

# Llais Llandyrnog Voice

✉ [llandyrnognews@gmail.com](mailto:llandyrnognews@gmail.com)

August 2025 – Volume 10 – Issue 11

£1

## Llandyrnog FC Summer League end-of-season awards

The awards went to:

Club person: Jimmy McNally

Men's supporters' player: Steffan Parry

Men's young player: Aled Jones

Men's manager's player: Tom Hughes

Men's players' player: Steffan Parry

Women's supporters' player: Susan Ward

Women's manager's player: Alisha  
Whitehead-Hughes

Women's players' player: Chomphunart  
Janpheng

Len Parry young player award: Teifi  
Williams



Thank you to each and everyone for their support all season. Olly Williams and Ethan Plumb for helping me coach the kids all year. Huw Euron Williams for helping with the kids on tournament days and being a phenomenal secretary. Sean Roberts for his support and work as treasurer. Russ Jones for being an amazing chairman and social media guru. Selina Humphreys for everything she does, from the kits to the kitchen. Jack Crompton and John Jones for supporting me on a match-day, always a huge help. The Golden Lion for their hospitality. Bryn Williams, Jordan Oldbury and Chris Williams for their sponsorship. Every player, parent and supporter for giving me everything all year.

And finally, last but certainly not least, Chris Williams for being a phenomenal assistant manager, and a best mate, I couldn't and wouldn't do this without you.

**Jimmy McNally**



**2025 season had its ups and downs, but what a community.**

# Around the village

Welcome to Sam and Jaymie Davidson, who have come to live in Clwyd Nant. We hope you will be very happy here.

We wish Emma Jones (shop) a speedy recovery following her recent operation.

Our condolences go to Buddug Ffoulkes, whose husband John has sadly passed away.

Our sympathy also goes to Angie Hughes (Ty Ceffyl Bach) on the loss of her mother, Sandra Hosking Parry.

Our thoughts are with the family of Hughie Plumb, who was laid to rest in St Tyrnog's Church on 29 July 2025.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Chris Tynan (wife of the late Terry Tynan), who passed away on 16 July.

Congratulations to Cara (Glan y Wern Isa), Hari (Sgubor Wen) and Siwan (Bryn Teg), who have recently graduated from Cardiff University. Best wishes for the future.

## Wi-Fi in the Cocoa Rooms

The Community Council is delighted to have been the recipient of free wi-fi equipment from Jangala, a charity that assists communities and individuals to connect to the internet.

Jangala provides equipment worldwide through their 'Get Box' scheme and uses a mobile phone-style Sim card to make connection. The facility is totally free for us for a 12-month period, after which we can source a low-cost Sim card to carry on the facility.

We have been provided with two boxes – one will be used for Council business and running our Zoom meetings and the other can be used by anyone using the Cocoa Rooms. There will be a poster on the wall in the room to show how to connect your phone, iPad or laptop.

Happy birthday to Margaret Williams, Rhiwbebyll Isaf, who will be celebrating a special birthday this month.

Wedding bells: Congratulations to Amy and James Jones, daughter-in-law and son of Clive and Lorna Jones, Nant Glyd, on their wedding in July, and best wishes to Emily and Shaun, Nant Glyd who will be getting married in August.



## Keeping the village beautiful and tidy

We are most impressed with the hanging flower baskets that have appeared around the village. Thank you so much to those responsible – they are beautiful.

DCC has started cutting the grass verges along principal routes and we understand the narrower lanes will start to be addressed county-wide by DCC early August. However, we would like to convey our thanks to the local farmers and landowners who have taken the initiative and used their own time and machinery to cut some of the verges, especially at junctions to ensure our roads are safer. Please note that your work has not gone unnoticed – thank you.

# Cocoa Room Events

Fri 1st	Collection for DEC	10am–2pm
Sat 2nd	Craft workshop	9am
Mon 4th	Trefoil Guild	2pm
Tue 5th	Book Club	10am
Tue 5th	Friendship Group	7–9pm
Mon 11th	Craft Group	10am
Mon 18th	Craft Group	10am
Mon 18th	Craft workshop	6–9pm
Tue 19th	Book Club	10am
Wed 20th	Tuesday Club	2pm
Fri 29th	Cath Boardman – quilt-along	1.30–3.30pm

# Village Hall Events

Fri 1st	Roger Jones – antiques valuation	10am–3pm
Sat 2nd	Craft Group	10am–4pm
Mon 4th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Mon 11th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 12th	Flower Show Committee	7–8pm
Sat 16th	Coffee morning – St Kentigerns	10am–noon
Sun 17th	Private booking	1–3pm
Mon 18th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Mon 25th	Flower & Produce Show	All day

