

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

✉ llandyrnognews@gmail.com

£1

December 2025 – Volume 11 – Issue 3

Christmas is Coming!

Messy Church

In our November session we learned about Advent, which begins at the end of November. It marks the start of the countdown to Christmas and we start opening our Advent calendars on 1 December. In the church we light a new candle for each Sunday in Advent until Christmas Day, when we light the big white candle in the middle of our Advent wreath to show that Jesus has been born.

We made our own Advent calendars and wreaths and also a big Advent wreath, which is now in the church. We also made poppy windmills as it was Remembrance Sunday.



Our next session will be at 3.30pm on 14 December and all are welcome as we celebrate again the wonderful story of the first Christmas. Children please bring a grown-up to share the fun!

Santa Claus to visit on 4 December

Denbigh Round Table is again charged with supplying a float to transport Santa around the local area in December. Santa has arranged to visit Llandyrnog on the evening of Thursday, 4 December. He will stop at Maes Tyrnog (at or just after) 6.45pm, and Maes Clwyd at approximately 7pm, before travelling on to Aberwheeler and Bodfari.

There will be a 'Santa Tracker' available on the Denbigh Round Table social media pages. It should be noted that Santa has a busy schedule so will only stop at these locations, so do go along to see him.

Round Table volunteers will be there to help and will be collecting donations for local charities.

Around the village

Welcome to Lucas Pedley, who has moved to Rhydarian, and to Charlotte Howard at Cerrigllwydion Hall.

We are pleased to hear that Rev. Sam Quilty is home following a stay in hospital.

Glad to hear that Winnie Wilson is recovering and back selling raffle tickets!

Happy 80th Birthday to Aeron Ellis.

Sincere condolences to Gwen Davies, Vale Vinyard, on the loss of her brother Wynne.

Welcome to the world Mabli Flur of Ty Capel Dyffryn. Daughter to Llinos and Gwydion Alun, sister to Twm. We wish Llinos a speedy recovery following further hospital treatment.

The Remembrance Day service at the church was well attended, with wreaths being laid, among many others, by Councillor Jane Borthwick on behalf of the Community Council. In the absence of Councillor Merfyn Parry, Ethan Plumb laid the Denbighshire County Council wreath (pictured).

A total of £197.40 was raised for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



Fundraising



We are immensely proud of Theo Vaughan, who presented a cheque for £1,655.20 to the Vale of Clwyd committee of Cancer Research UK. He raised this by organising a darts tournament in support of Emma, who is having preventative treatment after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Theo is 16 years old and a member of a darts academy and plays for Clwyd. His funds will be earmarked for Research in Wales. Emma thanks everyone for the continued support and kind words, and Heather and Kayleigh who supported her when she had to face losing her hair. Emma looks forward to ringing the bell on 6 January.



Cocoa Rooms events

Mon 1 st	Trefoil Guild	2pm
Mon 1 st	Carolyn Langford-Jones' craft group	10am
Tue 2 nd	Llais committee meeting	7pm
Fri 5 th	Cath Boardman's quilt-along	1.30–3.30pm
Mon 8 th	Carolyn Langford-Jones' craft group	10am
Tue 9 th	Tuesday Club	2–3pm
Wed 10 th	Mothers' Union	2pm
Mon 15 th	Carolyn Langford-Jones' craft group	10am
Tue 16 th	Community Council	7pm
Thu 18 th	Helen Murphy's craft group	6–9pm
Sat 20 th	Helen Murphy's craft group	9am–noon

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

St Cwyfan's

Sun 7 th	Eucharist	11.15am
Sun 14 th	Eucharist	11.15am
Sun 14 th	Messy Church	3.30pm
Sun 21 st	Christingle Service in Village Hall	5pm
Wed 24 th	Crib Service	4pm
Thu 25 th	Christmas Eucharist	10am
Sun 28 th	Mission Area service in Llanrhaeadr	10.30am

Village Hall Events

Mon 1 st	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 1 st	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed 3 rd	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Thu 4 th	National Trust open meeting: Wales Coastal Path & Lyme Park	6.30–9pm
Sat 6 th	Craft group	10am–4pm
Mon 8 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 8 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 9 th	Garden Club	7–9pm
Wed 10 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Sat 13 th	Private party	10.30am–2pm
Sun 14 th	Messy Church	3.30–5pm
Mon 15 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 15 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 16 th	School concert	5.30–7.30pm
Wed 17 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Sun 21 st	Christingle Service	5pm

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Dyffryn Chapel

December services

Sun 7 th	Christmas Atmosphere	10am
Sun 14 th	Children's Christmas Service	4pm
Sun 21 st	Prayer Meeting	10am
Sun 28 th	Circuit Service	10am

A very hearty thanks to all who supported the coffee morning on 8 November where £475 was raised towards the chapel.

