
Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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December 2020 – Volume 6 – Edition 3

*Happy Christmas to all our readers and thank you for
your support throughout the year*

Looking back at Christmas

This year is probably going to be a very different Christmas to what we are all used to. Due to this, many of us will recall how Christmases were spent when we were younger, beginning with school Christmas nativity and church events.

I recall when I was in primary school in Llangefni that our headmaster was known to everyone as Mista. He was also the church choirmaster and, consequently, I got roped into the church nativity as well.

It was a very happy and carefree time, everyone helping each other to decorate school classrooms as well as homes – making our own paper chains and competing to see how long they could be.

We joined in the carol singing around town, usually for a local charity. The main church event was the nativity and church carol service. The first one I took part in, I don't actually remember, only vaguely from what I was told over the years. Apparently I sang 'I Will Rock You' by myself in the chancel, with Mr Jones sitting in the front pew conducting and encouraging everyone to join in.

In subsequent years I was one of the angels for a few consecutive times, then I was in the choir with 'the big girls'. It was a very happy time.

A very happy Christmas to you all and every good wish for health and safety for 2021.

Wyn Wilson



Around the village

You will have noticed that because of the current situation with COVID-19 there have been no coffee mornings or other events held recently and not in the foreseeable future. However, the Community Council has made use of this time to paint the room and also provide new carpets. We are extremely grateful to Rupert of Coastal Carpets, who lives in Llandyrnog and has provided the new carpet at an extremely competitive price as his contribution. We are extremely grateful to Rupert and his team.

Congratulations to Huw Jones, Glanywern Farm, on being awarded the MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list for services to the economy in Wales. He is a director of the very successful civil engineering firm, Jones Bros.

Recently Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK scooped the Member of the Year – Wales award from the Building Safety Group for best practice in health and safety in the Wales region. Jones Bros was also awarded the member of the year award by this group in 2018.

The Building Safety Group aims to help organisations minimise the risk of incidents in the workplace and keep organisations up to date on all health, safety and environmental regulations.

Welcome to Mike and Nia Whelan and family, former residents of the village, who have returned and now live in Parc Tŷ'n Llan; to Dave, Jackie and Victoria to Greenfields and to Jack and Fran who have come to live in Helenfa.

Best wishes to Rob McShea, Greenfields who has moved to Denbigh, and to Joyce, Helenfa in her new home in Cae Topyn, Denbigh. Best wishes also to Gwyn Rowlands, Dregoch, who has retired from Cadwyn Clwyd.

We send our sincerest condolences to Dylan, Ian and family on the loss of their father, Tecwyn Roberts, Wern Fechan. Tec was a very active member of the community and passed away after a protracted illness.

Also to Ann Ward and her daughters Lesley, Susan and Jan. Les Ward passed away peacefully at home with his daughters at his side.

This photograph was displayed on Llandyrnog Community's Facebook page by Sally Jackson. It is of her father, Charlie Wills, who kept the shop on the corner opposite the Golden Lion. Until now, no one has been able to identify the customers – is anyone able to name them?



Christmas Greetings

We wish our neighbours and friends a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. **Elwyn, Olga and Elwen**, Ger y Llan, and **Margaret Evans**, Awel y Foel.

Wishing everyone joy over the Christmas holidays and the New Year. **Bryn and Anwen**, Bryn Ffolt.



Remembrance Day

At the service held outside the church on Remembrance Sunday, wreaths were laid by Barbara Royles, on behalf of the family of Peter Edwards, who lost his life in the Falklands campaign; Ruth Griffith, Llandyrnog Community Council; Merfyn Parry, Denbighshire County Council; Jack Crowther, parishes of Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan. Karen Morris previously laid a wreath on behalf of the Brownies.

Children of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd displayed painted stones in memory of the fallen outside the school, and many houses displayed their own tributes.

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Shoebboxes

A reminder that shoeboxes for the homeless in Wrexham will be collected at the downstairs room of the Village Hall on Saturday, 5 December, 10am–1pm. Please wrap your shoeboxes in Christmas paper and, if you wish, include a Christmas card. It is requested that the boxes are delivered wrapped in plastic bags so that they can be sanitised. Label your boxes on the plastic bag (just write on it with a felt pen or similar) and on the Christmas wrapping – for male or female, or a food parcel. There is more demand for goods for males than females.

Here are suggestions for what could be included in the boxes (boxes containing only food will also be greatly appreciated).

