

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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September 2022 – Volume 7– Issue 12

Llandyrnog flower and produce show

This again was a very successful event. The marquee was a definite asset to the show and attracted many positive comments.

A very big thank you to all who were involved in the organisation of it, especially show secretary Roger Warner.

A full list of the winners will be in the October edition.



When you pick up your copy from the post office, please contribute via the collection box, or give a contribution to your distributor.

The village that keeps on giving

Llandyrnog is renowned for its generosity. During the pandemic, fundraising events obviously came to a halt. But since the first coffee morning following the lockdowns, that of the History Society on 21 August 2021, the residents of Llandyrnog and area seem to have made up for the lack of opportunities to give to charity.

14 coffee mornings have raised a total of £6900 to charities – including Air Ambulance Wales, Guide Dogs, Christian Aid, Prostate Cancer UK. Local causes were the History Society, the WI, churches of Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan, Llandyrnog Local Sports Association for a defibrillator at Cae Nant, the W.I., the national Urdd Eisteddfod, the community shop project and *Llais Llandyrnog Voice*.

Other events raised a total of £5630, including quizzes with the proceeds to the defibrillator for Cae Nant and the community shop project. An appeal for the people of Ukraine raised £2400 in two hours and a concert at the village hall organised by the Powell family raised a further £2615. This was donated to Save the Children to help the children in Ukraine. Over £5000 in just four weeks!

Ysgol Bryn Clwyd was also busy, raising money for the Lis Morris stage and funds for the school – over £2500 donated.

In twelve months, therefore, in the small village of Llandyrnog, just over £15,087 was raised for worthy causes. A massive thank you to all who have donated over the past year – long may the generosity continue.

Around the village

Welcome to Dafydd Roberts and Tasha Smith to Gwynfryn. Dafydd has a carpet-cleaning business – visit his webpage: www.extremecleanz.co.uk. Two members of the committee can vouch for his excellent work!

Another business has also come to the village, Beti Bach Dog Boarding is located at Wern, LL16 4HW, also known as Tyrnog Stud. Catrin, the owner, moved to the village earlier this year. For more information contact her on catrinhafdavies@icloud.com.

At St Tyrnogs' Sunday 20 August, Rev. Val Rowlands christened her grandson, Tomos. Tomos is the son of Bethan and Hywel Edwards, and younger brother of Gruff and Erin.

Jack Crowther, Maes Tyrnog, is justly a very proud grandfather. His grandson, Gruff, won a gold medal at the Swim Wales Summer Open Event in Swansea in the 100 metres freestyle, knocking 5 seconds off his previous personal best.



Condolences to the family of Mrs Judith Rogers (née Dickens) who passed away in August. Older readers might remember Judith and her mother, Mrs Edith Dickens, who lived for a while at Ty'n Llan and Nant Glyd.



Merfyn Parry sold the Golden Lion to Mark and Sam during August. He purchased the property in 1998, refurbished it and opened it in March 1999. It was his intention to retain the Goldie so that Llandyrnog always had a pub. Fortunately Mark and Sam also have this commitment and Hilary and Merfyn would like to wish them both the best of luck. Please give the Golden Lion your support.



Congratulations to John Gwilym Morris and Kelly Cumston from Pen Isa'r Waen Cottage on the occasion of their wedding at Bodysgallen Hall in August. John is a farmer and Kelly a teacher. Best wishes from both families.

Services in September

St Tyrnog's: all services at 11.15

- 4th Eucharist
- 11th Morning Prayer
- 18th Morning Prayer
- 25th Eucharist

11th Messy Church at the Village Hall, 3-5pm

Dyffryn Chapel

- 4th 9.45 Ven. Bernard Thomas
- 11th 9.45 Prayer Meeting
- 18th 11.00 Rev Andras Iago
- 25th 9.45 Hedd Ap Emlyn

What's on at the Cocoa Rooms

- Tues 6th Book Club 10am–12pm
W.I. 7pm
- Wed 14th Mothers' Union 2-4 pm
- Tues 20th Book Club 10am–12pm
- Wed 21st Tuesday Club 2pm
- Tues 27th Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee meeting 7pm

To book the Cocoa Rooms, contact Mrs Emily Williams on emilylloyd1@tiscali.co.uk.