Y Gymdeithas

On Monday, 3 November, Aeron introduced the guest speaker, Nic Parry, Gellifor. We had a lively talk about his experiences as a football commentator on radio and S4C. The audience was captivated as he recalled many memorable experiences. Rod proposed a vote of thanks.

On Monday, 17 November, unfortunately the guest speaker was not able to attend due to a car accident involving a deer near Trefnant on his way to the meeting. A Christmas party stall was held to raise money for the children's Christmas party, and everyone enjoyed a chat over refreshments. The president was John Huw.

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.

Astronomy Society

We are excited to let you know that the group has returned to Llandyrnog Village Hall for our regular meetings on the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Our October meeting had a good turnout, with members bringing their telescopes and setting up in the car park for observations of the night sky. Announcements included the launch of our new WhatsApp group and Facebook page, both packed with information and tips. There followed a demonstration of solar observations, and members were given the opportunity to hear about one member's new 200mm Newtonian telescope and our other telescopes.

Members reported on Comet Lemon viewings from the Great Orme and a discussion of the 3I ATLAS Intergalactic comet, as photographed from probes on Mars. We were encouraged to look at the GO STARGAZING app, showing how Llandyrnog Village Hall and other local and national sites are listed as great sites for stargazing.

There was a tribute to Clwyd, one of our colleagues who passed away recently. He was a founder member of North Wales Astronomy Society.

In 2026, the Society is excited about a new project partnership between ourselves and Denbigh Museum, where we hope to provide a fascinating programme of talks starting with a project about Isaac Roberts, his life and pioneering work in astrophotography. Born and bred at Groes Bach just two miles from Denbigh, he is truly a local hero.

Our December meeting will be a social event at Llangynhafal, so watch out for details on Facebook, flyers or send us a message on 07811 117059 if you are interested in joining us. Keep looking up everyone.

Llandyrnog Shop

We have started to get a small collection of Christmas gift sets and Christmas products in. Don't forget you can also support the post office by using a click and collect or Amazon drop-off point for all your online festive purchases. Keep parcels safe in this unpredictable weather too. And bring your Christmas cards to post them over the counter – this also helps boost the post office's operation.



Our normal opening hours are shown below but please note that the post office will close at 2.30pm and the shop at 3pm on Christmas Eve. Both will be closed on 25 and 26 December, then reopen on Saturday, 27 December for the usual hours.

On New Year's Eve the post office will again close at 2.30pm and the shop at 3pm. Both will be closed on 1 January. Normal service will then be resumed.

The board, staff and volunteers thank you for your fantastic support over the last year and wish you a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Llandyrnog Shop

Shop opening hours

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



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 [ShopLlandyrnog](https://www.facebook.com/ShopLlandyrnog)

 llandyrnogshop.com

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.

Seeking treasure in Llangwyfan

It has become a regular thing for a group of detectorists to be seen searching the local fields. I have been fascinated by what they have found so far: the list is endless – from Bronze Age weapons through Roman brooches, Elizabethan, Georgian and Victorian coins, to Second World War artifacts (Spitfire bullets! In Llangwyfan!). So, when I was invited to visit and say hello one Sunday morning, I was quite excited to see how it all worked.

I walked down to the field behind the church and was surprised to see over 60 individuals with muddy knees milling around. I was shown their 'finds table', where the best stuff was being checked and listed. There were also two buckets next to it – one for rubbish metal and one for cutlery! Apparently, forks and spoons are regularly dug up here – every patient at the old Sanatorium was issued with their own set of cutlery to prevent cross infection of tuberculosis. The staff and patients regularly used these fields for exercise and invariably dropped stuff. Even though I had my BCG jab against TB when I was in school, I still cautiously peered into the bucket of cutlery, wondering whether they were infectious!

I was then introduced to Day Moss, who very recently found 15,000 Roman coins – potentially the largest Roman hoard ever found in Wales. He had already been on the local and national news that week and another film crew from ITV was coming (to a random neutral field in Llangwyfan) to interview him. He didn't want anyone to know where he found the coins (all he would say was 'not here!'). He had been so fearful of the coins being stolen before he could hand them over to experts that he slept in his car with them for three days.

