may have noticed a lot of activity lately on land opposite The Kinmel Arms. Metal detectorists from Merseyside (Steve and Harry, pictured below) were detecting there on Sunday 7th March and, having made a very exciting discovery, came back the following week. Steve and Harry found a Roman coin and other artefacts made of gold and dug up some pottery and mosaic tiles.

Further investigations have revealed evidence of a Roman villa, a bath house, and other buildings on the site. Archaeologists have investigated this new discovery and are convinced that it is the lost Roman town of Dyrninium. During the summer months you will see even more activity in the area while a 'dig' takes place to uncover the villa's mosaic floor. It is hoped that this will form part of a permanent exhibition, sponsored by Proctor Johnson, the new owners of the Creamery site.



Steve and Harry are also avid readers of Llais Llandyrnog Voice!

Parish church graveyard

As a Church we are responsible for the upkeep of the graveyard, and we are extremely grateful to the team of volunteers that assist in the cutting of the grass and the general maintenance.

A few years ago we decided to install compost bays for visitors to leave any compostable materials. The intention was to reduce the amount of rubbish that otherwise would be sent to landfill as well as making material 'compost'.

Unfortunately this is not the case. Whilst it is being used properly by the majority of visitors we are finding all kinds of material being deposited such as plastic wrapping, plastic pots, oasis wreaths, etc. We recently had the bays emptied and there was so much 'foreign body' in them it had to go straight to landfill.

We appreciate that when you visit the graveyard, the last thing on your mind is rubbish. But please take all non-compostable material away with you or deposit it in the black bin provided. The picture below shows a small part of the non-compostable material that was present.

We do hope that we will be able to rely on your cooperation in this matter.

Many thanks,
John Rowlands

on behalf of the Church Committee.



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Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan WI



Nine members celebrated our 100th birthday on Tuesday March 10th at the Dinorben Arms. Bodfari, Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan WI was founded in March 1920 and is one of the oldest groups in Wales.

Our centenary celebration was delayed due to the lockdown and subsequent Covid regulations. We planned a big gathering for the village with choir and refreshments but had to scale down in the end. We are going to plant a tree in the village school grounds and erect a plaque to mark the centenary.

Our WI hit hard times in the last couple of years and almost closed, but we have 9 members now and a varied and interesting programme planned for the next 12 months.

Thanks to all who attended the coffee morning – the proceeds were shared between the WI and the Disasters Emergency Committee.

Cal Venning

Draft management plan 2020–25

A consultation has been launched for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB. The AONB committee is keen for people to take part in this consultation and have their say on the future management of AONB. It runs until 20th April 2022 and to get involved and have your say visit <https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/661>. (Hard copies of the management plan are available for viewing at Loggerheads Country Park Visitor Centre, Ruthin Road, CH7 5LH).

Recipe

Caramelised onion, tomato and goat's cheese tart

Ingredients

Ready-rolled puff pastry

2 large red onions

3 large tomatoes

Goat's cheese (I tend to buy a log and slice into rounds – see picture)

Dried basil

Dried oregano

Salt and pepper

Peel, halve and slice onions. Fry in olive oil or veg oil until soft and caramelised. Allow to cool.

Place ready-rolled puff pastry sheet on a baking tray. Score a 1cm border around the edge of the pastry and prick the inner section of the pastry to prevent it puffing up too much during cooking.

Spread the cooled, caramelised red onion evenly over the pastry, leaving the borders uncovered.

Cover the onion with a layer of thinly sliced tomato and sprinkle with a little dried basil, oregano, salt and pepper.

Slice the goat's cheese and place on top of the tomato.

Cook in preheated oven at 180 °C for 20 mins or until the edges are puffed up and golden brown and the cheese and tomato looks cooked.

Ed Howarth



Messy Church

Messy Church Llandyrnog celebrated its 10th birthday in style in the March session. It was so good to see so many friends, old and new, come together to recall how it all started and how it has developed over the years. There was a particularly warm welcome for Ven. Bernard and Rev. Val, who joined with Martin to lead the worship, and also to Catherine who was with us for the very first Messy Church!

The next session will be on the 10th April, which is Palm Sunday and all are welcome. Children, please bring an adult with you to share the fun!

Here's to the next 10 years!



Rev. Martin Pritchard, Ven. Bernard Thomas and Rev. Val Rowlands

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Or leave a message on **Facebook**

World Day of Prayer 2022

On Friday 4th of March, members of St. Tynog and St Cwyfan Churches joined members of Dyffryn chapel to take part in the annual World Day of Prayer service at the chapel. The service this year was arranged by the women of Wales, England, Ireland and Northern Ireland. Their theme was 'God's Promise' to the people of Israel in Babylon, which is cited in the Book of Jeremiah: '*I alone know the plans I have for you*'. Thanks to Mary Steel and Veronica Roberts for arranging the service, and to Anwen Davies, accompanist.

Joanna Scanlan



Mary Steel It's always a joy to hear of students who have achieved success in the careers they have chosen. In March, the 2022 BAFTA for the best leading actress was awarded to Joanna Scanlon, an ex-pupil of Howell's School, Denbigh (now called Myddelton College), for her role in the film, *After Love*.

I met Joanna when she was in the Upper Sixth form, studying Drama under the tutelage of Miss Betty Lowe. Betty died last November at the age of 98, sadly not knowing of the great honour her ex-pupil had received. How proud she would have been at the award.

I witnessed Joanna's dramatic ability when we used to take students to compete in various drama festivals and her performances were exceptional.

Betty Lowe said once, when watching Joanna perform, 'This girl will grow into her parts and become a great actress when she is older.' How right she was. Betty had already seen her potential, her ability and dedication when Joanna was a young Drama student.