- Toiletries: toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant and body spray, shower gel and shampoo, shaving foam and razors, baby wipes/face wipes, hairbrush or comb, moisturiser, sanitary products for female boxes.
- Clothing: hat, scarf, gloves, warm socks, belt, raincoat/poncho, underwear.
- Food items: small bars of chocolate, sweets, biscuits, tinned food (ring-pull only), cans of pop. Drink sachets (coffee, hot chocolate). Food sachets (instant soup, mugshots).
- Other items: notepad, pen and pencil, wind-up torch, cutlery.

No alcohol or money, please.

It won't be a mass gathering – just a matter of entering through the door at the back of the hall that opens directly to the downstairs room, leaving your box on a table, and exiting immediately. Please wear a mask to enter the room. Should the weather be kind to us, a table will be set up outside. You are kindly reminded to adhere to social distancing guidelines in the car park.

Land Army

In December 1941 the government passed the National Service Act, which allowed the conscription of women into the armed forces or for vital war work, whichever they chose. By 1943 more than 80,000 women were working in the Land Army. They were nicknamed Land Girls.

Land Girls carried out a wide range of jobs and worked long hours, especially during the summer, mostly outdoors and often in cold and rain. There was minimal training and most women were expected to learn about agricultural work while they were actually doing it. The Land Girls lived either on the farms where they worked, or in hostels.

They came from a wide variety of backgrounds, with more than a third from London and other large cities. Some were homesick, and many farmers were initially sceptical about employing young women on their farms, but people soon came to realise how useful most of them were. One local farmer went a little further to ensure that his Land Girl didn't leave, as this account by Peter Rowley Williams of his mother Jane's life relates.

Jane Rowley Williams was a teenager living with her parents (my grandparents) in Egypt, where her father was stationed, when in 1939 war broke out and the family had to return to England quickly. The journey back was through France and usually by night in a blacked-out train to avoid dive bombers. They also crossed the Channel in the dark to avoid being sunk.

Jane's school days were now ending, and if she had one regret it was that, owing to war, she was unable to go to university, where she would have loved to have read history.

My grandparents, being concerned for safety, decided that as she was a country-loving girl, the Land Army would be the thing, so through a family contact in North Wales, she arrived in late 1940 at Glyn Arthur at the

tender age of 17. My mother loved to tell the tale of her first vision, when she thought, 'That looks alright.' Then again, a short while later when she met my father, she thought, 'He looks alright too!'

So, life on the farm began and she had to learn all the basic skills of milking cows by hand; rearing calves; harnessing and driving teams of horses; stooking and pitching sheaves of corn; looking after sheep, pigs and hens; doing the gardening; and, as mains electricity didn't reach Glyn Arthur until the early 1950s, she also prepared the paraffin lamps each day, an exercise that she told us took an hour every morning.

As the war slowly came to an end, Dad always told us (with a twinkle in his eye) that he realised he was about to lose an excellent cowman and all-round farm hand, so he duly proposed that they should get married. Fortunately for him (and us) she accepted! They were married in 1945 and so began a union that lasted just short of 50 years.

Peter Rowley Williams

Another Land Girl who came to Llandyrnog during the Second World War was Jean Dutton, from Salford, Manchester. She worked at Tyn Llan and wrote this about her first experience of the village:

*A stranger was I to the beauty
around me, never before had my feet
ever trod upon such fields: nor had my
eyes seen this beautiful work of God.*

*The meadows green and winding
lanes have set my weary soul at rest.
Where else could I roam and find such
things with heavenly touch, so blest?*

*It is true I've learned to love thee thy
mountains*

*And thy vales, I pray that I may ever
stay in this,*

My new home in Wales.

(Thanks to Olga Evans for this contribution)

From the Rector

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.' Matthew 1:23

At Christmas time we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ with family and friends. By now we should be making plans for Christmas parties, nativity plays and family get-togethers, but this year is different. We are not sure whether we can meet up with family and see those who are not in our immediate locality. We hope and pray that we will be able to get together with family and friends but realise that we must abide by whatever regulations are put in place by the government.

This year has been a difficult year for everyone. At the start of the year we could never have imagined what was about to take place. We remember those who have lost loved ones, all who work in the caring professions, and all whose livelihoods and businesses have suffered as a result of coronavirus. We have learned many things, not least that people are kind and caring and willing to support one another in whatever way they can.