That site 'somewhere in North Wales' could



contain a lot more yet, and there is always the risk of unauthorised detectorists (called nighthawks) getting there first, so it's top secret at the moment.

I was then offered a go at detecting myself – group member Paul Binns very kindly let me try out his equipment, and we swept the field with gusto. It was actually quite tiring after a while (and this was a lightweight detector apparently) but good exercise. We had a few bleeps to indicate a find, so Paul handed me a specially shaped shovel and showed me the approved method of digging a hole (so you can return the turf to the top like putting a lid back on) then how to scan the soil and hole with a smaller wand to locate the actual treasure. Of course, I didn't find anything, apart from a 'moo tube' (a metal nozzle used to dose cows – who knew), a regular find on livestock farms.

That went in the 'rubbish metal' bucket (it's bad form to leave rubbish metal behind for someone else to have to dig up – there's quite a bit of etiquette involved). In a 'here's what you could have won' moment, Paul did show me something he had found earlier – a Roman

Seeking treasure contd...

fibula, which is a type of brooch used to hold a cloak or scarf. Who was the lady who lost it, I wondered; did she search our fields trying to find it, only for it to stay there for thousands of years until Paul came along?



The following week I was able to demonstrate my vast knowledge of detecting (!) when I visited the Museum of Liverpool. (Well, I could confidently state 'that's a fibula' without fear of contradiction.) My friends and I were visiting an exhibition of some of the most important treasures found in Wales and Cheshire. This included the famed 'Mold Cape', a solid gold shoulder garment found in 1833 at Bryn yr Ellyllon burial mound in Mold. It's usually kept in the British Museum in London but had been loaned for this exhibition.

It was a thing of beauty but sad to realise that other items of jewellery and the bones of the occupant of the burial mound had also been found but ignored or shared out. At the time, Treasure Trove laws only covered 'gold or silver hidden with the intention of recovery', so did not include items in burial plots. Today, the Treasure Act protects such finds, and



everything can be properly catalogued.

Considering the items already found in the fields of Llangwyfan, I wonder what else is beneath our feet. You never know, we could soon be able to visit an exhibition showcasing the 'Llangwyfan Hoard'. All I need is a detector and one of those specially shaped shovels. And a lot of luck.

Gwen Butler

Trefoil Guild

At the last meetings we had a harvest talk by Juliet Fraser and flower arranging by Dorothy Roberts. Goods for the food bank were collected and the Christmas flower arrangements were won by members in the raffle. A new member was welcomed.

Arrangements were made for a Christmas lunch at The Griffin. There will not be a meeting in January.



The Wright Life



What a display we have had this autumn with all the intense hues from the changing leaves turning into burnt orange, reds and golds, which have lit up the late November vistas around us in the Vale. This annual visual treat is triggered by the cooling temperatures and shorter days, with plants receiving less sunlight. The reduced sunlight triggers the chlorophyll to break down, revealing the new colourful pigments underneath and for us a wonderful vibrant palette of familiar colours. Try something different this year and close your eyes. Take a breath in and you will notice a faint scent from the fallen leaves, with earthy and musky aromas. Put all that together with the smell of distant wood smoke from a garden bonfire and you have the perfect autumn atmosphere.

I have recently noticed the piercing song of a robin when I am in my office. He perches on the parked vehicles declaring his territory to anyone who is interested. Chest out and head high, he serenades me with impressive whistling and lots of rippling notes thrown in, or is he trying to drive away unseen intruders? I'm not sure. Robins sing all year and are one of the earliest participants of the dawn chorus, but we hear them more clearly at this time of year as they are one of the few birds that sing in the winter.

The robin is loved by everyone and is especially associated with Christmas, often seen on cards and decorations sending us glad tidings. The Victorians nicknamed postmen 'robins' because of their bright red jackets worn to deliver the post. Not sure the attire of our modern posties would qualify as mine adorns shorts 365 days a year whatever the weather – too cold for me – and he sneaks up in his electric van intent on pushing unwanted flyers into my post box. Anyway, back to the real robin.

In folklore, robins were linked with the presence of spirits and souls of the departed, with many of us uttering the phrase 'robins appear when loved ones are near'. They fulfil a symbol of resilience and remembrance, with robins appearing at funerals to pay their respects. However, most of us recognise the robin as linked to the festive season, which will be here all too soon. Did anyone notice that Christmas arrived in September this year; well it did in Home Bargains.

