

# Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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

April 2024 – Volume 9 – Issue 7

## Ministerial visit to Llandyrnog Shop



On Thursday, 14 March we were delighted to welcome Felicity Buchan MP, Parliamentary Secretary of State in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, who called in to the shop and post office project to see the plans we have in place to renovate and reopen the premises. She was delighted to see how we were planning to spend the grant funding and had a tour of the building.

We were pleased to also have Dr James Davies MP, Cllr Emrys Wynne from Denbighshire County Council, Gwen Butler, Vice-Chair of Llandyrnog Community Council, and members of the community to see how things were progressing.

If you would like to hear more about our project, how things are progressing or to become involved, just send us a message on our Facebook page or email [llandyrnogcommunityshop@btinternet.com](mailto:llandyrnogcommunityshop@btinternet.com).

Happy Easter to all our readers!



# Around the village

We were saddened to learn of the death of Barbie Major, Llawog Isa, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family. Mrs Major was 100 years old and had served as a Land Army girl during the war. She continued to play an active role in village life until very recently and travelled to London last November to attend the Remembrance Day service.

We hope that Arwyn Pierce is recovering from his recent illness. Best wishes for a speedy recovery also to Elwyn Evans, Ger y Llan and to Gwyn, Plas Bennett, following recent hospital treatment.

Vale Vineyard owners Rhys and Gwen Davies have attended the first Welsh Wine Showcase event in London. They were also honoured to be shown round the Houses of Parliament and attend a reception at 10 Downing Street.

The Llandyrnog and District Football Summer League starts on Monday, 15 April. KO at 6.45pm. Further details will soon be available via social media.

Congratulations to Lloyd Powell, Tŷ Capel Isa, who has been chosen to represent Wales at the European Youth Brass Band Championships in Lithuania in May. He will play percussion with Beaumaris Youth Band, travelling via Warsaw to compete. What a fantastic achievement and opportunity. Good luck Lloyd!

What happened 50 years ago on 10 April 1974? Gwyn Gader Goch left for Australia on his 20th birthday. So, happy 70th birthday, Gwyn! All our love, Aeron, Menna, Alun, Rhys and Iola and the family xxx.

Best wishes to Charlie, 2 Maes Clwyd, and Beca, Sgubor Efa, on their 18th birthdays; and to Menna Davies, who will celebrate her 90th birthday on 3 April. Many happy returns also to Rob Dowell, who has recently had a significant birthday, now a pensioner...

Congratulations to Heidi Palin on her first professional horse racing win at Hereford Races recently.

We wish Dafydd Roberts and his colleague at Gamlins, Ron Davison, good luck as they prepare to climb Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain at 19,340ft (5,895m). They are attempting this to raise funds for prostate cancer and a mental health charity for the legal sector LawCare. Before they fly to Tanzania in September, Dafydd is also doing the '62 miles in March' challenge for Cancer Research UK. Well done.

Congratulations to Catherine Howarth for winning the Prose Award at the North East Wales Learners Eisteddfod. Also to Chris and Ruth Griffith who recently celebrated their sapphire wedding anniversary – 65 years.

## Village Hall Events

Sat 6th	Craft Group 10am–4pm
Mon 8th	Brownies 5.30–7pm
Mon 8th	Choir 7.30–9.30pm
Tue 9th	Flower Show Committee 7–8pm
Sun 14th	Messy Church 3.30–6pm
Mon 15th	Brownies 5.30–7pm
Mon 15th	Choir 7.30–9.30pm
Weds 17th	Community shop public meeting 7pm
Mon 22nd	Brownies 5.30–7pm
Mon 22nd	Choir 7.30–9.30pm
Fri 26th	Astronomy Group 7–10pm
Sat 27th	Coffee morning – Church
Mon 29th	Brownies 5.30–7pm
Mon 29th	Choir 7.30–9.30pm

# Llandyrnog Hub 2024

The Hub ladies are delighted to tell you that the Hub will be open again this year. We intend to open Cae Nant pavilion regularly each month – 17 April and 15 May between 11am and 3pm are the first two dates for your diary. There will of course be coffee, tea, cake and good company, but we are also hoping to have organic vegetables and flowers for sale.