As we prepare for Advent and Christmas, we know that this year will not be quite the same. But Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ, and the message of Christmas remains the same: Christ came into the world born as a tiny baby in Bethlehem. Emmanuel 'God is with us'. Jesus the greatest gift of all. And God is with us in every day; we simply need to open our eyes and see.

A young man feeling the need to get out went for a walk in the park. He saw an old lady sitting on a bench, who was looking rather sad, so he decided to sit alongside her and pass the time of day. As he sat down the lady gave him the loveliest smile and the young man chatted and shared some time with her.

When the young man went back home, his mother asked him, 'What did you do that is

making you look so happy?' 'I had a chat with God,' he replied. 'She has the loveliest smile.' Meanwhile, the old lady went back home, and her daughter smiled at her and said, 'You look happier. What did you do today?' 'I sat on a bench and talked to God; you know, he's much younger than I imagined.'

God is with us. The joy and peace of Christmas comes to us all too. It comes into the centre of our everyday lives, even and maybe especially when we least expect it in these coronavirus days. We are called to behold the mystery of a God born into our humanity in the most unexpected ways.

Yes, things will be different, both in our homes and in church this year. Sadly, there will be no Christingle Service or Crib Service this year. During Christmas week there will be a small crib in the church porch and maybe a few angels and shepherds along the way.

'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.' John 1:5

May God be with you this Christmas time and always.

Val Rowlands



Dyffryn Chapel

Activities during Advent

Wednesday, 2nd, 9th and 16th December:

7.30pm – Advent Studies

Sunday 6th:

10.30am – Sunday School Party Online

Sunday 13th:

2pm – Christmas Service in Chapel

5pm – Family Quiz, suitable for all ages

Sunday 20th:

2pm – Carol Singing in Cars at Denbigh Rugby Club

Wednesday 23rd:

7.30 pm – Carol Service Online

Sunday 25th:

9.45am – Christmas Service Online

Notes from Plas Ashpool

What a roller coaster we all seem to be riding at the moment. Firebreaks here, lockdowns there, vaccines in sight and the greatest pantomime production over the pond! Will we ever feel settled again?

Our youngest grandson came home from school the other day announcing, most proudly, that he was to be a donkey in the school nativity and that he was going to be filmed. It all seems so strange to my generation perhaps, but to him it was the most exciting thing ever. Just goes to show that perception of any event is always so different for every one of us.

Following on from my 'happiness' list of last month, I have been trying very hard to follow my own advice. Household activities have been at the forefront, with the weather having been so wet. So, drawers have been emptied and cleaned, the pantry has been completely reorganised (I dare not own up to how many 'significantly old' jars of jams, chutneys and marmalades were discovered at the back of the shelves), floors scrubbed and windows cleaned. All in all, a very satisfying month of chores completed, which normally would have been put off indefinitely.

On the 'noticing wildlife' point on my list, here too there has been success. Every evening over the last couple of weeks flocks of geese have been gathering and spending the night in the fields of maize stubble in front of the house. As dusk falls, my usual hen locking-up moment, the calling of the geese as they gather together has been wonderful. It is as though they are all calling out each other's names simultaneously, honking directions to one another and discussing their forthcoming adventures all in one go. Then, suddenly, all is quiet as they settle for the night.

Another sight of a similar ilk has been the gathering of the rooks as night falls. Not dissimilar to the starlings' murmuration, although not quite as spectacular, they come together in huge numbers, swirling this way and that for quite some time, making a terrific din, until all of a sudden they plummet into their nightly roost in the woods and silence prevails.

My final bird sighting during the last month was very exciting and one that I hope some of you may be able to help me with. Down by the river at Llanynys, was I right in thinking that I spotted a pair of cranes? They were large, long-legged white birds feeding in the meadows. Or would they have been egrets? Not sure, but either way a lovely sight.

As yet, we are not sure who we will be spending Christmas with, but in preparation I have taken great pleasure in browsing through all the old faithful cookery recipes. From the Christmas pud to the trifle, all the old favourites are there, and despite the fact that some vegan and vegetarian options will have to be tossed into the mix, isn't it reassuring to know that despite all the topsy-turvyness of these times, certain traditions will always help to anchor us to family, friends, community and our sense of place within it.

I haven't even mentioned the garden once this month, but I haven't forgotten about it. Every day there is a flower or a fragrance to bring cheer to the grey days and, as ever, there is always next year with all its natural glory to look forward to.