Robins have had a long association with Christianity, with descriptions of how they may have got their red breast. The first 'is that after robin burnt himself on a fire that he fanned to try and keep baby Jesus warm within the manger, with the red breast therefore passed on to all robins as a sign of their devotion to God'. The second 'details the robin present at Jesus Christ's crucifixion, where to ease his pain and suffering, he sings a beautiful song. The blood from Christ's crown then drips on to the robin's breast, where it persists to show the compassion that the robin had' (taken from *Songbird Survival*). Whatever your beliefs, a robin is a welcomed guest in our gardens, brightening up our day with their charming and friendly nature. So, look at that robin on your cards and think of what it symbolises – hope and renewal. May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.



Hazel

Supporting communities, building futures at MHC Highfield Park

At MHC, we're a community. One of the ways we continue to support and strengthen that community is through our commitment to employing local people. Across the whole of MHC, we're proud to employ 690 staff. That number isn't just a statistic; it represents hundreds of dedicated individuals who make a difference every day across our services.

A large part of our team is based at Highfield Park, where we employ 395 staff. These individuals help make Highfield Park not only a high-quality care provider but also a vital part of the local economy. What's even more powerful is that 192 of our Highfield Park staff live right here in Denbighshire. That's nearly half of the Highfield Park team contributing directly to their local community not just through their work with MHC, but by spending locally, supporting local schools and being part of the social fabric of the area.

This local focus reflects MHC's ongoing mission to be a positive force in the communities where we operate. By hiring locally, we're not only offering valuable employment opportunities but also reinforcing our strong ties to the people and places that make our services thrive.

While nearly half of our Highfield Park team live in Denbighshire, the remaining 203 staff members bring their talent and dedication from neighbouring areas, and we're just as proud of them.

Many of these individuals commute daily from near and far communities, choosing to be part of something meaningful at MHC. That choice speaks volumes about their commitment to the people we support, and to the values we share. Whether they live 5

miles away or 55, every member of our team plays a vital role in making MHC what it is, a place of compassion, support and excellence. Their journeys reflect the strong reputation we've built, and the kind of workplace people want to be part of, no matter where they're from.

We want to say thank you to every member of our team, whether you've just started or have been with us for years, for being a part of this story. You're not just helping us deliver care. You're helping us build something bigger.



Llais Llandyrnog has subsequently learned that members of MHC staff have been recognised in Wales Care Awards 2025 and we wanted to congratulate you all: Leah Davies – Gold in Leading Practice in Learning Disability; Gemma Jennings – Gold in Excellence in Mental Health and Wellbeing; Michael Rawlins – Silver in Outstanding Service Award. Well done!

Recipe

Garden Club

Christmas leftovers pie

1 tbsp olive or rapeseed oil and knob of butter
1 large onion, halved and sliced
Leftover pigs in blankets
2 tsps English mustard powder
50g plain flour
1 chicken stock cube, crumbled
150ml white wine
500 ml chicken stock or leftover gravy
6 stuffing balls, leftover or shop-bought
300g cooked turkey, shredded
1tbsp wholegrain mustard
100g low-fat crème fraiche
Small bunch of parsley, chopped
800g leftover roast potatoes
20g mature cheddar, grated

Method

Heat oven to 200 °C/180 °C fan/ gas 6.

Heat the oil and butter in a large, shallow ovenproof casserole dish. Add the onion and cook for 10 mins over a medium heat on the hob until really soft.

Stir the mustard powder, flour and stock cube into the oil and butter for 1–2 mins, then add the white wine. Bubble for 1 min, scraping the bottom of the dish to release any tasty bits, then add the stock. Stir to make a smooth sauce, season and bubble for 5 mins.

Cut the pigs in blankets and stuffing into bite-sized chunks, add to the sauce with the turkey, mustard, crème fraîche and parsley. When bubbling, remove from the heat.

Crumble the potatoes in your hands over the top of the filling, so you have some larger and smaller chunks.

Scatter the dish with cheese and bake for 40 mins until the potatoes are crisp and the filling is bubbling around the edges.