What's on at the Village Hall

- Saturday 3rd Craft group 9.30–3pm
- Monday 12th Brownies, 5.30–7pm
- Monday 19th Brownies, 5.30–7pm
- Saturday 24th Coffee morning: Macmillan Cancer Support
- Monday 26th Brownies, 5.30–7pm

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

Coffee Morning

Village Hall



Saturday,
24 September, 10.00–11.30
Contributions gratefully received
towards the local produce stalls
All welcome

Thank you

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone for the messages, cards and kind wishes we have received following the recent death of Aunty Grace. Special thanks also to Vera, Gwynfor, Winnie, Carolyn and Heather for their help and advice over the last few weeks, to Mark and Sam for their hospitality at the Golden Lion after the funeral, and to Rev. Val Rowlands for such a warm and touching service.

We would also like to thank everyone who has provided help, support, and many kindnesses to Aunty Grace over the years. Living in such a caring community truly is priceless.

Thank you all,
Alison and Nicola.



Keep Wales Tidy has a scheme under the Local Places for Nature project that will enable the creation of a community orchard. This can be a space filled with fruit and

nut trees, native plants and wildflowers. The minimum area required for this is 320 square metres and the variety of trees and plants supplied will depend on the season and availability. The package given will include trees, bulbs, tools and information manuals/books. If anyone has an interest in applying for a Community Orchard package, contact the Clerk of Llandyrnog Community Council, Bryn Davies, on rbrynd1@gmail.com. For further information, visit: <https://keepwalestidy.cymru/our-work/conservation/nature/community-orchard>.

The entire length of the road from Llandyrnog roundabout to the roundabout at Whitchurch Road, Denbigh will be closed from 12 September until approximately 23 September. The closure is necessary to facilitate installation of a new gas main by Wales and West Utilities. The suggested alternative route is via Bodfari.

Williamson's tunnels

I would like to share with you this month my experience of visiting a largely unknown labyrinth of tunnels in the Edge Hill area of Liverpool known as the Williamsons Tunnels.

The 'reception centre' is nothing but an industrial container on what seems to be a bomb site off Mason Street, but there is very secure off-street parking included in the 'deal'. I was really glad of that, I tell you!

Joseph Williamson, known as 'the mole of Edge Hill', is believed to be from a poor background and at the age of eleven, he left the family home in Warrington to look for work in Liverpool. He joined Richard Tate's tobacco and snuff importing company. Here he was taught his profession, raising through the ranks from a runner to clerk. Eventually, he was so well thought of, he married the boss's daughter, Elizabeth Tate. The company was hugely successful and Williamson became a very wealthy man. I guess marrying the boss' daughter did have its perks.

Anyway, back to the tunnels.

We walked a few hundred yards out of the 'reception centre' around the corner and Steve our guide unlocked a massive steel door. We entered, down some steps, the first level of tunnels. They are still finding tunnels to this day – some perfectly preserved, having been built and then closed off by another wall. Williamson had a tendency to do this – create a beautiful vaulted ceiling chamber, then brick it up.

Nobody professes to know why he got men to start digging at the rear garden of his home circa 1810 – it is all pure speculation. All I say is, he must have had a very understanding Mrs Williamson who obviously knew something no one else knew – or shared her husband's passion for tunnelling.

But what is known is that he took men off the streets and employed them to start digging. By 1816 there were Liverpudlians returning from the Napoleonic wars with no social support at all, so he employed those as

well to work on his project.

I asked Steve, our guide, where the bricks for the beautiful vaulted ceilings had come from. Apparently, there were a lot of open clay pits in the area at that time and children were employed to carry the clay and place it in moulds. They were then fired in very primitive kilns. The mind boggles at the thought that the hand of a child had touched every one of those hundreds of thousands of hand-made bricks and that they were laid by men working with nothing but oil lamps.



There are various theories as to why he employed these people to dig his tunnels.

He was a philanthropist by nature – he would rather pay people to do something rather than seeing them living in poverty.

He was a very religious man and firmly believed that the world faced Armageddon. Would the tunnels be a place of safety?

He was a very wealthy man who had made money by importing – was he trying to hide something from the excise men? That's the cynical side of the theory but again perfectly possible. But would a God-fearing man hide

Williamson's tunnels: ctd

his illicit contraband? Does it really matter?