We will carry on as long as we can – while funds and staffing allow. The money we received last year from the Social Inclusion Grant has allowed us to buy equipment such as a cake display unit, storage cupboards and kitchen paraphernalia, as well as going towards improved heating for the pavilion. We also hope to buy a wheelchair ramp, having borrowed one last year. Your kind donations have allowed us to be self-sufficient on the food and drink supplies, so we thank you for that and will continue to accept donations rather than ask for any payment.

We look forward to seeing you on 17 April.

## Townsend Supplies

**Townsend, Denbigh LL16 3AW  
01745 814918**

**For all farmyard & agricultural  
accessories & building supplies**

- ☞ **Tanalised timber**
- ☞ **Concrete posts**
- ☞ **Panel fencing**
- ☞ **Water pipe fittings**
- ☞ **Water tanks**
- ☞ **Sand**
- ☞ **Cement**
- ☞ **Concrete blocks**

# Cocoa Rooms Events

Tue 2nd	Book Club 10am
Tue 2nd	WI 7pm
Wed 3rd	<i>Llais Llandyrnog</i> Voice Committee 7pm
Mon 8th	Craft Group 10am
Mon 8th	Trefoil Guild 2pm
Wed 10th	Mothers' Union 2pm
Thu 11th	Dr James Davies MP Constituency Surgery 10.30am–1pm
Mon 15th	Craft Group 10am
Tue 16th	Book Club 10am
Tue 16th	Community Council 7pm
Wed 17th	Tuesday Club 2pm
Mon 22nd	Craft Group 10am
Mon 29th	Craft Group 10am
Tue 30th	Book Club 10am

# Church Services

7th 11.15am	Eucharist
14th 11.15am	Eucharist
14th 3.30pm	Messy Church at Village Hall
21st 11.15am	Eucharist
28th 11.15am	Morning Prayer

# Chapel Services

7th 11am	Gwenda Humphreys
14th 11am	Rev. Andras Iago
21st 9.45am	Llinos Mary Jones
28th 11am	Rev. Hugh Pritchard



# The Wright life

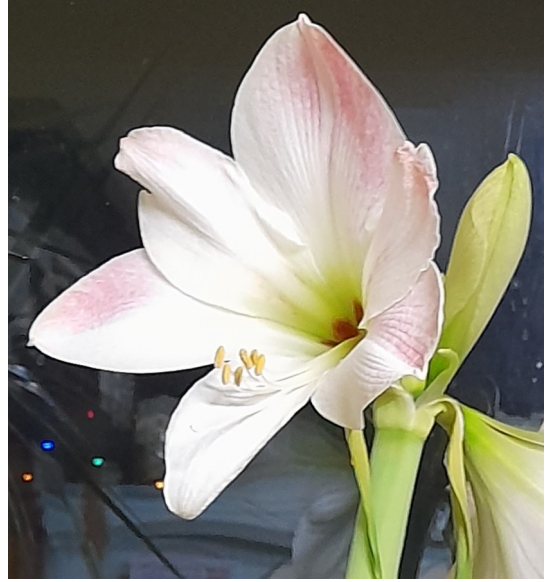
At last spring is around the corner; time to get the gardening gloves on and enjoy the sunshine. This winter has been miserable, with harsh easterly winds, freezing temperatures and life-threatening storms forcing us all to retreat inside, but not any more, as all around us there is an abundance of flowering bulbs, from the common yellow daffodil to the multi-coloured tulips later in the month.

I've seen an increase in grape hyacinths this year in my garden. They can be invasive and probably originated from bulbs planted years ago by my parents. They look like a blue bunch of grapes and will grow in sun or partial shade. The new little plants appear in all sorts of places where the seeds have accumulated, spread by birds, as it's impossible to deadhead all of them to prevent this. They're a short, stocky, jolly plant and cheer you up wherever they appear, so I don't really mind.