To book the **Cocoa Rooms**, contact Emily Williams: emilylloyd1@tiscali.co.uk

To book the **Village Hall**, contact Ivan Butler: 07799 570549 or by email ivanbutler897@btinternet.com

# Services at St Tyrnog’s

3th	11.15	Morning Prayer
10th	11.15	Eucharist
17th	11.15	Eucharist
24th	11.15	Eucharist
31st	10.30	Mission area Service in Caerwys

# Capel y dyffryn

31 August 5pm – Rev. Christopher Prew

## Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

Ruth Griffith (chair), Ivan Butler (treasurer and compositor), Anwen Davies (compositor and translator), Gwen Butler, Bryn Davies, Ann and Iestyn Jones-Evans, Rhian Jones, Rod and Margaret Williams





*Send all news contributions and articles to [llandyrnognews@gmail.com](mailto:llandyrnognews@gmail.com).*

## Llandyrnog Shop

## Shop opening hours



Monday	8am – 5.30pm
Tuesday	8am – 5.30pm
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Thursday	8am – 5.30pm
Friday	8am – 5.30pm
Saturday	8am – 4pm

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-  01745 422099
-  [info@llandyrnogshop.com](mailto:info@llandyrnogshop.com)
-  [ShopLlandyrnog](http://ShopLlandyrnog)

## Post Office opening hours

Monday–Friday:	9am – 5.30pm
Saturday:	9am – 12.30pm

Parcels ordered on-line can be collected from the Post Office, for your convenience.

Also, post all your items at the counter, since an income is received from this.



# Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

It has been such a busy half-term at Bryn Clwyd. Our friends from Ysgol Gellifor joined us for a fun Colour Run day. It was lovely to see the children mixing and making new friends while having the time of their lives.

The vegetables in our garden are ready for picking and Mrs Tynan kindly made chocolate cake with the beetroots we had grown.



Year 6 had a great time on their leavers' trip, meeting the husky dogs at Mynydd Sleddog and then on to Zip World Betws-y-coed to go on the Forest Coaster and Tree Top nets.

Finally, it is with a mixture of sadness and pride that we said goodbye to Miss Elin, who has worked as a teaching assistant with us since a young age. She is leaving us to study to be a nurse – we will miss you, Miss Elin.

Our end-of-year play was a time-travelling adventure, and the children made us so proud with how quickly they learned their lines and songs after practice time being reduced due to an Estyn inspection.



We hope you all have a lovely summer, and we look forward to sharing our Estyn report with you, which will be published on 26 August.



# Bryn's off-road experience

I would like to share with you an experience I had recently. This is courtesy once again of my family, who never cease to amaze me with their imagination and generosity – Lisa this time.

I had never heard of Mick Extance – but he has successfully completed the Dakar Rally seven times on a motorbike – it's a gruelling 15-day, 3,100-mile event across the desert in Africa. It's known as one of the toughest rallies in the world, what with the sand and the heat and the possibility of getting lost and not being found – just sand everywhere and no landmarks to remind you of your location.

Okay, that's his hobby, but what's his day job? He's kind enough to share his passion for enduro motorcycling with others and has purchased the exclusive right of access to 1,500 acres of forestry high above Llangynog. He takes groups of no more than eight at a time for training and riding out.

On arrival at the base, your gear for the day is all ready and waiting – boots, trousers, jacket helmet, etc. Although I felt my trousers were a bit on the big side – more about that later. A very basic introduction to the bikes on a screen in the classroom and we were taken in a minibus to the forest, where the bikes were all waiting for us.

Because I'm vertically challenged, I asked for something where my little legs would touch the ground. Fair play, all sorted, a little 125 enduro – very easy to handle. I couldn't have managed the bigger bikes for fear of being unable to lift them should I fall – they're quite heavy.

We were taught that on cornering your foot should be few inches off the ground and at 45 degrees to the front wheel, so if you feel the bike going you can just push it away from yourself – never hang on to it, we were told.



That was a bit scary, since we were all virtual novices. It was about enjoying ourselves, nothing else, and we respected each others' ability, or lack of it.

Carl – Mick's son – made it very clear that it's a dangerous sport and we may well get hurt! That was the best way to break it to us really – listen to what I say and be very careful. Top tip from the instructor: 'When you ride away from here, do not ride directly behind the person in front because they will inadvertently shower you with stones.' How true was that was, and I was glad I had a helmet and a strong visor!

As soon as we were off, I was back being a teenager, flying around Clocaenog on a Sunday afternoon on my Fantic – jumping over bunds that formed the fire ponds. This was a very similar experience – but no fire ponds this time.

I've always found it easier to ride off-road standing up – much easier to control the bike when your knees can grab the tank. I tried it this time but, because my trousers were too big, I could actually feel them sliding down, so decided it would be best for all if I continued seated!