Wendy Grey-Lloyd

A word from the Priest

My Kingdom is not of this world! As we roll into April 2022, these words from Jesus to Pontius Pilate who was reluctantly charged with putting Jesus to trial, are welcome indeed. I write this on 21st March and still war rages on in the Ukraine as Russia invades its dear neighbour, breaking all global laws and laughing in the face of the Geneva convention. People around the world are horrified as they look on at genocide and horrific war crimes. As people everywhere put their energies into offering some support to the Ukrainians, there is hope for humanity yet. Well done to everybody who is playing their part locally too, there have been some tremendous efforts and good money raised for the people of Ukraine. Long may it continue.

It is welcome news that we can listen to the Lord Jesus speak these words to us from the Bible, fresh into our lives today. What Jesus came to do and what we celebrate on the 17th of this month is a liberation akin to that that was shared at the collapse of the Berlin wall in 1989. Even though humans return to ideals and oppressions similar to errors of the past, Jesus does not break his promise. Through rising from the cross, he has made real in this world the kingdom that is not of this world. So when nurses and doctors were marked as superheroes during coronavirus, this was a mark of God's kingdom, here on earth in our time. Or when people go to extraordinary lengths to help the victims in Ukraine, this too is an example of God's kingdom on earth. Yes, good things happened before Jesus died and arose from the cross, but it is through that death and resurrection that we are now fully able to interpret these things by God's love.

I hope this Easter is a good one for us all here in Denbigh Mission Area. We have so much taking place as we connect with the market town from the rural villages where things have been going well and in Llandyrnog, where we have celebrated ten years of Messy Church.

Please join me on Easter Sunday morning for the sunrise service up at Denbigh castle, where we shall celebrate the



absolute liberation and deep joy of the good news of Jesus, singing songs, hearing a little about him through a reading and saying a couple of prayers. If that doesn't bring you up there, then maybe the promise of bacon and egg muffins, cooked up for us in St Mary's when we come down off the mountain, will.

Jesus is Lord and whatever you have planned for April, hand it over to him. He is to be trusted, his kingdom is not of this world and his goodness is so pure it will change you for the better always.

Happy Easter one and all, Pasg hapus!!!

*The Reverend Martin Pritchard
Priest for mission and community
engagement,
Denbigh Mission Area*

Iolo in Denbigh

Over the next few months, BBC2 *Springwatch*, *Autumnwatch* and *Winterwatch* presenter, Iolo Williams, will be leading nature walks for Welsh learners.

The Ar Droed (on foot) series of nature walks is a joint project between Mentrau Iaith Cymru and the National Centre for Learning Welsh and are part of Mentrau Iaith Cymru's #MiliwnOGamau (a million steps) challenge – a group effort to walk a million steps between April and July 2022. The aim is to ensure plenty of opportunities to socialise in Welsh, helping to reach the target of a million speakers.

There will be a walk in the Denbigh area, Sunday, 8 May. For further information and to register for these free nature walks, please email ardroed@mentrauiath.cymru.

Matters discussed in the March 2022 meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

- ◆ A quotation has been received from Catalyst to supply and fix wi-fi pods to the Cocoa Rooms. It was decided however to wait to see whether Denbighshire County Council would be able to complete the task and offer some access to w-fi for a fixed period. Then the CC would commit to future provision
- ◆ Liverpool University: Dr Rachel Pope has written with details of the carbon-dating that the Community Council had contributed towards. Early results seem to indicate that the fort on Penycloddiau may well be neolithic rather than bronze age
- ◆ Planning applications:
 - ◆ White Horse Llandyrnog change of use from public house to residential use.
 - ◆ Fron Gelyn Bungalow – application for certificate of lawful use.
- ◆ Members agreed to join One Voice Wales.
- ◆ Following receipt of letter from a member of the public there was a discussion about the Local Government and Election Act (Wales) 2021 and the need to ensure compliance as far as possible.
- ◆ Nomination packs for community council elections together with the timetable have been placed on the website and will be live from 18th March.
- ◆ It was decided to put an advert in *Llais Llandyrnog Voice* seeking a cleaner for the Cocoa Rooms two hours a month.
- ◆ Extension to the Sports Pavilion – it was decided to vote on the matter at the April meeting, following advice from One Voice Wales.
- ◆ Churchyard Maintenance Fund – it was decided to offer a contribution of £400.
- ◆ Llandyrnog feasibility study – it was reported that whilst Cadwyn Clwyd would part-fund the feasibility study and hopefully the Brenig Wind Farm fund, there was a possibility that the Llandyrnog Sports and Football Association may require a contribution from the Community Council towards the said study.
- ◆ There were concerns about light pollution from recent developments despite Denbighshire aspiring to become a dark skies area. This matter to be raised with DCC and enquiries to be made whether or not the applicant of the property in question has complied with the relevant condition of his planning permission.
- ◆ Play equipment report – the equipment at Cae Nant has been inspected recently, as required. It was a good report with all items being low risk and minimal work required to comply with current regulations.
- ◆ A presentation was given to the Community Council by Mr Emyr Morris who had requested to speak at the meeting. He presented a report urging the Community Council to consider setting up a committee to consult with the local people about the possibility of purchasing the shop and setting up a community shop and post office. It was decided that the best way forward for the time being was for the question to be included in any future feasibility study to see whether or not there would be any interest in following this particular route.

There is an opportunity for you to become a community councillor on 5th May. For information and candidate pack, visit the community council website, www.llandyrnogcommunitycouncil.co.uk.

Remember that this is an April edition – not all articles can be believed! Have you spotted the April fool's story?