When we moved here from Formby my parents dug up their favourite shrubs, hoping to reintroduce them into the new garden. The old beach-side garden had prolific lily of the valley (a bell-shaped flower with a sweet scent). They loved the sandy soils and pine woods that surrounded the house. These little bulbs were inadvertently dug up with the shrubs and travelled to North Wales. They did try to grow, but eventually the harsh Welsh weather and terrain meant they didn't flourish and they faded away to be replaced by the bright Welsh yellow daffodils.

Did any of you receive an amaryllis bulb at Christmas? I did, and they are one of the easiest and most impressive flowers you can grow. Look out for them late in the year in supermarkets and garden centres packaged as a 'gift box' with bulb, soil and pot. They grow into a colourful ostentatious flower. If you were gifted one, now is the time to look after them to ensure they flower again next year. As the flower fades snip them off, and

once the entire stem has finished flowering, cut it back to just above the bulb.



It will grow several long strappy leaves in the next few weeks. I keep it inside until the warmer weather arrives and it then goes out into the greenhouse for the summer. The foliage is required to put energy back into the bulb for it to get fatter. When the colder weather comes in the autumn, and before the first frosts, I cut all the leaves off and put it in my 'bake house', which is cool and semi-dark, for about six to eight weeks. I bring it back into the house with fingers crossed that it has survived and hasn't been either eaten by mice or died from the cold. I place it on a south-facing window. You will soon see some green shoots appearing and hopefully a stem with bud; not long afterwards another spectacular and dramatic flower.

With the daffodils now fading, look out for carpets of bluebells in our woodlands. Take a walk down Lôn Goch or the lane from Smithy Cottage and you can see them everywhere. These fairy flowers are my favourite spring flower. For only a fleeting time their magical show transforms a bland woodland into an enchanted wonder – go and appreciate them, as all too soon they are gone as the trees come into leaf and block the spring light.

**Hazel**



# Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

It has been a super-busy five-week half-term. The topic across the school has been the rainforest. The infants made cakes and sold them to the juniors to raise money to adopt an orangutan, and the whole school went on a visit to Chester Zoo, where we were lucky enough to see the new-born giraffe.

We learned a lot from our visit from Jac, who taught us about inclusion for people with visual impairments.



The juniors had a visit from Denbighshire Music Co-operative, who gave us a lesson on playing the glockenspiel.



The infants also welcomed the infants from Ysgol Gellifor to practise their Welsh skills, while enjoying an Easter egg hunt.



## Ysgol Bryn Clwyd contd

The whole school took part in the E-steddfod (an online version of the eisteddfod). We had a fabulous day and lots of success in choir, llefaru, canu, art and writing categories.



We also had a team take part in the Vale of Clwyd five-a-side football team tournament, which they enjoyed very much.



## New business in the village

We noticed with great interest that a new sign was being installed on the empty butcher's shop on Kinmel Terrace. This will be a new venture called Ty Ceffyl Bach – not selling small horses, as you might think, but hand-crafted and forged horseshoe art.



You may have admired the house sign on Church Square made out of horseshoes, and this outlet will supply similar hand-made decorative items such as the candle holder pictured here.

We would like to wish Angela and Graham good luck and thank them for bringing the shop back to life. More details to follow next month.



# Results of Denbighshire Urdd Regional Eisteddfod

Efa Gwen Roberts: 1st, individual recitation; 2nd, individual theatric performance, Yr 10–under 19

Beca Evans: 3rd, solo; 2nd, duet; 1st, vocal ensemble, Yr 10–under 19

Nest Lloyd: 3rd, duet, Yrs 7–9

Lloyd Powell: 1st, percussion solo, Yrs 7–9

Mason Powell and Tyler Chown: 1st, instrumental ensemble, Yrs 7–9

Mabon Evans: 1st, cerdd dant solo, Yrs 3 and 4; 2nd, percussion solo, Yr 6 and younger

Anna Griffith: 2nd, solo hiphop/street/disco; 1st, pair/trio solo hiphop/street/disco, Yrs 7–9

Medi Evans: 3rd, solo recitation Yr 2 and younger

Leusa Jên Williams: 1st, solo recitation; 3rd, cerdd dant solo, Yrs 3 and 4

Eliza Chown's group: 2nd theatrical performance, Yr 6 and younger

Best wishes to all who will be competing at the National Urdd Eisteddfod in Meifod next month and apologies if anyone has been inadvertently omitted from this list.