## Bryn's off-road experience... contd

The lessons included not only fast riding but trailing as well, so rather than using the road to the top, take a short cut through the woods at quite an angle, winding through the trees. We were taught the importance of clutch and brake control and how to slide a bike down a slippery bank using your legs and back brakes only – pull the front brake and the bike will slide from under you.

I came off just once – a deep rut filled with water, deeper than I thought it was. The big bike in front of me made it look easy, but my engine was soon covered! However, these bikes are made for it. I was fiddling around with my left foot looking for another gear and lost my balance. It was nothing spectacular, and within half a minute I was away again.

In fact, the little bike never held anyone else up. I think one or two were struggling with the big bikes and wished they had a smaller bike like mine – it was just as much fun and easier to pick up off the floor.

We reached what I think was the highest point, and wow, what a view – Pennant Melangell and the beautiful church dedicated to Melangell in the valley below. While the rest of the crew discussed motorbikes, I was just soaking up the view that I know I'll probably not get the opportunity to see again as the whole forestry is off limits to walkers. So I made the most of it. I could have stayed there much longer but it was time to head off for the afternoon and put into practice what we'd learned in the morning.

Much too soon it was time to head back to Llangynog. I slept like a log that night and, rather than making tractor noises, apparently I was making motorbike noises.



P.S. Ironically, the following weekend someone broke into Mick's workshop and stole his van and seven of his bikes, but he's vowed to pick himself up and carry on – just like he taught us to do!

**Bryn Davies**

**Thanks to all who have contributed to this month's edition – all articles are gratefully appreciated.**



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# A trip to Switzerland

The idea of going to Switzerland started as we sat on the sofa at home in Llandyrnog watching Wales qualify for the European Championship by beating the Republic of Ireland last December. As a girl who plays football, I was aware that the Welsh women's team made history that night. I was delighted when I found out on Christmas Day that I was going to Switzerland with Mum and Leusa, my sister. A great surprise!

Wales' opening match in the championship was held in Lucerne. The city is in the centre of Switzerland, about an hour by train from Zürich airport. Lucerne is a beautiful city and I would recommend visiting it because it is such a wonderful place.

The night before we left, we heard about the history of strikes affecting Swiss airports, which meant that some flights were cancelled. So I was feeling very nervous as we travelled to Manchester airport on Friday morning. Luckily, everything went well with the trip and we arrived in Lucerne just after lunchtime and went to explore the city. One of the main attractions is a famous wooden bridge called Le Pont de la Chapelle, built in the 14th century. The bridge is famous as it is the oldest covered bridge in Europe.



As amazing as the bridge was, my favourite place in the city was certainly the Fanzone. There were so many activities to do there. There was a children's football pitch, along with a seating area, a face-painting stall, a photo-opportunity area, food and drink stalls, a target-kicking game and a performance stage. There was a friendly family atmosphere there and I was lucky enough to be photographed with some of the Welsh women's squad who were wandering around the Fanzone the night before the game. I was particularly proud of the opportunity to meet Elise Hughes, as she started her career at Connah's Quay Nomads, which is the team I play for.



On the day of the match, the experience of walking with the Welsh fans from the Fanzone to the Allmend Stadium, Lucerne, was unforgettable. The record for the biggest 'fan walk' in the history of the women's Euros was broken with a combination of Welsh and Dutch fans totalling 8,000 people. It was great to hear the Welsh fans singing 'Yma o Hyd' to the accompaniment of the brass band!

Arriving at the stadium, I felt extremely proud to be part of a historic moment. Hearing the crowd sing the anthem was emotional and the atmosphere was absolutely electric.



# A trip to Switzerland... contd

Unfortunately, Wales’ performance in the game was rather disappointing, with the Netherlands beating us by three goals to nil. However, it must be remembered that this was the squad’s first time in such a championship. At the end of the game, despite the result, the Welsh fans were full of pride and the players received a warm applause from the crowd.

Mati Nel



## Local awards

### Vale Vineyard

Congratulations to Gwen and Rhys, who have received another award to add to their collection. Their ‘Robin Goch’ scooped Overall Winner in the best alternative red wine category at the Wine GB awards ceremony in London recently. A real accolade in this nationwide competition. Well done to them and their winemaking team, Halfpenny Green Wine Estate



### J & G Tyres

Congratulations to J&G Tyres on winning the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society award for contribution to rural life within Wales.





# Recipe – chicken stir-fry

## Ingredients

1 tbs low-sodium soy sauce  
1 egg  
½ cup cornstarch  
1 lb boneless skinless chicken breasts or thighs, cut into thin bite-sized pieces  
3 tbs olive oil, divided  
1 tbs grated or minced fresh ginger  
2 large garlic cloves, grated or minced  
garnishes: thinly sliced spring onions and toasted sesame seeds

### *For the sauce:*

1 large lemon, zested and juiced (¼ cup juice)  
2 tbs honey  
2 tbs low-sodium soy sauce  
1½ tablespoons rice wine vinegar  
¼ tsp crushed red chilli flakes

## Method

Make the lemon sauce. Whisk all the sauce ingredients together in a small bowl until combined.