The club met on a miserable wet night. Mary Watkin Jones and her husband described their recent cruise, where they enjoyed visiting Amsterdam, Tresco Abbey garden and Monet's Garden. Tulips were the star performer, with the contrasting gardens providing pictures of enormous succulents that flourish in the warmer climate. Tresco Abbey garden is a subtropical garden on the Isles of Scilly with over 4,000 plant species from around the world. We wandered among King Protea and Lobster Claw, the great blue spires of Echimium, brilliant Furcraea, Strelitzia, and shocking-pink drifts of Pelargonium. In contrast, Monet's garden in Giverny is an impressionist inspired landscape divided into two parts, the Clos Normand and the water garden, with its Japanese influence. Many thanks to Mary for taking us away from the wet dark November night into a warm summer garden.

We welcomed new members and enjoyed refreshments afterwards and a chance to discuss horticulture and swap gardening tips and news.

On Saturday, 15 November we held our first coffee morning to raise much needed funds for the club to provide informative talks and discussions into 2026. Plants and cakes were available and an excellent raffle (thanks to the raffle ladies – it was lovely to see Winnie back in her usual spot). We raised circa £300, so a huge thank you to everyone.

Our next meeting is on 9 December in the lower room of the Village Hall at 7pm. We will be welcoming Graham Pickles from Greenfingers Garden Centre in Denbigh, who will be hosting a Christmas quiz. We hope to have a 'questions and answer' session afterwards and enjoy a festive evening. If you are interested in joining the club, why not pop along or email us at LlandyrnogGardeners@outlook.com

Bryn's Lambo Drive

My children never cease to amaze me with their generosity, and Ifan treated me to an experience of my choice – that little red box always gets me going! This time my treat was to drive the Italian supercar Lamborghini Superleggera at Three Sisters circuit in Wigan.

It's an impressive-looking car, all 5 litres and 523bhp, which will whisk you to 125mph in 10.2 seconds and has a top speed of 200mph.

The first surprise were the doors opening upwards, which can catch you under the chin if you're not careful.

I had a feeling this car was going to be a challenge. I could have sat in the car in the pit, just flipping the throttle, listening to the 2,000 components in perfect harmony; there's nothing to beat listening to 523bhp roaring away behind the seat and raring to go. When you feel your lower leg muscles twitch as you rev the engine, you know something spectacular is about to happen!

I made a mental note of the layout of the dash because I knew once I was out on the track I would have to concentrate 100% on just getting around in one piece. I had decided, foolishly maybe, considering the weather conditions (raining cats and dogs), not to pay the damage waiver, so if I bent this Lamborghini I would have to pay the first £5,000. No pressure. However, the instructor, Carl, explained that we had dual controls.

Joining the track is a bit like joining a motorway – just try to match your speed to the cars on the track and slip in. One sure way to cause a collision is to try to slip in at 60mph with the approaching car doing double that, but the instructors are excellent and they tell you when to slip in. The mirrors are also adjusted for the instructor so the driver can concentrate on the track and will be told if someone is overtaking – or even undertaking, which is acceptable but an uncomfortable feeling.

To change gear it's a paddle change on the steering wheel The instructor tells you when to change gear. These engines are at their happiest when they're somewhere near the 'red line' on the rev counter. You just need to be prepared and don't let the noise put you off!



The instructor guides you along the best line and then tells you when to brake ... gently. These cars can fly but their braking system is something else.

I could identify the speedo at the blink of an eye – coming out of a corner at a very modest 70 it shot up to 120 no problem – and plenty left – frightening but oh what a feeling.

Due to the rain and the car tending to twitch, it was time to head for home, but what an experience. I would never be able to afford one of these cars (£75K for a decent one and a tad under £200k for a new one), and even if I won the lottery it's impractical – but a piece of pure engineering genius. Anyway there are too many potholes around here and it does not have a tow bar.

Bryn Davies

The Sámi

During our recent visit to Norway we had a most interesting afternoon meeting the Sámi people. They are the Indigenous inhabitants of the Arctic region spanning the northernmost parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia's Kola Peninsula. Archaeological evidence suggests that Sámi ancestors lived there since the last Ice Age, so they are well used to the cold and bleak weather. They were traditionally nomadic people that relied on hunting and fishing before developing herding reindeer as their primary livelihood. Over many centuries they faced cultural suppression by many governments, but through their determination they succeeded in obtaining recognition of their rights, traditions and languages (yes languages).

The Sámi divide the year into eight seasons – this is a reflection of the nuanced changes in light and temperature. They survive in total darkness for 2–3 months in the northernmost regions.