Towards 1820 the famous dock engineer and architect, Jesse Hartley, had plans for an 'Albert Dock' and realised he had a ready-made, well-trained, hard-working workforce right on his doorstep and the tunnelling virtually came to an end. Williamson had taken these men off the street and taught them all a trade. There is a limit to how many tunnels one needs in one's life, really – however his mission was complete.

What was stored in them? Well, the truth is, no one knows. The team excavating and even knocking down walls to find blocked-up tunnels have found absolutely nothing apart from general household bric-a-brac – bottles, clay pipes, china and glassware.



The volunteers are still hard at work finding new tunnels. Steve showed us a massive cavern which the gas board had filled to the top with ash from the town gas works. Volunteers had emptied it – I asked him how they did this. 'With buckets, and it took four years and filled 159 skips' – and he did not bat an eyelid! And that was just one tunnel.

There is no admission fee, just that at the end they ask for a contribution to their 'skip fund'. If you are worried about Armageddon – well, just follow me. Let's hope it's not on a Monday or Tuesday – because the tunnels will be closed.

Bryn Davies

Singing for the soul



On Saturday 20th August we were privileged to welcome to Llandyrnog Church the Heart and Soul Community Singers from Chester. Led by the inspirational Ella Spiers, this group walks and sings together to support their physical and mental well-being. They started in Llangwyfan, then went on to Llangynhafal, Llanynys and Llanychan, singing some songs and chants in each of the churches. They arrived in Llandyrnog and enjoyed a well-earned *paned*. They have promised to come back next year and we will let everyone know so that more people can enjoy this uplifting experience.

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Llandyrnog Community Shop

Two fundraising events for the Llandyrnog Community Shop project were held at the end of July. A quiz was held at the Golden Lion, kindly arranged by the quizmaster Phil O'Loughlin and a coffee morning in the Village Hall arranged by The Friends of Llandyrnog Shop. There was a great attendance to the event to enjoy the wonderful cakes. Through the generosity of the community, £900 was raised towards the Shop Fund.

If anyone would like to support any events for the Shop Project, please get in contact with Emyr Morris by email at emyrmorris@btinternet.com.



Phil O'Loughlin, the quiz-master



A well-supported coffee morning.

Trees – a pause for thought

A delightful aspect of producing Llais Llandyrnog Voice is receiving a contribution, written voluntarily by one of our readers. We are extremely grateful to Vera Jones, Nant Glyd, for taking the time and trouble to put her thoughts to paper.

Will you spend a few minutes with me thinking about the subject of trees? A great number of people, experts and laymen, maintain the need to plant vast numbers of trees to help the environment. I certainly agree, because trees are one of the great wonders of nature. This prompts my first question, 'How long will it take these saplings (you don't normally plant trees) to be of significant benefit to us?'

Every time I make the short journey from the village to Denbigh, it bothers me to see the large number of dead, dying and live trees wrapped in ivy. When I was a child in Bryneglwys, we used to be taken fairly regularly for walks (usually on a Sunday afternoon) and would walk the fields and lanes. When we saw ivy on a tree, one of us would cut the ivy stem – that is all that is needed, because the ivy will just die. Should anyone wonder, I do like ivy because it is often the only source of nectar for bees before the onset of winter.

This then brings me to my second question, 'Is there any point in planting more trees when we can't take care of the ones we have?'

Vera Jones

What is your opinion – do you agree with Vera? Let us know – send an e-mail to llandyrnognews@gmail.com or leave a note in the box in the post office.

James Davies, MP for Vale of Clwyd

james.davies.mp@parliament.uk

Constituency office: 01745 888920

Westminster office: 0207 2194606

Pop-up café



The two pop-up cafes in August were very successful – thanks to the Pop-up Ladies for their service!

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Out of hours: 03001 233068

North Wales Police: 101 (Non-emergency)

Report dog fouling free 0800 2300 2345

Horse fouling

A polite reminder to those riding horses on the pavement between Celynog Crossroads and Llangwyfan, that Rule 54 of the Highway Code states: You **MUST NOT** take a horse onto a footpath or pavement.

This was the situation recently: a mother with a young baby in a pram had to step out into the road due to the disgusting state of the pavement.

So if you know who rides on the pavement, remind them that they are breaking the law.