So, until next year, I hope that we can all enjoy this Christmas, in whatever form it takes, and still enjoy some happy gardening along the way.

Fiona Bell

Christmas facts

Why Rudolph really does have a red nose

Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer is now over 80 years old and it has been discovered that the red nose may well have some basis in scientific fact.

Researchers in Sweden have used thermal imaging cameras to capture the heat from reindeer as they graze. Also, while most of a reindeer's body is well insulated, their noses glow bright orange due to the large amounts of heat they release. The reason is simple: reindeer have a high concentration of blood vessels in their nose and lips to help keep those areas warm and sensitive as they rummage through snow, looking for food.

(from *Village Voice*, December 2014)

Facts about Christmas food and traditions

Mincemeat originated as a way of preserving meat along with fruit. The combination of fruit acids and sugar prevents bacteria from growing, especially the deadly bacteria that causes botulism.

The Christmas pudding started life as a 14th-century 'porridge' called frumenty that was eaten as a fasting dish. However, in 1664 the Puritans banned it as a 'lewd custom' and 'unfit for God-fearing people'. But it soon returned to popularity. This year more than 40 million people will finish their festive meal with Christmas pudding.

The Christmas pudding should traditionally be stirred in an east to west direction to commemorate the visit of the Wise Men to the infant Jesus.

The Christmas favourite, turkey, only appeared on Christmas menus around 1650 after European colonisation of North America. Before this time, the popular dishes included peacock, boar and swan.

The Christmas tree originates from 1800s Germany and spread to Britain and America through Pennsylvanian German immigrants.

Legend has it that stollen, the centuries-old German bread, rich with eggs and milk, represents baby Jesus in swaddling clothes.

The yule log originates from Scandinavian pagan festivals that spread around Europe during the Viking conquests. The log was taken home and burned during all 12 days of Christmas, and the remains were kept as a lucky charm. Certain people were excluded from the lighting of the yule log, including people with squints, women with bare feet and people with flat feet.

The tradition of hanging stockings comes from St Nicholas leaving his very first gifts of gold coins in the stockings of three poor girls who needed money for their wedding dowries. The girls had hung their stockings to dry by the fire.

Christian leaders in AD 336 set the date of 25 December in an attempt to eclipse a popular pagan holiday in Rome (Saturnalia), celebrating the winter solstice.

Father Christmas was known to wear red and white due to his earlier career as a bishop, where his religious robes would have been red and white (nothing to do with a famous soft drinks company's advertising).

(Thanks to Russ Jones for supplying the above information – from *Village Voice* December 2001)

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry



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Or leave a message on **Facebook**

Past Events in December

- 2:** 1898 – Death of Michael D. Jones, one of the instigators of the Welsh settlement in Patagonia.
- 3:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
1931 – *Llyfr Mawr y Plant* (The Big Book for Children), an iconic story book for children by J.O. Williams and Jennie Thomas, was published by Hughes and Son, Wrexham.
1955 – The Farmers’ Union of Wales established at a meeting in Carmarthen.
- 4:** 1977 – First ever darts World Cup competition, won by Wales, thanks to Leighton Rees.
- 7:** 1916 – David Lloyd George elected Prime Minister of the UK. He spoke Welsh, as did Billie Hughes, who was Prime Minister of Australia at the time.
- 10:** 1631 – Death of Sir Hugh Myddelton, Denbigh, who brought a water system to London.
- 11:** 1282 – Death of Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, the last prince of an independent Wales.
- 14:** 1918 – Women allowed to vote in a British general election, but only those over 30 years of age.
- 15:** 1969 – Swansea became a city.
- 16:** 1905 – Wales beat the New Zealand All Blacks 3-0 at Cardiff Arms Park.
- 20:** 1955 – Cardiff made capital city of Wales.
- 24:** 1930 – First British youth hostel opened in Pennant Hall, Conwy Valley.
- 27:** 1858 – Birth of Sir J. Herbert Lewis, son of Elizabeth Roberts, Plas Llangwyfan. He was the first chairman of Flintshire County Council and was an MP from 1892 until 1922, becoming Chief Whip. It was thanks to his effort and perseverance that grants were obtained to establish a National Museum and Library. It is also thanks to him that a teachers’ pension scheme was introduced.

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Bryn's walk

If you fancy a two-mile circular route with 360-degree panoramic views, then follow me. It will take less than an hour but note that there are styles that are not suitable for heavy dogs, and for people with dicky hips or knees! If you are new to the area, please take OS 265 map with you.