Herding reindeer is of course the cornerstone of Sámi identity, but now only a minority make a living this way, with the majority employed in a wide variety of careers just like any other population. We were told that there are now no more than 500 or so full-time herders. The reindeer feed on some of the poorest arctic vegetation so there is a limit on numbers that the vast open areas can support. Despite this, it was good to hear that there is an urgency among the younger population to become full-time herders – so maintaining family traditions. They graze legally defined areas, usually of some 50 square miles on common land. Each district has its own governance, with elected board members who coordinate herd sizes and migration routes. Migration follows a seasonal cycle between winter and summer pasture.

In days gone by, the herders would follow the livestock by pitching their tents not too far from where the reindeer roamed. Today they are not confined to such a nomadic lifestyle but have built convenient wooden cottages as temporary and shared homes and follow the reindeer as a communal activity on quad bikes. Many Sámi communities are still adapting by using GPS collars, drones and legal advocacy to protect their grazing rights. The herds are traditionally vast, numbering several thousand as they migrate with the season across their old well-tried routes.

We were advised prior to our visit that we should never enquire, 'How many reindeer do you own?' to a host because it's just like asking, 'How wealthy are you?' The very first question asked by a lady in our group was, 'How many reindeer do you own?' She was given a very curt response!

There are many community rituals during herding for marking calves or sorting herds, and these activities reinforce social bonds and help maintain their deeply rooted cultures.

Reindeer are central to Sámi identity. The meat is a food staple and the tanned hides become warm clothing and boots – traditionally with the toe curled up. The fur is used for lining and insulation. The antlers and bones are crafted and used as tools, and, more recently, with the advent of tourism, sold as souvenirs. In the past, reindeer pulled sleds across the snowy terrain but now snowmobiles are the common mode of transport.

We were told by our host that there are five distinct Sámi languages, with the diverse tongues spoken across the various Sámi countries often as different from each other as Welsh is from other Gaelic languages. The Sámi language reflects the resilience and vulnerability of the Welsh language.

The Sámi contd. . .

There are now some 30,000 Sámi speakers across all tongues. Fragmentation is a major problem to ensure its survival but the Sámi tenacity lies in cross-border solidarity and grassroot revival. Sámi TV and media are experiencing a surge at the moment, with new partnerships and productions expanding across the Nordic region. Apparently, a Norwegian-produced drama set within the Sámi community is proving very popular – very similar to *Pobol y Cwm* on S4C.

Our host was a reindeer farmer, probably in his 50s, whose parents only spoke Sámi. He was educated in a private school near Bergen – to improve his knowledge of the Norwegian language (his parents must have owned many reindeer!). There was a tear in his eye when he recalled this experience, indicating that he would have preferred a true Sámi upbringing.

Rooted in tradition and resilience, the future of the Sámi is shaped by snow, spirit and sovereignty – balancing cultural traditions with modern challenges. They are a vital Indigenous community whose cultural, linguistic and ecological contributions merit continued support. They are tenacious people who offer enduring lessons in sustainable living and self-determination.

Rod Williams

Becky Gittins, MP for Clwyd East

becky.gittins.mp@parliament.co.uk

Constituency office: 01352 871130

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

In November's meeting, the members saw for the first time the screen in the Cocoa Rooms in use. They were shown a television programme recorded in 2001 when the chef, Dudley Newbery, came to Capel y Dyffryn. He made food for the summer party of late Rev. Wayne Roberts' chapels; 120 attended the event, and seeing familiar faces was delightful, although some are no longer with us, and the children are adults by now.

We sent our regards to Jack Palin, wishing him a speedy recovery, and wished Buddug a happy 96th birthday. We hope to see her joining us before long. The club is looking forward to our annual Christmas lunch at the Drovers, Rhewl.

The Cocoa Rooms will be open Tuesday afternoon, 9 December at 2pm – anyone is welcome to call in for a cuppa and a chat.

From the *North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser*, 21 December 1867

Two decent-looking workmen, named David Parry and William Salisbury, were brought in custody before W. Douglas, Esq., Percy Williams, Esq. and Rev. D. Roberts, county justices, on Wednesday, charged with stealing a couple of ducks. PC Evans, of Llandyrnog, having met the prisoners that morning about six o'clock on the highway leading from Llangwyfan to Caerwys, and perceiving a bulky bag in their possession, he searched it, and discovered that it contained two ducks killed. The officer charged them on suspicion with having stolen the ducks. Robert Davies, Rhiwbebyll, Llandyrnog, identified the ducks as belonging to his father, and swore having seen them alive on the farm the previous afternoon. The prisoners pleaded guilty and each was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

A word from the priest

To 'belong' is something that we were created for – to live in community, in relationship with God and with each other. One of the ways we achieve this feeling of belonging is through one of life's great blessing – friendship – whether that be between a partner, parent, child or someone you are not related to. With good friends you are never alone. They are always there for you and gladly share life's joys and sorrows. They are those who really know you and still like you and choose to be in your company. Whether or not you agree on absolutely everything, they support you when you are right and when you may be in the wrong too. Not always agreeing but always there.