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The Wright Life

Isn't new life wonderful? – especially when it's unexpected. I'd noticed a broody brown hen had taken herself off to a quiet place in the shed. She refused to let me see how many eggs she was sitting on, fluffing up her feathers and giving me a sharp peck. There was some jostling about and squawks when other hens approached, but she was determined and sat as tightly as possible. When incubating eggs, hens sit with a blank, intense mesmerised stare, unmoving and disinterested in what's going on around them. They shut their bodies down to concentrate on incubating their eggs. 21 days she sat through record-breaking hot temperatures. I was convinced she would give up and make a dash to a cooler spot, but no, she stayed committed to her clutch. The morning of day 21 I was greeted by nine little faces peeping out from under mum. Quickly I caught them all before they scattered, or so I thought, and put them into a safe enclosed pen. Suddenly, there was chirping from behind the bales of hay, the dogs had found an escapee and I dashed to catch it and reunite it with a flustered mum. Chicks and hen are well and growing so quickly. Let's hope I get some hens and not many boys.



September is the time to plant hardy spring bulbs. For years there was a bulb stall at the Denbigh and Flint show with all sorts of lovely colours and sizes. I had a well-earned day off so I took myself to the show to watch the show jumping and the amazing Atkinson Horses. Unfortunately, no bulbs this year, although I did get some yummy cheese from the food tent. My bulbs will have to wait until I get to the garden centre. I love hyacinth flowers in January with their sickly heady perfume filling the house. I'm hoping my amaryllis will flower again. It's had a long hot summer outside and now it's in a cool dark place ready to be brought in for Christmas.

Autumn is nearly here and the gardens are slowing down, preparing for the long colder months ahead. My father always said it's the time of year to tuck the garden up for winter. We can still get some sunny days, but the light is different at this time of the year, golden and gentle as well as shortening as the nights draw in. Harvest time is upon us, which is a busy time. Late raspberries are plump and juicy and



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The Wright Life: ctd

are perfect with ice cream. Most of the apples aren't ready yet, but the Discovery apple with its red fleshy fruits mature early. Bob the cob and I enjoy their sweet refreshing taste. Of course, any windfalls are gobbled up by the hens but I've noticed an opportunistic blackbird hoping for a treat too.

The onions have been drying in the greenhouse and once the tops have dried, I plait them into strings to hang somewhere cool for use during the winter. It's a traditional craft that I was taught by my father. You need one very large onion for the base with some baler twine attached leaving two strands. One strand goes through the centre and you attach the next onion above the first and wrap the second strand around until you have a string of onions like you see in old French films.

The skies will be quiet soon with the departure of the swallows. They have hatched three broods this summer and late August saw the skies full of the youngsters swooping about catching insects with their constant squeaky song – and yes – all but one got out of the barn unaided.

Watch out for nature's bounty in our hedgerows. Rose hips can make a dry white wine, blackberries for bramble jelly and sloes in gin. If you're up early on a crisp misty morning you will see our meadows covered in dew-laden spiders' webs.

Hazel

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry



Contact details

Mobile: 07836 208446

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

Or leave a message on **Facebook**

Dyffryn Chapel

Best wishes to Hari, Rhys and Gwenan for the future after leaving school.

Best wishes also to Nanw who celebrated her 18th birthday at the end of August.

National Eisteddfod: congratulations to Nest Mars Lloyd – who came 3rd in the folk song solo under 12 years of age...



..and to her sister, Gwenan, who came second in the *cerdd dant* solo and first in the *cerdd dant* duet with Ynyr Rogers.



Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

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

Experiences of a Welsh learner at eisteddfodau



At the Urdd Eisteddfod in Denbigh, I had an amazing experience. Every day I immersed myself

in the language – talking a lot with people and hearing dialects from all over Wales. I was volunteering in the Dysgu Cymraeg / Learn Welsh tent, so I was working with many different tutors – fantastic mentors. And I had the opportunity to work with other wonderful learners as well.

It was a good opportunity to absorb the real language – the language from the street, the language people use every day (nothing from the grammar book).

I also saw Welsh celebrities such as Jason Mohammad, Tristan Ellis-Morris, Member of Senedd Eluned Morgan, BBC news reporter Hywel Griffiths sitting eating lunch with his family, and composer Robat Arwyn (I was parked next door to him and spoke to him on the way to the field). And I had the opportunity to see my favourite Welsh band, Yws Gwynedd, at the Triban festival in the company of friendly people of all ages.

