

# Llais Llandyrnog Voice



llandyrnognews@gmail.com



@LlaisLlandyrnog

December 2023 – Volume 9 – Issue 3

## Llandyrnog Eisteddfod

Everyone was disappointed with the difficult decision to cancel the 2023 eisteddfod due to storm Babet, as it had promised to be a very successful eisteddfod, with a large number of entries. Luckily, the Literature and Craft work had already been adjudicated. Thanks to Haf Evans, Henllan for adjudicating the Literature – over 180 pieces of work to read, and to Nia Davies, Cefn Meiriadog for adjudicating the Craft sections – over 300 works of art were entered!

The Chair was won by Beca Evans, Sgubor Efa, Llandyrnog, and we felt as a committee that it would be appropriate to honour her achievement. Therefore, at the beginning of the Cymdeithas Capel y Dyffryn meeting, Monday 30 October, we had a chairing ceremony. Lona Meleri sang the Chairing Song, with everyone joining in the final couplet. Mary Mars-Lloyd was thanked for making the ceremonial robe and Elwyn, Ger y Llan for the chair. We look forward to the 2024 Eisteddfod!



*Merry  
Christmas  
to  
all our  
readers!*



*Stephan Rhys  
Davies,  
Dre Goch Isa,  
1<sup>st</sup> in the  
Literature  
Competition  
Years 5 and 6*

*Mabon Dafydd,  
Groes Efa Bach,  
2<sup>nd</sup> out of 60  
entries in the Art  
Competition  
Years 3 and 4:  
'Bonfire Night'*



## Around the village

WELCOME to Jordan Oldbury and Grace Wynne Williams and baby Freddie who have come to live in Green Farm. We hope you will be very happy here.

CONGRATULATIONS...

... to Tomos Roberts on passing your driving test, there will be no stopping you now! Well done, Tomos;

... to Llinos and Owain Williams, Clwyd Bank, on the birth of their son, Nedw Gruffydd, a brother to Gwilym and Caio;

... to Huw and Mari Williams, Maes Tyrnog, on completing the Eryri Marathon, one of the most difficult marathons.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY We will not divulge any numbers but Happy Birthday to Buddug Foulkes and Olga Evans, and to Rhys Davies of Vale Vineyard. Cheers everyone.

SINCERE CONDOLENCES to the family of Alex (Jock) Sinclair of Awel y Dyffryn, Denbigh (formerly of Llangwyfan and Llandyrnog) who has died aged 89 and to the family of Vaughan Lloyd, Penrhyn.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of David Benton who loved Llandyrnog. He leaves a widow, Glenna and children Helen and Mark.

BEST WISHES to Gwilym Evans following hospital treatment.



I won't be sending Christmas cards this year – wishing the very best for Christmas and a Happy New Year to all family, friends, and neighbours.

*Wyn Wilson*

Greetings to all our friends in the village and beyond.

*Bryn and Anwen, Bryn Ffolt.*

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all friends and neighbours.

*Margaret, Awel y Foel.*



## Village Hall Events

|                      |                                     |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Craft Group                         | 10am–4pm                |
| Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Private booking<br>– birthday party | 9am–2pm                 |
| Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Brownies<br>Choir                   | 5.30–7pm<br>7.30–9.30pm |
| Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Private booking<br>– birthday party | 2–5pm                   |
| Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> | Messy Church                        | 3.30–5pm                |
| Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> | Brownies<br>Choir                   | 5.30–7pm<br>7.30–9.30pm |
| Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> | Craft fair                          | 9am–4pm                 |
| Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> | Brownies                            | 5.30–7pm                |

**To book the Village Hall, contact Ivan Butler:  
[ivanbutler897@btinternet.com](mailto:ivanbutler897@btinternet.com) or 07799 570549.**



The Village Hall has been very busy lately from the ever-popular coffee mornings (most recently making £555 for Cancer Research UK and £280 for the History Society). It has been lovely to see these events attract people from outside the immediate area – even becoming a stop off for cyclists out on group runs.

We have also seen new venture, the Craft Fair which proved so successful that there will be another on 16<sup>th</sup> December to allow you to buy Christmas gifts.