---

## Community hymn singing

A memorable Palm Sunday community hymn singing was held at the chapel on Sunday, 24 March, when nearly 100 people attended. They came from far and wide, and friends from South Africa who were staying in the area were enthralled by the singing! The conductor was Trystan Lewis, the organist Rhys Roberts, and delightful solos were given by Beca, Sgubor Efa, and Gwenan, Pen y Bryn. Rev. Andras Iago welcomed and thanked everyone, and many enjoyed light refreshments and a chat in the vestry afterwards. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Cymanfa Ganu's success, and especially to Bryn (who inspired us all from the beginning), Anwen and Ann Jones Evans, for all the arrangements.

---

## Dyffryn Chapel

On Tuesday, 5 March, a St David's Day celebration was held in the vestry, with a sumptuous buffet supper. Entertainment was provided by the melodious Tocsidos Blêr, a Vale of Clwyd quartet. Dafydd Meirion introduced and thanked everyone for a wonderful evening.



*Dafydd Meirion with Dyfan Phillips, Dafydd Roberts, Ifor Phillips, Eirwyn Edwards*



*From left: Rhys Roberts, organist; Beca Evans and Gwenan Lloyd, soloists; Trystan Lewis, conductor*



# Llandyrnog Astronomy Society

We are pleased to announce an extra-special meeting of the society on Friday, 26 April at Llandyrnog Village Hall. We welcome members Len Jones and Gareth Jackson, who will share their knowledge on the latest astrophotography, with images taken by themselves locally and abroad. Come along and join us at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Entry will be £5 or donations.

## AM visit

Gareth Davies, Member of the Senedd for Vale of Clwyd, was delighted to host one of his regular constituent advice surgeries in the comfortable setting of Llandyrnog's Cocoa Rooms recently.

This was well attended, with residents bringing forward engaging queries on a diverse array of personal and political matters, including Welsh Government's Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals, business rates in Denbighshire, carbon emissions and net-zero targets, as well as a welcome update and visit to the shop and post office ahead of its anticipated completion.

Llandyrnog residents seeking an appointment or advice on any devolved matter of concern are always welcome to get in touch with Gareth via any of the following means:

Tel: 01745 703249

Email: GarethL.Davies@senedd.wales

Post: The Office of Gareth Davies MS, Bowen Court, St. Asaph Business Park, Denbighshire, LL17 0JE.

**James Davies, MP for Vale of Clwyd**

james.davies.mp@[parliament.uk](mailto:james.davies.mp@parliament.uk)

Constituency office: 01745 888920

Westminster office: 0207 2194606

Our regular meetings will continue at Llangynhafal's Golden Lion on Tuesday, 30 April from 7pm. If you wish to contact us please do so on [astronomyjohn@gmail.com](mailto:astronomyjohn@gmail.com)

We welcome new members, or just pop along to see what we get up to on dark nights.

## Ring-necked parakeets

The ring-necked parakeet, a non-native bird, has become a regular feature in London parks and gardens. It is unclear how such an exotic creature got there but the presumption is that a pair either escaped captivity or more likely (as they are quite noisy) they were released deliberately. Either way they have thrived to such an extent that they have been spreading northwards looking for territory ever since. Most recently they have been spotted in a Manchester park, where they have been nudging out the local pigeon population.

Now a pair has been spotted in Llangwyfan Forest by an alert twitcher, and the presence of this colourful and noisy bird has attracted much interest among bird watchers, who have flocked to the area. This has caused a conflict between interested parties, some wanting to discourage an invasive species that could have a detrimental effect on the local population of birds, while others feel they should be allowed to stay. What do you think?

The local wardens will monitor the situation.