A week full of fun and excitement! When is it coming back to Denbigh again?

* * *

I had no plan to go to the National Eisteddfod in Tregaron at all but... I had used many Zoom chat sessions over the lockdown periods to practise my Welsh. I was in a chat session with Dafydd Appolloni and it was the last chance to win a ticket to go to the Eisteddfod. I was the very lucky winner. The purpose of the visit to the Eisteddfod was to compete in the final of *Y Cwis Mawr* (The Big Quiz) with other learners from all across Wales. So with three days to go we found a hotel to stay in Aberystwyth and off we went!

Unfortunately Saturday morning was wet but it did not diminish my enthusiasm for my

day at the National. Once again it was so exciting to step on the field and know the National Eisteddfod was back!

One thing I like most about the eisteddfod is that the language of the field is Welsh. No reason to worry whether people understand when I start a conversation in Welsh. It's a safe world to be a learner.

So I wandered around the stalls and had a little chat with the stallholders, I received a warm welcome in the *Merched y Wawr* tent, I sat in the pavilion and heard some amazing music from brass bands, and I was entertained by Only Boys Aloud on the Field Stage while I ate my lunch – not bad, eh!

The eisteddfod is not just a place for music and poetry, there is art, craftsmanship and beautiful jewellery, areas for sports and science and even theatre. It is also a place for Wales to discuss its place in the world through politics and debate.

In the afternoon I had the chance to see a friend who competes with *Côr Ruthun* before she went on stage. Unfortunately I didn't see her compete because I had to run across the field to Maes D to take part in The Big Quiz! Alun Williams and Lisa Gwilym from S4C (both former pupils of Ysgol Glan Clwyd) presented the quiz. There were questions about Wales, flags, idioms, words from North and South Wales and general knowledge. Lots of fun, but I didn't win.

So after a long and damp day, I walked away from the field for the last time this year... but I'm looking forward to next year in Llŷn!

Catherine Howarth



Carbon dating results

Between 2012 and 2018, Dr Rachel Pope of the University of Liverpool directed the University's excavations at Penycloddiau hillfort. This involved digging there to search for evidence of human habitation, which is believed to have existed 3,000 years ago.

It was discovered that the wall of the rampart was built in sections using wooden gabions – very similar to the metal cages used today. There is evidence that over 80 circular houses existed on the site. The archaeologists have successfully unearthed one of these and found the foundations of the wooden poles that supported the roof and walls.



On 21 October 2017, *Llais Llandyrnog Voice* held a coffee morning at the Cocoa Rooms (remember those days?!) to help raise funds to carbon-date some of the samples discovered on site. This expensive technique will enable the archaeologists to add more precision to the age of the hillfort.

Further donations were given by Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society, and Llandyrnog Community Council, so the village directly funded the dating of the construction of the hillfort.

Here are the results of the carbon-dating from Dr Pope:

18 samples were sent off for dating and only two failed. The results show that the hill was used first (before it was enclosed) during the Early Neolithic period (c. 5000-4000 BC, so 6000-7000 years ago).

The hillfort itself is an early type and has

six separate stages of construction. The hill is first enclosed with a ditch in the Late Bronze Age (12th–10th centuries BC, so 3000 years ago). It is then remodelled a few centuries later with a coppiced-hazel hurdle fence, around 800 BC. The first stone and timber earthwork was built against this fence, but only up to hip height. This is an important discovery regarding the development of hillfort architecture.

Then there's a gap in activity, after which three phases of earth and stone construction can be seen. The house platform that was excavated returned a late Middle Iron Age date (2nd century BC). These big early hillfort types continued to be occupied alongside the new development of the much smaller Middle Iron Age hillforts like Moel Arthur and Bodfari.

It is now thought that the early hillforts like Penycloddiau and Moel Fenlli may have connections over to the early hillforts in Ireland.

*Dr Rachel Pope
University of Liverpool*

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Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society



The summer visit of Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol Llandyrnog & Llangwyfan Local History Society was a tour of Gwrych Castle, between the town of Abergele and the Llanddulas. The tour guide, Jackie, was able to share a multitude of facts, stories and anecdotes, many from her time as a child growing up on the castle estate where her father worked.

The castle is one of the finest examples of a castellated mansion in Britain. It was built between 1812 and 1822 following Lord Hesketh Bamford-Hesketh's grand tour of Europe and North Africa and his study of the mediaeval castles of his native Wales.