Park in the layby by the gate to Bancar Farm – be mindful that some quite wide vehicles may need to access the gate, so keep to one side.

Facing the two main farm gates, go through them and walk straight ahead, with the sheds on your right. Go over the first style, then the second, and keep going until you reach the third.

After going over this third style (which has a footpath sign on it), aim for the gate at the top of the field, to the right of an oak tree. When you reach this point, turn right and head towards Islwyn – the house with scaffolding around it (although this is not immediately in view). Take in the view as you walk. Down to the right of Islwyn, you will see a style (warning: this has a very steep drop) – this brings you on to the lane.

Turn left up the lane, Coed Coppi Fancar will be on your left-hand side. Take the bridleway

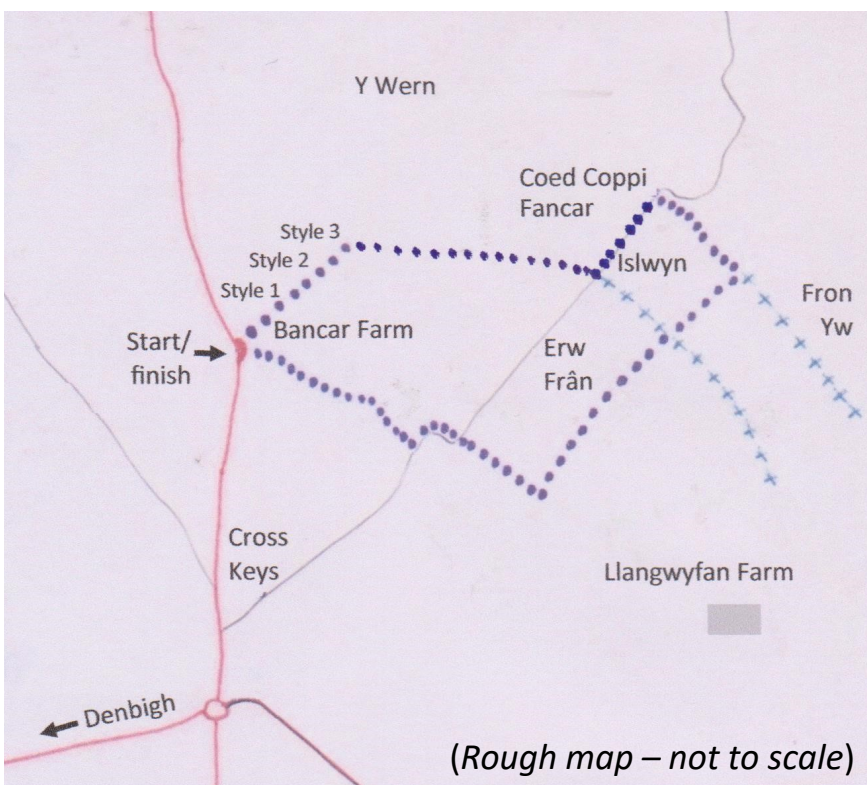
heading towards Fron Yw. Follow the stoned track for about 200m, keeping an eye out for a galvanised pedestrian gate to your right at the bottom of the park. Cross the park, down towards the said gate. Many of these have been installed recently to replace styles.

Once you've reached that gate just stop and look for the next galvanised gate and head towards it, past the oak trees on your left. Go through that gate. Keep the hedge on your right until you get to the bottom of that field and you will spot yet another pedestrian gate on your right. This gate takes you out to the lane and back on tarmac for a short while.

Go left down the lane, around the corner and go through the second farm gate on your right – the one with a footpath sign. Keep the hedge to your right going to the next gate and you will then see Bancar farmyard. Head diagonally across the field towards the red-bricked outbuilding. As you approach it, a gate comes into sight to the left of it. This gate enters the yard near the layby. You will then have 'reached your destination' as my sat nav would say.

Hope you enjoyed your walk – see you next time.

Bryn Davies



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Three places

When the children were younger, I started taking them on holiday down the west coast of France. We travelled in a loaded Isuzu jeep with a small trailer containing surfboards to La Tranche-sur-Mer, Royan and La Rochelle.

In later years, we travelled further south towards Biarritz. However, one of our favourite locations was the area around Massanges, on the coast by Vieux-Boucau-les-Bains. These holidays were very memorable with some superb campsites. We used the likes of Key Camp and Eurocamp, staying in what were then fantastic tents. Ask any of the children; these were the best family holidays.