### 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



# Back to the 50s for Denbigh and District Probus Club!

Members of the Denbigh and District Probus Club and their guests enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Oriel Hotel, St Asaph at their meeting in March. The speaker after lunch was Tony Griffiths, a notable local documentary filmmaker who also has a photography, picture-framing and portrait studio business and shop in Bridge St. Denbigh. <https://tonygriffithsphotography.uk/>

Tony has been involved in photography for over 20 years and is skilled in all aspects of the medium, including monochrome and colour work. His work has been exhibited in various venues in Wales, including Prestatyn Library, Rhyl Arts Centre, Oriel Eryri and Penrhyn Castle, and Southport Arts Centre.

Tony was a headteacher for 17 years before retirement. He set up his business and shop, which has now been open for 15 years, soon after that. Ten years ago he started making films (short movie documentaries) with the support of good friends and local volunteers. Under the name North Wales Film Makers, eight films have been made, with the first one covering the story of the Abergele rail disaster of 1868. All films are made without budget/external funding.

Other films include *The Fate of the Irish Mail*; *Cai Dai 1950s Museum*; *Images of North Wales*; *Bernard Willems, War Survivor-Artist Extraordinaire*; *Prestatyn and Meliden's Heritage*; *Pobl Hanesyddol Dinbych – No Mean Town* and more. All films are engaging, detailed and of great interest, and include an amusing outtakes section at the conclusion after the credits!

Following details from Tony about his background and film-making activities, members were treated to a viewing of the 45-minute film, *Cai Dai 1950s Museum*, featuring the owner of the museum, Sparrow Harrison (who was originally a mechanic),



together with a narrator and local Denbigh volunteers acting in costumes of the time.

The 1950s museum, which was restocked and rebuilt following a fire in 2009, houses collections that are not behind glass but accessible for all – visitors can pick things up. Collections include classic cars, sport, music, film and crime memorabilia, including the Great Train Robbery getaway vehicle. Some of the artefacts date back to the 1940s and 1960s as well, but it is mostly an immersion into life in the 1950s that is on offer, with items ranging from a pink Cadillac to a wall-to-floor collection of old cigarette cartons and smoking memorabilia. The museum takes people on a journey back in time.

Most of the motor exhibits were tragically lost in the fire, but the museum rose from the ashes thanks to donations from businesses and members of the public.

The museum, just one mile outside Denbigh, runs alongside the Cae Dai Trust. After the closure of north-west Wales's largest psychiatric hospital in 1994, trust was founded to help those with mental health problems and vulnerabilities.

## Back to the 50s contd

The film, with background music and tracks of the time, highlights several interesting facts, including that at the end of the 1950s there were still only 367 supermarkets in the whole of Great Britain, how games and jigsaws were traditional pastimes and hobbies of the 50s, and lounge bars were a traditional luxury item for people's homes, often with Babycham being served!

It also took the Probus members to the hair-dressers and a Punch and Judy show, and highlighted the number of cinemas around in the 50s and how they played an important part in the lives of both children and adults. Smoking pipes and cigarettes was widespread then, and crime was rare in 50s Britain.

There was a focus on the music of the time, with Sparrow the lead singer in a rhythm and blues band, Sparrow and the Gossamers,

playing in central London in 1954, meeting PJ Proby, the Rolling Stones in attendance and Alexis Korner substituting for their guitarist when he was not available for a gig.

Sparrow later got involved in boxing and became good friends with the Kray twins and Bruce Reynolds, the mastermind behind the Great Train Robbery in 1963. Due to his disability in stammering, Sparrow founded the British Stammering Association in 1978. In 2015 Sparrow was awarded the MBE by the Queen for his charity work.

<https://www.facebook.com/1950smuseum/>

The film finished with an hilarious collection of outtakes, which really highlighted the time and effort that goes into making films to get the required end product!

The next Denbigh and District Probus Club meeting will be an invitational lunch on Monday, 8 April when Brian Gresty will give a talk titled 'Iron Mad Jack, aka John Wilkinson'. Following that, the meeting on Monday, 13 May will be 'We've got you framed' – speaker Chanel Jones.