Before Jesus came to earth there were only two individuals referred to as friends of God – Moses (Exodus 33:11) 'The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend,' and Abraham (Isaiah 41:8) 'My servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, seed of Abraham my friend.' But in John 15:14 we have Jesus saying, 'You are my friends if you do what I command.' All who believe and respond to Jesus 'belong' to him in a friendship that has no end. And this friendship, this belonging, is so deep that he laid down his life for us. John 15:13 says, 'Greater love has no one than this; to lay down his life for one's friends.'

I read a saying the other day that really resonated with me. It's from a Greek philosopher called Plutarch – so you can probably guess I came across it quite by accident: 'I don't need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better.' And it's true, isn't it, that we need our friends to be honest with us, not just to tell us the things that they think we want to hear.

This is the sort of friend Jesus is; he is a friend who will never leave us or forsake us, he intercedes for us before the Father and supplies all our needs. He forgives our sins, understands all our sorrow and gives us sufficient grace in time of trouble. But he still does not just tell us what we want to hear. Much of what Jesus taught is not easy to grasp or take on board. The kingdom of which he speaks is a somewhat upside-down kingdom with the meek inheriting the earth and the first being last. It is such a privilege to be called into friendship, to belong to the one who created me, the one who loves me and gave so much so that we could be together forever.

Our Act of Remembrance in Llandyrnog was a time for the community to come together and unite as we remembered those who gave their lives for the sake of others, and those friends and relatives that they left behind. In remembering their sacrifice, we reaffirm our longing for the world to live in peace, and a reminder that those who accept Jesus as friend and saviour – nothing can take us away from his hand.

These verses from Isaiah tell us exactly who we belong to: 'And he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are mine. Redeemed – rescued, recovered, saved, freed.'"

Belonging and friendship involves valuing another person; therefore, let us work on our friendships with those we love, showing them how much we value them, and how we can be more friendly to our planet, to show how much we value all that our Lord created, all that belongs to God. Amen

Juliet Fraser

Tŷ Ceffyl Bach

Looking for inspiration for your Christmas shopping? Call in to Tŷ Ceffyl bach for a very extensive choice of gifts made by these artists:

Graham Hughes Farrier – Llandyrnog
 Copperlode – Helen Murphy, Llandyrnog
 Vale Crafts – Garry Hession, Llanynys
 Julia Jones, local artist – Denbigh
 Karen Parkinson, local artist – Ruthin
 Earthworks Pottery – St Asaph
 Glass in the Shed – Jim, Cheshire
 Wales Wood Worker – Arwel, Llanrhaeadr

Flower Garden Florist – Llanrhaeadr
 Two Sheep Soapery – Celtic friends, Ireland
 Celf o'r Galon, Art from the Heart – Anglesey
 Kate Carmen Crafts – Gellifor
 Welsh wood stick maker – Clive, Gellifor
 Jan Wilson-Chalon, Photographer – Hendrerwydd
 Craft by Julie R (decoupage) – Rhos-on-Sea
 Cornucopia, handmade corn dollies – Collette, Bodfari
 Rosie Socks – Wrexham
 Jenny's Crafts, all things wool, spinning and weaving – St. Asaph
 Dyserth Honey – Mr S. Thomas, Dyserth
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Message from the County Councillor

I would like to wish all residents of Llandyrnog and the surrounding area a very warm and happy Christmas.

At this time of year, please also take a moment to look out for neighbours who may be living alone; a friendly word or quick check-in can make a real difference.

I want to give my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who make Llandyrnog such a great place to live: the *Llais* team, everyone involved with shop, those who run our coffee mornings, care for the village flowers, keep the graveyard tidy, and the dedicated teams behind our ever-growing Flower Show and History Society, not forgetting our dedicated Community Councillors and the Clerk, Bryn. Your work is hugely appreciated and never taken for granted.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Merfyn Parry

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry



Contact details

Phone: 07836 208446

E-mail: merfyn.parry@denbighshire.gov.uk

Or leave a message on Facebook

Christmas greetings

Best wishes to friends and neighbours over Christmas – Margaret Evans, Awel y Foel.