For my 50th birthday celebrations, I wanted to go to Thailand and do some backpacking before I was too old. So that's what we did. We flew from Manchester through Dubai, taking in places like Phuket, the Phi Phi Islands and Ko Lanta. We travelled on the water taxis to visit other little islands, including the famous James Bond Island. These water taxis were quite basic, a long boat with an old Isuzu truck diesel engine fitted on the back and a long propeller welded to the flywheel. If you ever go on one of these, sit at the far end – it's probably a lot safer.

This was a complete change of culture for us both, especially Ko Lanta where we were away from the tourist areas. A tip – if you're thinking of going, avoid going into the open-air food markets because there are flies all over everything. However, I had forgotten all about this by the time my food was being prepared in an open-air kitchen on Long Beach that night. We had a great welcome from everyone and again some fantastic sunsets and beaches.

One of our joint interests is in the organising of our travels, which we always do on a budget, so even with all our travelling we haven't gone over the top on spending. Staying and travelling amongst the locals has given us both much more of a feel for the places we have visited.

We have also visited Sri Lanka twice. We

backpacked again, through places like Kandy. Strangely enough, the English were playing cricket here and we got caught up with the Barmy Army one night in a pub called the Hipsters Hideaway. We also met some friends Hilary knew, Sophie and Mia Austin.

Kandy is a busy city, and I would not want to stay there for very long. We booked a train from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya – this train was like something you would see on the television travelling through India, packed, with people hanging on to the doors. Fortunately, we got a seat.

The locals were so friendly and the little children were amazed at Hilary's blonde hair and blue eyes. They kept coming over to talk to us and touch Hilary. Nuwara Eliya is a small village in the hills where we visited a tea plantation and walked up Adam's Peak, seeing some amazing scenery with huge waterfalls.

We then travelled down to the south coast and stayed in various locations along the journey back to Colombo, taking in memorable places, such as Tangalle, Hiriketiya, and Madiha, near the famous Doctor's House restaurant. Some 50,000 people lost their lives in this area during the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004.

In Mirissa, I celebrated my 60th birthday and stopped in Unawatuna for a night – this is where the television series *The Good Karma Hospital* was recorded. I made contact again with a friend, Nirosha Baba, who we met on our first visit. We had lunch together and he drove us in his Tuk Tuk to proudly show us the new house he had built. We moved up to Hikkaduwa beach and visited Galle Fort with its Dutch influence. I'm pleased we went twice to enable us to see so much of this beautiful country.

I very much hope that my travelling is far from over, as we have lots of places we want to visit again.

Merfyn Parry

Recipe

Tomato relish

2lbs tomatoes – unskinned
3 medium onions – peeled and chopped
¾ lb sugar
1½ tbsp flour
1 tbsp dry mustard
1 tbsp curry powder
Vinegar

- Pour boiling water over tomatoes, then skin and chop.
- Mix chopped tomatoes and onions and sprinkle 1 tbsp salt over. Leave overnight.
- Drain off excess liquid.
- Add vinegar to cover the tomato and onion mixture.
- Stir in sugar, flour, dry mustard and curry powder.
- Boil for approximately 10 minutes.
- Cool and pot.

Ruth Griffith

So what's new?

Following on from the comments on page 3 of last month's edition, this was one of the matters discussed at the meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council, December 2001.

Members told Sergeant Kowal of their concerns regarding the problems of car parking in the village centre and on the bend by Church Square. He advised that anyone who saw a car that they thought was parked in a dangerous position should telephone Denbigh Police and an officer would respond, usually within 20 minutes.

Perhaps the advice given by Sergeant Kowal regarding the police response doesn't hold true today, but why on earth are we still talking about this problem 19 years later? *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*, as they say (they more things change, the more they stay the same).

Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

Ruth Griffith (Chair), Ivan Butler (Treasurer and Compositor), Anne Rowley-Williams, Anwen Davies (Compositor), Gwen Butler, Jack Crowther, Bryn Davies (subscriptions), Ann and Iestyn Jones-Evans (translators), Rhian Jones, Rod and Margaret Williams, Sian Gwyn-Ifan (translator).

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Matters discussed in the November meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

The new bench for Celynog Crossroads has been delivered and we are awaiting a licence from DCC to put it in place.

Refill Wales are looking for suitable places throughout Wales to encourage people to refill water bottles. There were no public taps in Llandyrnog, so we are hoping that one of the local hostellers will take up the offer.