New members are always warmly welcomed.

For further information have a look at the club website, [denbighprobus.com](http://denbighprobus.com), or contact the Membership Officer, Andrew Faulkner, for more details prior to an introductory visit to a Probus meeting.

[Afaulkner@btinternet.com](mailto:Afaulkner@btinternet.com); 07542 022 391

### GLYN EVANS AUTOCLINIC

Canolfan Trwsio Ceir

Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Colomendy

Dinbych LL16 5TA



GWAITH YSWIRIANT

TRWSIO CEIR AR ÔL DAMWEINIAU

CEIR I'W BENTHYG

GWASANAETH NÔL CEIR WEDI TORRI I  
LAWR

01745 815141

07808970364

### Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

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

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



# Messy Church

In our March session we looked forward to the event of Holy Week and Easter. We remembered that everyone waved palm branches as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, so we made palm leaves and waved them as we sang 'Cân Hosanna'. We made a big banner, using the shape of our own hands, and this will be in front of the altar on Easter Sunday. We made our own pizzas and then enjoyed them for our tea. Everyone said they were delicious!

Our next session will be on Sunday, 14 April at 3.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome but children please bring a grown-up with you.



## Recipe

### Welsh cakes with a kick! (gin and lemon!)

#### Ingredients

225g self-raising flour  
100g salted butter  
75g castor sugar  
75g sultanas  
1tsp mixed spice  
½ lemon rind (grated)  
1 egg  
1dsp (10ml) milk  
3tbs (45ml) gin

#### Method

Place the sultanas in a bowl, add the gin (local gin – Shlizzy!!), stir and allow to soak (at least two hours or preferably overnight).

Sieve the flour into a bowl, add butter and rub until crumbly. Add the sultanas, sugar, mixed spice and lemon rind. Mix thoroughly before adding the egg and milk until a nice round, nearly dry dough forms. Roll out the dough until about 1cm thick. Cut into rings and place on a hot griddle or thick frying pan that has been greased with butter. Cook for around four to five minutes or until light brown in colour. Turn over and repeat. Remove from heat, place on a food rack and sprinkle with castor sugar while hot. Enjoy!



## Tuesday Club

The March meeting commemorated St David's Day. In the brightly decorated Cocoa Rooms, with daffodils, spring flowers and the Welsh flag, the members were shown videos relating to the patron saint. The first portrayed the story of St David in a lightly humorous way. The second was a recording of a flash mob performance at a Tesco store of a song by musician Mei Gwynedd: 'Pethau Bychain' – 'Little Things'.

A famous quote of St David is: 'Be joyful, brothers and sisters. Keep your faith and do the little things that you have seen and heard with me.'

The final video was a recording of the St David's Day parade in Denbigh, in which 650 children from 12 schools took part – a truly joyous occasion.

Welsh cakes and bara brith were served with tea, and preparations were made for the coffee morning the following Saturday.



*A BMW brought along by one of the Blood Bike riders to a previous coffee morning organised to raise funds for this vital service. The sun was shining!*

This was a very well-attended event and raised a total of £430, £230 of which was donated to Blood Bikes Wales.

The next meeting will be on 17 April – new members welcome.



*John Rowlands turned out to be a lucky winner in the coffee morning raffle*

## Trefoil Guild



The Trefoil Guild was entertained by 16 schoolchildren who sang songs and then enjoyed a drink and Kit-Kats with us before returning to school.

Members also had tea and Welsh cakes to celebrate St David's Day. The raffle was won by Jennie Quirk. Next meeting is on 8 April and will be on the theme of board games.



# WI

The WI met on Tuesday, 5 March at the Cocoa Rooms. We brought wedding photos to share – lots of 1970s and 80s fashions to be seen! Our speaker Anwen was unable to attend – best wishes to her father who was poorly. Instead we had a fun quiz about chocolate and cities! The group bought a Cox's Apple Pippin tree for Ysgol Bryn Clwyd, and three of us went to plant it with a few of the schools' Eco Council and the headteacher Mr Lindquist. The children were very helpful and interested. The WI will formally present a plaque in due course. Next meeting is on 2 April. All are welcome. It's a fun and relaxing evening with good chat.