In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together the soy sauce and egg until smooth. Add the chicken and toss thoroughly until coated.

Place the cornstarch in a bowl. Dip the chicken pieces in the cornstarch, working a few pieces at a time and tossing until coated on all sides, until all the chicken has been coated.

Heat 2 tbs oil in a large nonstick sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add the chicken – cooking it in two batches if needed to avoid overcrowding the pan – and fry for 3 to 5 minutes until golden and crispy on all sides and cooked through. Transfer the cooked chicken to a clean plate.

Cook the sauce. Add the remaining 1 tbs oil to the pan along with the garlic and ginger. Sauté for 30 to 60 seconds, stirring frequently, until the garlic is lightly golden.

Pour in the lemon sauce and add the chicken. Continue cooking, stirring frequently, until the sauce thickens and turns into a sticky coating for the chicken.

Serve. Remove from heat and serve immediately, garnished with spring onions and toasted sesame seeds.

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## Trefoil Guild

We spent a sunny afternoon in the beautiful garden of Tony Burrows. There was a great deal to see, much of which has been developed by Tony himself over the years. The trees have been grafted and many of the plants have been grown from seed. It was a great credit to him, and we were very impressed. We all had a cup of tea and discussed an International Trefoil Day to be held in Connah's Quay in October. Our next meeting will be tea and cakes in August.



## Friendship Group



The group met in the Cocoa Rooms on 1 July. Mr Liam Blazey, biodiversity officer for Denbighshire County Council, gave an interesting and informative talk on his work in rewilding meadows throughout Denbighshire. Some of the group met up for a day out and a pleasant lunch at Rhos on Sea.

## Mothers' Union

In July we had an inspirational talk from Ewa from the Denbigh Community Fridge. She told us how it all started and the challenges they faced in setting up this amazing project. The aim is twofold: to reduce the amount of food that is wasted and also to help those who are finding life difficult while the cost of living is so high. Ewa told us about the huge amount of work done by the volunteers who collect food from the supermarkets and take it to Eirianfa, so that it is ready for anyone to collect, on Monday and Thursday mornings. It was good to hear that they work closely with the Food Bank and the Community Allotment to make fresh food available, and it was heartening to hear of the generosity of both supermarkets and individuals.

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**Becky Gittins, MP for Clwyd East**

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Constituency office: 01352 871130



## Tuesday Club



The club met at the Cocoa Rooms on 16 July. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to Jennifer, and a moment's silence was held in memory of John, husband of Buddug Ffoulkes. A short general meeting was held to amend the financial arrangements of the club, which will help to meet the rising cost of subsidising the club's annual events.

The guest speaker was Kelly Benton of Gellifor. Originally from Ireland, some members knew her as the former keeper of the shop and post office in Gellifor. She shared some memories of her time running the shop, before showing the array of crafts she had brought with her. She is very keen on recycling, and showed us how cereal boxes, fruit juice cartons, plastic milk bottles and washing powder boxes can be decorated and transformed into useful and beautiful containers.

Other types of crafts shown were items of handmade felt from sheep wool, bracelets from recycled materials, an intricate wall hanging that had been on display at Nantclwyd y Dre, Ruthin, and greetings cards.

Kelly is the national craft adviser of U3A – the University of the Third Age. This is a nationwide network of learning groups aimed at encouraging older people to share their knowledge, skills and interests in a friendly environment.

The Ruthin branch meets at the rugby club on the last Tuesday morning of every month and there is a great variety of groups. For further details, visit <https://ruthin.u3asite.uk/>.

Kelly is also a qualified and accredited holistic health therapist and has been involved with holistic therapies for many years. She trained in London, Halifax, Cheshire and local colleges.

She ended her very interesting talk with an opportunity for all to make their own 'thank you' card.

Refreshments were served and the raffle drawn. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 20 August, 2pm at the Cocoa Rooms – all welcome.



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# History Society trip to Crogen

Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society members had a wonderful trip to Crogen, Llandderfel, near Bala on Saturday, 12 July, with 48 members joining the visit.

Crogen is a Grade II\* listed house that is possibly the site of the hanging of Gwilym Brewys, Lord of Abergavenny in 1230. He had an affair with Siwan, the wife of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (Llywelyn the Great) and daughter of King John. She was the heroine of the play of that same name by Saunders Lewis.

The house was modernised by the Earl of Dudley in 1831. He used the property as his hunting lodge. In 1864, Henry Robertson – a very successful civil engineer, entrepreneur, industrialist and politician – acquired the lease on Crogen and, subsequently, ownership of the property. He carried out major improvements and innovations and also built nearby Palé Hall. A descendant of Henry Robertson still lives there today.