It stands in c.250 acres of gardens and grounds and has extensive views over former parkland including a deer park and the Irish Sea.

Following years of neglect, asset-stripping and vandalism, the once magnificent Gwrych Castle was reduced to a roofless shell and has been in a state of ruin for the past 25 years. In 1997, the Gwrych Castle Preservation Trust was founded to restore and protect the castle and its designed landscape for the benefit of the public.

Today, the trust dedicates its efforts to opening up opportunities for a diverse range of visitors to connect with the landscape and its magnificent built heritage through a series of restoration projects.

In June 2018, Gwrych Castle was purchased by the Gwrych Castle Preservation

Trust for the benefit of the nation. A 10-year programme of works, which will see the castle and outbuildings conserved and restored, is underway. Work has begun on restoring several of the outbuildings and carrying out emergency works inside the main house to prevent further collapse.

One History Society member recalled going to the castle when he was 9 years old to watch Randolph Turpin, (who became world middleweight champion when he defeated Sugar Ray Robinson) training for the fight and sparring in the 1950's. Therefore he was delighted to be introduced to Randy Turpin's daughter, Charmaine, who lives locally and volunteers at the castle, and to share with her his memories of that day and her father.



Jim Brierley with Charmaine, daughter of Randolph Turpin

Following the visit, Society members enjoyed an excellent meal in The Plough Bar & Restaurant, St. Asaph.

The next Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol Llandyrnog & Llangwyfan Local History Society meeting and AGM will be held on Wednesday 19th October 2022 in the Village Hall at 7pm. The speaker will be the History Society Chair, the Ven. E. Bernard Thomas, who will talk on 'Reflections on 50 years of ordained Ministry'.

For further details or queries, to join the society, or volunteer to be part of the projects, please contact the society secretary via e-mail: llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com.

A word from the Priest

September has arrived and I don't know about you, but the schools' summer holiday seems to have passed in a flash. So a new academic year begins and all the beauty of Autumn is on its way in these rural and magnificent lands.

What is a church in the middle of a village for? Well in the Anglican church, we believe in the cure of all souls. Which means that every person in every house, in every part of the place where a priest is licensed by the bishop, is important to that priest. All the baptized who go to that church anytime throughout the year to be close to God, to learn more about following Jesus, and to evolve together in the power of the Holy Spirit, are to be of goodness to those around them. The spiritual well-being of all who live in and around a village is entrusted to the people that commit to growing in faith by Jesus. It pleases Jesus to know that all are considered, and nobody is left out in Jesus's name. This goes some way to describing the cure of the souls of all in a parish. All the people of that area are cared for and prayed for by the people who know something of God's love for them and want to share that marvellous, life-changing truth with others in word and by deed.

In Denbigh Mission Area, we have 13 church buildings. The area that we cover reaches from Llanefydd and Sinan all the

way to Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan and the other extremes go from Nantglyn to Caerwys. Interestingly, when all of these churches are joined on a map by drawing a line one to the other, they make the shape of a dove – even with what could be vaguely described as the olive branch in what would be the place of the beak. You don't have to go to church to recognise the significance and the symbol of the dove of peace, which of course originates from the Bible's book of Genesis towards the end of the story of Noah. We want the perfect peace of Jesus for all where we live and work in the name of Jesus for the people here.

May each of you have a blessed September safe in the knowledge of God's love.