Jane Borthwick



*hg*web  
designs

rydym ni'n creu... we create....

**gwefannau - websites!**

[www.hgwebdesigns.co.uk](http://www.hgwebdesigns.co.uk)

01678 520882

07984 511164

Gwefannau proffesiynol, dwyieithog ar gyfer  
busnesau, sefydliadau ac ysgolion lleol.

Affordable, bilingual and professional websites for  
local businesses, organisations and schools.

**[hannah@hgwebdesigns.co.uk](mailto:hannah@hgwebdesigns.co.uk)**

# Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society

## Penycloddiau Hillfort – carbon dating talk

Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society members and visitors welcomed Dr Rachel Pope to their March meeting. Rachel's talk focused on the presentation of the excavation results at Penycloddiau, the absolute dating of the hillfort's construction sequence, and the importance of the 14th century date, funded by the Llandyrnog community. Dr Rachel Pope, is Reader in European Prehistory Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of Liverpool.

Penycloddiau is an area and hill above Llangwyfan and one of the most historically important landscapes in the country. There is evidence of a range of Iron-Age hillforts at its summit which, enclosing 19 hectares, makes it the largest in Wales.

Between 2012 and 2018, Rachel directed the University's excavations at Penycloddiau Hillfort in partnership with Cadw, Denbighshire County Council, and the Global Institute for Field Research (California), as featured on the BBC's *Digging for Britain*.

The Liverpool team also worked in partnership with the University of Oxford's excavations at Bodfari Hillfort, to help us understand how hillforts developed along the important routeway of the Clwydian Range, and the prehistoric people of North Wales.

Rachel explained how the excavation revealed that there were 6 phases of construction of Penycloddiau with phases 1–3 being Late Bronze Age (1200–800 BC). They revealed oak and a wattle fence made of coppiced hazel. This illustrated how the people were managing woodland and were invested in the landscape. The fence was followed by a low stone and timber rampart (phase 3), which quickly burned down. After this was a period of abandonment of the hillfort.

Unfortunately, the radiocarbon dating of the three later phases is not good because when they were built, the earth and stone



*From left: Erin Lloyd Jones, archaeologist; Gwyn Howatson, machine earth works at the digs; Dr Rachel Pope, Liverpool University; Rod Williams, landowner; Julia Hughes, chair.*

ramparts had incorporated 'residual' material from Early Neolithic fires. However, we can say from the earlier dated phases that Phases 4–6 are likely to be Early-Middle Iron Age (800–100 BC). They revealed a low rampart in various stages of construction.

Many soil samples were collected during the excavations and transported back to Liverpool which revealed that the occupants of the fort were not arable producers – it was people and animals, a seasonal settlement in the summer when the weather was good. It seems that the people were coming to the fort from some distance, 1200-200 BC, a millennium of occupation but not necessarily all the way through, with a story of abandonment between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age.

In 2020, radiocarbon dating of the sequence took place which confirmed seven phases of occupation/use: two Late Bronze Age palisades; a stone and timber 'box' rampart that was burnt down, and three phases of increasingly substantial stone-built Iron Age rampart; and a 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC house platform.

Rachel was thanked for the informative and engaging talk and presentation by Rod Williams a local landowner who owns most of the hillfort.



# A message from the Priest

## A free meal

As I sit and write this, I'm at the warm space in Henllan Church Institute. My dad occasionally used the idiom, when I was younger, 'There's no such thing as a free meal, son.' For longer than a year now this has not been the case in Henllan warm space where 50– 60 meals have been served by a team of dedicated volunteers, week in week out, without any prices being charged.

What started off as a bit of soup and tea and coffee in a warm space for the winter has carried on through all the seasons and evolved into full meals with pudding and good choices, better than many a café we could think of, even.