Following a request from the Community Council, DCC's Highways Safety Officer visited the village and carried out a comprehensive visual survey. They are of the opinion that the speed of the traffic does not warrant additional traffic calming measures. However, they are willing, if needs be, to reinstall traffic speed measuring equipment at a future date.

It was verbally reported that Beech Developments, who are undertaking the Maes Llan developments, are keen to work with the community and hoping to engage in the near future.

Cocoa Rooms: three quotations for new carpeting were received and it was decided to ask Coastal Carpets to carry out the work. The owners of Coastal Carpets, Mr and Mrs Bradley, live in Llandyrnog and have offered a substantial discount as their contribution to the village.

Inconsiderate parking: since the local PCSO has been monitoring and paid a few visits, the situation seems to have improved.

Play equipment: three quotations have been received, with one company submitting an unsolicited and unprompted lower bid. The Clerk has been in contact with Hope CC, who had equipment installed by the company that had submitted the lowest quotation (Wicksteed). They were happy with the quality and the service offered, so the Clerk is going to visit the play area before accepting

the quotation. It was decided to show some boards at the school, post office and Cae Nant to give an idea of what is proposed.

Christmas tree: it was decided seek permission from the church officials to see whether a tree can be placed in the churchyard. If so, a tree will be ordered.

The Community Council has a very active representative on the Ruthin Hospital League of Friends, and it was reported that the team are about to restart meetings, using a virtual platform.

The Community Council has been successful in ensuring £3,000 from the Denbighshire Business Rate Relief grant fund. There is no shelf life or conditions with the payment.

Food bank (Trussell Trust): it was decided to donate £200 to the Denbigh Food Bank. This is the food bank local to Llandyrnog and the officials confirmed that they have supported several local families, who had been referred to them for assistance during these difficult times.

Committee members were thanked for their assistance in planting winter bedding plants on the roundabout, which hopefully will bring some colour over winter. All plants were purchased from Green Fingers. Also thanks to the Brownies for the box in Llandyrnog and to very kind individuals for adopting the boxes at Llangwyfan bus stop.

Planning: there were no objections to the planning application to reduce the floor area of a planning permission previously granted to extend Bryn Coch, Fforddilas.

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Christmas in Llangwyfan Hospital 1952

The following account has been collated from a copy of the Llangwyfan Hospital magazine, *Cwyfan Sanfare*.

The staff choir, accompanied by Nursing Orderly Bill Caveney on piano-accordion, had visited the wards on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day arrived and on Block 4 the patients were awake at the crack of dawn, and after a fantastic amount of tea had been brewed and consumed, presents were exchanged and parcels from home opened.

During the morning, they were visited by Santa Claus who bore a close resemblance to Mr Hall, the Theatre Charge Nurse. He was accompanied by two odd-looking 'nurses' and it was realised that two male members of staff were missing at this time – Student Nurse Bob Deed and Nursing Orderly Bill Caveney!

Christmas dinner was the highlight of the day with the ambulant patients having a party in the dining room, with Dr Mayers and Sister Murphy joining in the fun. An impromptu choir was conducted by Dr Mayers, whose baton was a succulent leg of goose. Upstairs on the wards, Dr Law carved the goose, helped by the nurses.

After relatives had visited, a crowd of the 'graders' (patients who were up all day and had jobs in and around the hospital) gathered in the Recreation Hall for dancing and musical games.

On Block 9, the patients appreciated listening to the staff carol singers who toured the other wards, with the female nurses wearing their cloaks inside out to display the red lining. From the children's ward next door came cries of delight as Father Christmas arrived and handed out presents.

Block 6 had a portable gramophone playing all day and male patients from 'The Huts' visited and provided dancing partners for the girls. Sister Humphreys and her staff 'waited on' at the patients' Christmas dinner.

Block 7 decorated their ward in a rather distinctive style. Instead of holly and paper chains, each ward represented a different country. Sister Evans had written to BEA and BAOC and had been given some lovely travel posters.

Block 3 patients woke up on Christmas morning to discover that Santa Claus had paid a visit during the night and left a stocking full of gifts for each patient.

The Huts, where most of the male patients were, presented a carnival appearance, each hut having a miniature Christmas tree.

As was customary, Christmas dinner was served by medical and nursing staff, with Dr Biagi, Dr Jackson and Miss Roberts in charge of the carving.



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