We were greeted by the current owners, Henry and Sarah. Henry told us about the history of the house and his family connections, which played a major part in shaping North Wales with the introduction of the railways to this area.

We were led through the grounds by Sarah, down to the banks of the river Dee, where we heard about modern times: a snapshot of life at Crogen, recent experiences involving both charitable work and commercial events, including TV programmes that have been recorded there, the Crogen Cadet Challenge and its legacy, which Henry ran during his year as High Sheriff, and much, much more.

There was a fantastic welcome and a superb tea served for all. One of the society's members, Wendy Grey Lloyd, gave us and the hosts a dramatic presentation performing as Siwan (chained up in her cell!), ably assisted by Dr Chris Madoc-Jones as the condemned Gwilym Brewys.



To join the society or find out about their planned talks, e mail [llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com](mailto:llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com) or come and have a chat with some of the committee members on their stand at the Llandyrnog Flower and Produce Show on 25 August.



## Spotlight on... Gladys Jones

I came to Llandyrnog after the Second World War, when my father came to work in Glan-y-Wern gardens, then owned by Colonel Barton. We lived in a flat in the cobbled courtyard, where there had been stables. The first thing that struck me was the fact that the 'postman' was a lady on a bicycle – Lesmay Griffiths of Speddyd Farm.

When we first came here, the chapels and the church were very busy, not only on Sundays but in the week as well. Also the Sanatorium at Llangwyfan was very busy, with many patients there long term, with tuberculosis. I thought it strange to see them outside the wards in their beds, even on days that were not so warm. Child patients often had TB in the glands of their neck. In those days there was no cure for TB and patients were treated with a long list of drugs until some time later, when the sulfa drugs and streptomycin came into being. At the weekends, the roads were very busy with coaches from South Wales, from Talgarth Hospital, when relatives from that area came to visit. I little thought that many years later I would work at the renamed Llangwyfan Hospital for 18 years, until it closed in 1980/81.

I had to transfer from Grove Park School, Wrexham, to Denbigh Grammar School, which I found very different from the strict Wrexham school. Olga and Rona Ffoulkes, Tyn Llan, were very kind at that time in helping me to get used to a new system. Buses were fewer and we had to catch the 7.45am bus to Denbigh. The main school was not open at that time in the morning so children from rural areas had to wait in a small annexe. When school opened, we had to go to Bodawen chapel for prayers – except for Roman Catholic pupils, who were excused. The original stone building and the later ones have now sadly been demolished to make way for dwellings.



Gladys and daughter on the Rainbow Bench

Some years later we lived for a while in Glan-y-Wern Lodge on the Waen crossroads. It was very primitive, with no electricity. In the living room there was a black-leaded range with an open coal fire, an oven and a boiler, which gave some hot water. The stairs were stone and went up from the kitchen. There were three bedrooms, one large and two long, narrow ones. Downstairs there was a long sitting room with a cast-iron coal/wood fireplace. The loo was outside (mercifully, a flush one) and there was a bathroom. Cooking had to be done either on the range or on a small Calor gas stove. An Aladdin lamp or candles gave us light.

My friend Aelwen Williams (later Holmes) lived down the road in Dyffryn Chapel House, and I used to love hearing her play the piano in our sitting room. Many years later she sadly died of cancer and I took her to Clatterbridge Hospital on the day when she was told that the disease had spread. Not a happy day.

A happier experience, when Aelwen and I were teenagers, was knowing Mr and Mrs Hughes, Tŷ Gwyn. My mother wanted me to learn Welsh, and Mrs Hughes suggested that I join her Bible class. I did so and she taught me numbers, pronunciation and I picked up some vocabulary.

## Spotlight... contd

After the initial shock of moving school and leaving friends and relations, I eventually settled in Llandyrnog. In my early teens I spent the school holidays working at Glan-y-Wern Farm, which I really enjoyed. I used to go on the white pony down to the meadows to round up the cows and bring them up for milking, and I was happy doing any job. I looked back at that time as idyllic. Mr Harry Owen and Mrs Katie Owen were really good people, and their children, Dorothy and Robert, were very small at that time. Dorothy eventually became Mrs Pattenden and I was so sorry to hear of her death at a comparatively young age.

In the late 1940s there was no village hall, of course, and dances, whist drives and other social events were held in the old school in the middle of the village. This had a partition that could be drawn back to make a big room. Some smaller events could be held in the Cocoa Rooms.

Mrs Gladys Ffoulkes, Tyn Llan Farm, formed a young ladies' club, which had regular meetings and we had concerts and plays later on when the first Village Hall was built. One thing that old folk will remember about that building was the floor. I don't know exactly what it was composed of, but if the weather was hot, the top layer would melt and you would be sliding around, which was not so funny as it sounds.