Easter is early again this year. Whenever it falls, it is always my favourite Christian celebration of all because of everything that has led to this point but also because of the absolute joy and liberation of this truth of the goodness of Jesus and all he has done and achieved. God and human in every possible way, Jesus rising from what seemed like certain death substantiates this truth, as in the power of the Holy Spirit, now ascended in bodily form, Jesus still blesses so many people all around the world, daily.

## Squash those doubts

When considering Easter and begin to put up walls/barriers to avoid the natural parts in ourselves to respond to God – it's time to let yourself be set free. It is the deepest joys of the overwhelming truth of what happened in the resurrection of Jesus. All in any kind of

captivity that are too numerous in our human existence- state of mind, mental health, oppressions of all kinds and so on.

Healing as in wholeness is the measurable goodness of Jesus and the people who open their lives to be touched by his grace. Sometimes the healing is miraculous but always when Jesus is involved in the way that we are living our life to the full in terms of a healthy spirituality, true meaning and purpose and understanding of who we are and what we are for. How loved we are and significant in the eyes of the creator of the infinite cosmos where we are not even as big as an atom in comparison to the size of it all.

This Truth, is not one that should be met with scepticism and distrust like that well-known phrase that I opened with, but the opposite. There is a feast, a banquet of colour and love immeasurable, awaiting you, if you just open to surrender to the Love of God in Christ Jesus.

## Awake to the truth

The true elation of the liberation truths of God's love, does all who awake to it the world of good. There are no catches, no hidden agendas – overcome your suspicions and listen to the gentle call of God on your life.

Have a precious Easter one and all, on behalf of the Church in Wales in Denbigh Mission Area,

**The Reverend Martin Pritchard**

## Mothers' Union

In March we celebrated with a service for Lady Day which falls on 25<sup>th</sup> March. This is also called the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would be the mother of Jesus. In a way this is where the story began. For the record, from 25<sup>th</sup> March it is only 268 days until Christmas!!

**Mary Steel**

# Matters discussed in the March meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

Planning application to refurbish 4 and 5 Church Square and provide additional parking with access off Parc Ty'n Llan: the Community Council (CC) welcomed the improvements to the properties, although there are some concerns about the proposed new vehicular access, which could result in the loss of well-used parking bay.

Planning application to remove the agricultural occupancy clause at Maes y Wern: if the planning authority is satisfied that all three criteria of the relevant guidance – SPG 9 – have been met, then there will be no objection.

The shop and post office team made a request to use Cae Nant as an overspill car park but there were concerns that granting such a request could be against the terms of the lease, set a precedent and potentially bring with it additional responsibilities in terms of liability. There are numerous matters to be considered, including the view of the

stakeholders, which will be sought before the next meeting.

It was reported that a wagon delivering oil in the Llangwyfan area had inadvertently driven into a very deep rut that has formed running parallel with the adopted highway. The CC discussed the danger these ruts pose to road users, especially during wet weather when they fill with water and the depth cannot be judged. This matter will be reported to the highway authority immediately.

During discussions on the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day in June it was decided to ask whether Procter Johnson would be willing to raise a flag on behalf of the community. It was also decided to see whether the CC could buy a flagpole for the school grounds for future use. It was felt it would be a very useful educational aid for the children, there being so many days to commemorate.

Wi-Fi in the Cocoa Rooms: a successful bid for grant funding has allowed the CC to install up-to-date electronic equipment in the Cocoa Rooms. Wi-Fi is now available for public use and there will soon be screens and broadcast equipment to allow virtual and hybrid meetings to take place. The equipment is on order and it will soon be possible to hire the space for virtual meetings or as a quiet space where you can work online.



UNCOMPROMISING QUALITY,  
TRUSTED RESULTS – INVEST WISELY IN  
THE BEST!

- ✓ CARPET CLEANING
- ✓ UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
- ✓ HARD FLOOR CLEANING



Cymraeg

07873 751919  
www.extremecleanz.co.uk

**CONTACT US**

**Denbighshire County Council**  
**Merfyn Parry**

Contact details  
Mobile: 07836 208446  
E-mail: merfyn.parry@denbighshire.gov.uk  
Or leave a message on **Facebook**