Rev. M. Pritchard

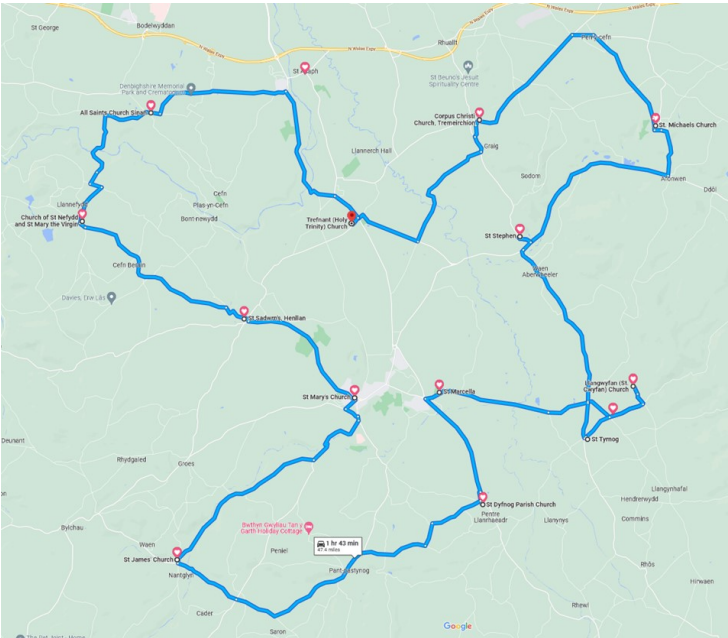


St Tyrnog's will be open from 10am until 3pm during the Open Doors weekend Friday–Sunday, 23–25 September. St Cwyfan's will also be open, pending repairs. For further information

contact St Tyrnog's warden, John Rowlands on 07879 813940.



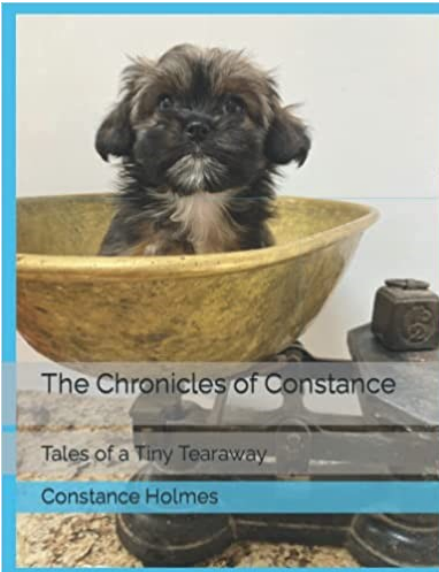
Simon Jackson did extremely well to catch the Red Arrows flying over Llandyrnog over the Bank Holiday weekend. How many people dashed out on hearing them, but just saw them vanishing over the horizon, or missed them altogether?!



It's a courageous dog's life

A few months ago, Llais Llandyrnog Voice drew readers' attention to Sam's Tale: The Story of a Rescue Dog, written by Sam and illustrated by Sylvia Evans of Ffordd-las.

Now another book has been published by a Llandyrnog author about a puppy – The Chronicles of Constance: Tales of a Tiny Tearaway.



Constance is a real little puppy who came to me as a gift from my sister. I had lost my little dog George in the last few days of January, then my cat Loki and my brother died in May and my last little dog Titania

died in mid-June. I felt bereft. My sister rather twisted my arm to have Constance, but I certainly wouldn't be without her now as she has filled a space that had been broken in my heart.

Constance hasn't read the 'manual' that describes her breed, a calm little lap dog she is not. She looks angelic but is in fact a terrible tearaway! She bullies poor Bear, my husband Roger's huge, young Alsatian; she races off after the chickens until they turn around and tell her off and dirty laundry is never safe from her thieving!

The Chronicles of Constance tells the story of tiny little Constance, who lives with her friends Bear and Tiger. The book happened quite by accident as I was taking lots of photographs of her and chattering to her about what she was up to. Anyone listening in might have thought that I was really quite mad, but I don't think that it would raise an eyebrow in Llandyrnog, we're rather more open minded about talking to animals, I reckon. I was bored one day and decided to



Bear the alsation with his nemesis, Constance

put some of her antics into story form, using the tales I had woven around her playing and the photos I had taken.

The book is written for an early independent reader with an approach that children can relate to: 'Constance and the Bear' helps a child to relate to the feelings of fear that the little pup has on meeting something big and new for the first time. When Constance gets lost in the jungle, a child can relate to the feelings of being a bit lost in the big world. Constance tames a tiger, brings out the child's growing courage in coping with life and finally, Constance loses her security toy, Nelly, who keeps her feeling safe at night, but Nelly is found and Constance can sleep soundly again. The stories are intentionally simple, with an element of repetition to aid literacy acquisition.

Constance the puppy is tiny and vulnerable and yet incredibly courageous. You might spot Constance out on her travels as she loves to travel around the village and back roads in her special trike back cage.

Wendy Warner

The Chronicles of Constance: Tales of a Tiny Tearaway by Constance Holmes is available for purchase from Amazon, www.amazon.co.uk.