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## A trip to Texas...

Texas appeared on stage in Llangollen as part of their recent tour, and among the audience was Penny Hughes, who had the great privilege of being invited backstage. Penny has sent us this photo and said: 'Sharleen was so welcoming. She gave us all a big hug, and for me being such a big fan it was one of those moments that I will never forget. I have loved her since my college days and now I love her even more!'

Pictured with Sharleen are Chris, Gemma, Penny, Tom, Sam & Jade.

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# Messy Church

In our July session we were looking forward to the end of term and the school holidays, with the possibility of spending some relaxing time at the seaside, just as Jesus did by the sea of Galilee. We made a big boat, which we 'sailed' around the hall, and a beach. We made jellyfish and puffer fish too. We then enjoyed a picnic at the beach! There is no Messy Church in August, so we will meet again on Sunday, 14 September at 3.30pm. Why not come and join the fun – we'd love to see you!



# Clera Workshop

'A splendid day of Welsh music. The tutors were a lovely complement to each other and gave very expert guidance, and the choice of tunes were delightful.' This was one of the many positive comments from the Clera workshop held in Llandyrnog Village Hall on 28 June.

The day was organised by Clera, an organisation that promotes Welsh traditional music, and 25 keen local amateur players of varying ability came to take part and learn less-familiar Welsh folk melodies. The group leaders were Dave Ball (concertina) and Sue Jones (fiddle). Sue wrote an excellent tune for the occasion called 'Croeso i Landyrnog', which we all enjoyed learning.

There were a great variety of instruments – fiddles, flutes, harp, ukelele, penny whistles, accordions, concertinas – and even a pibgorn, a traditional Welsh instrument which is a bit like a bagpipe without the bag! In the morning we learned folk melodies partly by ear, although the music notation was available for those who needed a safety net! In the afternoon we played more familiar melodies that typically come up in a Welsh trad session – music notation was provided and the pace was steady and varied to make sure everyone could manage the tunes.



We only had one suggestion for improvement: could we shorten the lunch break?

We hope to organise another workshop in the village in the near future. If you would like to try your hand at some Welsh folk melodies and are going to the Eisteddfod in Wrexham, there will be a tune-learning session every day at the Bwthyn, next to the Tŷ Gwerin (the main folk stage) from 12.30 to 13.30 every day, so bring your instruments!

Locally, we have a very informal monthly session in the Golden Lion, Llangynhafal on the first Wednesday of each month from 7.30pm. For more info contact Teri Duffy: [teri.sesiwn@gmail.com](mailto:teri.sesiwn@gmail.com)  
Facebook group: Sesiwn Gymreig Rhuthun  
Welsh Session

**Teri Duffy**



# The Wright Life



This year the garden has been a challenge. The hot spell in May didn't help some of my plants to put on that first growth that's needed to build up strength for the growing season, and a few of my first sowings failed. Did anyone notice that there was also a lack of grow bags available in Denbigh, or indeed the local area? Last year I found grow bags were expensive and, in a bid to go plastic-free in the garden, I had already decided to try something different. I had trialled a few plants with growing them in sheep lick boxes. Local farmers are only too willing to let you have them, so a stack arrived over my gate one afternoon and I got handy with the drill.

Many holes later and with a crick in my neck from bending down, I had drilled numerous holes in the bases. I positioned them so they were raised above the floor for the water to drain (another lesson learned last year: don't put them on a solid surface as the holes don't work and the plants get waterlogged). The tomatoes and cucumbers have grown well but were slow to start with the hot May. One of the cucumber plants 'damped off' as I hadn't quite got the watering right in those early days. A quick trip to Green Fingers for another plant and they're now producing sweet cucumbers.



July saw a plague of ants in my greenhouse. I was unaware of them lurking under the stone slabs, as sadly I lost my old dog Lucy in May at the ripe old age of 16, and she used to stand at the door and refuse to go in when they were about, alerting me to the imminent arrival of the flying ants. Alates ants are the winged, reproductive member of the ant family. They're males and future queens that want to leave the nest to mate and establish new colonies. They're harmless, but it means the greenhouse is out of bounds for a few weeks. Some adventurous alates escape through the apex and my resident sparrow population feast on them, patiently waiting for them to pour out. Flying ant day over, I can then clean all the discarded wings and debris for when the weather is cooler and I'm back sitting in my favourite chair observing the garden activities.