Merry Christmas to all my friends in the village, from Wyn Wilson, Moelfa.

Bryn and Anwen wish a very merry Christmas to all friends and neighbours in the village.



Paul Clark

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Congratulations



Another trophy for Vale Vinyard

Rhys attended the annual Welsh Vineyards Association awards recently, and won the trophy for the best still white wine for Vale Vinyard's 2023 Solaris! Rhys is pictured here receiving the award from his hero Oz Clarke, who was one of the judges. Thanks go to @levercliff for sponsoring this class and to the talented team @halfpennygreenwineestate. You're going to need a bigger trophy cabinet soon! Well done everyone.

Congratulation to Huw Jones MBE of Jones Bros Civil Engineering, who recently received an Honorary Fellowship from Wrexham University. This award was in recognition of his services to North Wales business and green engineering.



Well done to Catrin Johnson, formerly of Tanderwen and daughter of the late Meirion and Gwyneth Parry. She worked overnight as a vision mixer at the BBC's Cardiff's studios, transmitting the Radio Cymru 24-hour danceathon. She says that Trystan and Emma, the marathon dancers, are legends – but Catrin deserves some plaudits as well!

Well done Gwenan Lloyd and Mabon Evans on their success at the Cerdd Dant Festival. Beth Lloyd, formerly of Penybryn, also competed successfully with various groups from Aberystwyth.



Congratulations to Bryn Davies on passing the motorcycle theory test recently. Practical test next, watch out all!

Congratulations to Anna, Hen Gapel, and Leusa Jên, Llys y Deri, on passing their Musical Theatr exams with the Denbighshire Music Co-operative. Anna passed Grade 4 and Leusa passed Grade 2 with distinction.

Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

Our candlelight Christmas concert will be on Tuesday, 16 December at 5.30pm in the Village Hall. Entry is free and we welcome all our community members to join us.



November seems to have passed by very quickly in Bryn Clwyd. Dosbarth Tyfu started the month with a visit to the Welsh language music jamboree in Ruthin. They have also been doing lots of practical science investigations, and Nursery are fully settled into class now and love playing in the home corner.



We are very proud to have raised nearly £100 for Children in Need through our pyjama day.

Ysgol Bryn Clwyd contd...



Dosbarth Hedfan finished their space topic with some beautiful art work and have enjoyed visits from St John Ambulance and Denbighshire Music Co-operative.



Llandyrnog Community Council

Meeting 18 November 2025

The Community Policeman was unable to attend but sent a report with the following incidents reported to the police:

- Missing toddler – located shortly afterwards
- Threat made outside pub – no formal complaint made
- Noise disturbance – people leaving party as police arrived
- Report of assault between two children – ongoing investigation

The CC was extremely disappointed that, having visited the junction of Clwydfryn/ Gladstone Terrace, NW Police did not think they could help as they were unsure whether or not the matter constituted an obstruction, but would discuss it with colleagues and report back. The fact remains that buses are having difficulty in negotiating the corner at times, so we will continue to raise the matter. There are also concerns about the ability of fire and rescue or other emergency vehicles being able to negotiate the junction in question. It is hoped that the residents will be more mindful of others in future and seek alternative parking to allow free flow of traffic.

Sam Langdon from One Voice Wales Biodiversity Team attended the meeting and gave an overview of the statutory requirements of a biodiversity plan that we would need to submit. Biodiversity needs to be considered before any decision is made, and we must prepare a plan and subsequently a report of achievements against that plan. It was felt that the CC is already proactive in this area and we are grateful for the advice on how to set out the plan.

The CC has been offered Smart Water kits by the Crime Prevention Team and will make enquiries about the cost and benefit.

It was decided to order a Christmas tree and seek permission from the church to erect it in the church yard.

Thanks to Archie, Carol and family for sponsoring the Christmas tree in the village again this year, and to David Weyman for his time and labour in collecting the tree and erecting it.

The top room of the Cocoa Rooms has been cleared and the small chairs found up there have been offered to the school. A new water heater is to be installed – the current model is broken and obsolete.

It was reported that the application to the National Lottery towards accessible play equipment at Cae Nant has been successful and that £20,000 will be forthcoming. We await news on a bid for a further £10,000 from another source. Cllr Morris was thanked warmly for undertaking this task and for the successful outcome.

J & G

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