And as for the moles, don't get me started! This year has been horrendous with the moles blotting my lawn with numerous mounds of earth. You all know, if you read my article regularly, that I'm not a pristine lawn fan, but being inundated with molehills and runs means the lawn looks like a bomb site and I struggle with my lawn mower, afraid that the stones will chip the blades. I've tried everything, but have found the most entertaining method is my eager four-legged friend, who stands motionless for hours waiting for the mole to pop its head out to say 'hello'. After a while she gets impatient and starts to dig, exasperated that there isn't a mole there anymore. In a final attempt, I bought some 'sonic' repellents and they worked for a while, but not anymore – do the moles get used to the sonic blasts? If anyone has a solution that works for them, perhaps you can let me know. All I can say is 'oh, the joys of summer'!

*Hazel*



## Village Hall AGM

The Chair gave an overview of the past 12 months. The hall continues to be a huge success and bookings need to be done well in advance if specific dates are required. The coffee mornings alone raised £7,185 (plus a further £2,400 raised for Air Ambulance) – that equates to £479 per event for local charities and was indicative of the generosity of the residents of Llandyrnog. Quite an achievement.

The Treasurer presented the annual audited accounts, which were approved. It was agreed to leave hiring charges unchanged.

There was an update on maintenance issues, with the repairs to the woodwork having been carried out. DCC has offered to decorate the hall, although the money allocated may well have to be moved to more pressing matters.

A lot of work is involved in getting ready for the booked events – setting out the tables and chairs, storing them away before the school next day and keeping the lower room and kitchen clean and tidy. Thanks for this goes to Lynn our caretaker, who works quietly and diligently.

There was a report on the Show and a brief update on the present situation. The team has been well occupied since March and the schedule is about to be printed and distributed. Our thanks to Roger Warner, who works hard behind the scenes. We are fortunate to have people like Roger willing to give a finite resource – time – to ensure we have a successful Show.

It was also nice to see younger members taking an interest, in particular Amy Weyman, who will be organising the dog show again this year.

Election of Officers: Chair: Gwen Butler; Vice-Chair: Ruth Griffith; Secretary: Bryn Davies; Treasurer and Booking Clerk: Ivan Butler; Auditor: Samantha Davies.

## Village Show update

See you at the Show on 25 August?

Question: Did visitors to the Llandyrnog Flower and Produce Show last year feel the show was a happy and positive place to be?

In our survey: 100% said Yes.

We also asked: Is entering the show in 2025 something you might consider doing?

And 79% said Yes.

Good news – entry forms are now available. Believe it or not there are over 100 different classes to enter and the show includes not only flowers and vegetables but baking, crafts, photography, art, jam and chutney and... you get the idea.

More good news – it's free to enter and you can enter up to five times in any category, so if you can't choose between your orange marmalade or your grapefruit marmalade, or you love a whole bunch of photos you took of your dog or cat, canary or chinchilla, you can enter them all.

Much of the fun of the show is seeing all the different things that friends and neighbours around the village make and bake and grow. There are special classes for children and young people, even a cookie cooking challenge just for men.

All growers and bakers and makers who enter the show are guaranteed a warm welcome and the opportunity to be part of one of the high spots of the Llandyrnog year. Closing date for completed entry forms is Friday, 22 August. For your entry form look in the centre of the show programme delivered to your house recently or pick up a copy from the Village Shop or Tŷ Ceffyl Bach. Or email [llandyrnogshow@gmail.com](mailto:llandyrnogshow@gmail.com) for an electronic copy.

Hope to see you with your pride and joy next month.

# Llandyrnog School Honours Board

Before the passing of the 1944 Education Act, secondary education in the UK was not free, although there was a scholarship system in place to give promising children from primary or elementary schools the opportunity to go to secondary school.

Children from Llandyrnog who were lucky enough to earn these scholarship places, or whose families were wealthy enough to pay the fees, would go to either Ruthin County School, if you were a girl, or Denbigh County School, if you were a boy. It was only in 1938 that the schools became co-educational, with Denbigh County School accepting boys and girls from the area.

An 'Honours Board' of pupils from Llandyrnog School who gained scholarships to either Ruthin or Denbigh from 1929 to 1954 has recently been returned to the village.



It is hoped that a place can be found to display the board permanently. In the meantime, the Llandyrnog & Llangwyfan Local History Society is trying to trace the history of some of the people whose names appear.

The board will be on show at the society's stand at the Flower and Produce Show on 25 August, where we will be delighted to speak to anyone who can provide us with information about any of these people.

What we would like to know is:

- Any other name, possibly nicknames, they have been known by, including the married names in the case of the girls.

- Where they lived.
- Who their parents were.
- A brief description of their life after they left primary school.
- Any further connection they have/had with Llandyrnog.
- Either where they are today or where they are buried.

If you have any of this information about any of those listed, do call to see us at the show. We will be delighted to see you and to record any smallest detail you may know. A small piece of information can lead on to major discoveries.



# Llandyrnog's second Roman road

Most inhabitants in Llandyrnog and the surrounding area are aware of the Roman road that travels along the Clwydian Range above Llangwyfan, parts of which are still in use today, but there is also recorded evidence of a second Roman road that passed through Llandyrnog, and our farm at Pen Isa'r Waen.

My wife's family had long known of its existence, and it came across the land from around where Penpalmant sits today, across Nant Simon, past Pen Isa'r Waen and across Whitchurch Road (which, of course, did not exist in Roman times), towards Bodfari and St Asaph, where it joined a Roman arterial road travelling from Caernarfon (Segontium) to Chester (Deva Victrix).

Much information was documented and published by E. Waddelove, called *A Roman Road in the Vale of Clwyd*, although the publication is currently out of print. It is recorded that this second Roman road is believed to have started from around a Roman fort known as Llanfor, near Bala, and another at Caer Gai.

The road then travels towards Corwen, where evidence of a Roman presence has been found – not a traditional fort, but a marching camp called Penrhos.

Reaching Ruthin, there is evidence of a Roman fort. Although its exact location is still being investigated, it is considered likely to be in the area near Ruthin School. From Ruthin, the road takes us down the Vale of Clwyd and is believed to have crossed the River Clwyd near Llanynys, before leading on towards Llandyrnog.

Waddelove believes that there is a significance to the name and location of Penpalmant (or Pen y Palmant), which translates to 'end of the pavement', as it is from this location that the road heads across the

fields towards Pen Isa'r Waen, crossing Nant Simon at the location of the current foot-bridge and footpath.

To the left of the footpath is a boundary hedge separating two fields. There is a strong possibility that this hedgerow was once a raised road, a very common feature of Roman roads, where a trench was dug on either side and the spoils placed in the middle to give a drier place to walk. From this is formed the word 'highway', something we are familiar with today – a high-way. Over the centuries, it is likely that a hedge formed at the top of this mound, which still exists today.

On the other side of the hedge during the hot summer of 1976, a round mark in the ground could be seen from the air and is again believed to be some form of Roman building, very conveniently located next to the stream for water supply. It is also interesting to note that an ancient water mill was located nearby, and a property known as 'Castell', both of which have long disappeared.

From this point, the road carries on to Pen Isa'r Waen in the usual Roman road straight line and along our access track, heading towards Bodfari and St Asaph, where it is believed there was a fort called Varis.

**Emyr Morris**

## Denbighshire County Council

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Or leave a message on Facebook

# Matters discussed in the July meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

DCC has confirmed that the verge-cutting on the main roads started early July and that the side roads will be cut on a county-wide basis starting early August.

On the above, it was noted that some farmers had taken it upon themselves to cut grass at junctions and that a note should go into Llais to thank them.

Defective BT box at Maes Llan/Treborth area will be reported.

Vicky Owen gave a presentation on her vision for the Cae Nant play area to add more inclusive play equipment – a quote has been received and others are awaited. The Community Council will assist in any way possible to move this project forward – it is heavily dependent on grant funding being available.

There is no update on the allotment, other than DCC is considering applying for a grant to connect to mains water. However, the publicity seems to have sparked an interest and there are only a couple of boxes not allocated, and all seems to be functioning for the time being.

Dr Patricia Mackinnon-Day gave a detailed update and video presentation on how she had amended her planning application at the Old Coach House to address the Community Council's concerns.

Notice of temporary road closure at Cae Nant – we have been assured that access to emergency vehicles will be available at all times.

Notice of temporary closure of footpath from Maes Llan past the rear of PJ Colours factory has been received – this will result in only part of the path being closed at any one time during the house-building works, with diversions being put in place.

Discussion took place on the extension to the village speed limit in that area now work has commenced on the new estate, and it was requested that a joint agency approach be considered – DCC/emergency services/Community Council – to assess whether a speed survey could be carried out between Celynog crossroads and Maes Llan.

Five planning applications consulted on:

- Extension to Pant Gwyn – no objection.
- Dormer windows to Treborth – support in principle but unable to support the application as presented as it didn't comply with the planning guidance re. dormer windows – too large and dominant.
- Maes y Wern – demolition of existing dwelling and replacement dwelling – unable to support principle of demolition of a fairly new dwelling as no evidence provided to ensure criteria of RD 4 has been met.
- Maes y Wern – extension to dwelling – support the principle of extending the dwelling to suit the family's needs, providing DCC Planning is satisfied that the criteria in terms of additional floor area permitted are met and elevational treatment dealt with – the view from the AONB would be a consideration with such a major structure.
- Old Coach House, Plas Bennett – the application has been amended to reflect the Community Council's concerns.

Posters – there has been a good and imaginative response to the litter poster, and they will be seen around the village soon!

The results of the community needs survey have been collated and the suggestions that are within the remit of the Community Council will be included in the business plan.