### Denbigh Round Table Santa Float 2023

Father Christmas will be visiting Llandyrnog Thursday, 14 December. Check social media for approximate time.





## Cocoa Rooms Events

|           |                  |   |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| Monday    | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Trefoil Guild, 2pm                              |
| Tuesday   | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Llais Llandyrnog Voice committee meeting<br>7pm |
| Tuesday   | 12 <sup>th</sup> | Book club 10–11am                               |
| Wednesday | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Mothers' Union, 2pm                             |
| Tuesday   | 19 <sup>th</sup> | Community Council,<br>7pm                       |

To book the Cocoa Rooms, e-mail Mrs Emily Williams: [emilylloyd1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:emilylloyd1@tiscali.co.uk)

### December services at St Tyrnog's

|                  |         |   |
|------------------|---------|---|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 11.15am | Holy Communion  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 11.15am | Holy Communion  |
|                  | 3.30pm  | Messy Church at the Village Hall  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | 3.15pm  | Christingle service   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | 5.15pm  | Crib service  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | 10am    | Holy Communion  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | 10.30am | Mission Area service:<br>Holy Communion<br>at Holy Trinity, Trefnant  |
|                  | 3pm     | Joint Mission Area Welsh service with Dyffryn Clwyd:<br>Gosber Gymraeg<br>at St Peter's Church,<br>Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd |

## Messy Church

Our November session was on Remembrance Sunday and so we learned about why we wear poppies to remember those who died in war. We also learned how important it is to remember the sadness war brings and to try to find ways to bring peace to our world. We made poppies of all kinds, including pompoms and tissue paper and we decorated biscuits to look like poppies. We also made bookmarks and a lovely picture which will go into church for everyone to see.

Our next session will be at 3.30pm on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December when we will be hearing again the wonderful story of the first Christmas when Jesus was born. All are welcome to join us. Children, please bring a grown-up to join the fun.



## Trefoil Guild

The Trefoil Guild meeting in November was provided with an interesting talk by Chris Wykes on her trek along the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

Arrangements were made for a Christmas tree to be installed in Trefnant Church for their festival, and for the Christmas lunch at Denbigh Golf Club. Our next meeting will be in February 2024, date to be confirmed.

### Denbighshire County Council

**Merfyn Parry**



#### Contact details

Mobile: 07836 208446

E-mail: [merfyn.parry@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:merfyn.parry@denbighshire.gov.uk)

Or leave a message on **Facebook**

## Tuesday Club



In the November meeting, Mr Ian Jolly came to talk about his collection of old telephones. Mr Jolly, from Bryn-y-Baal, was a technical officer with the GPO before retiring, and has been collecting telephone memorabilia throughout his career.

His talk began with the predecessor of the telephone, the telegraph system that used semaphore signalling. This then became an electric system, and the next development was the telephone.

He had on display several phones from through the decades, from the candlestick type that had to be linked to an exchange to make a call, to the black bakelite that had its own dial. Then came the colourful, shiny phones and the dial changing to be a push-button one. The members were delighted to see the A and B telephone coin box, bringing back many memories of standing in a cold kiosk to phone loved ones.

Mr Jolly was thanked for an extremely interesting talk. Tea was served and the raffle drawn. We look forward to our Christmas lunch at the Drovers Arms, Rhewl.

The next meeting will be at the Cocoa Rooms, Wednesday, 16 January. A warm welcome awaits new members.

## Emyr goes to No. 10

Following an invitation from the Levelling-Up Minister, Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP with Dr James Davies, MP, it was a pleasure to attend a reception at 10 Downing Street to represent our project. The reception recognised successful projects that had been awarded grants from the Department of Levelling-Up. These are the funds, together with an additional grant from the Welsh Government, that are enabling us to purchase and renovate the shop and the post office.

It was an opportunity to meet and speak to a range of other projects and firmly place our own project and Llandyrnog on the map.

The purchase completion date is getting closer and is expected in the next few weeks. Matters are also well advanced in engaging architect and project management of the renovation. Thank you, as ever, for your support and patience whilst we work towards completing these works.

Once we have the building in our possession there will be many more opportunities for local residents to assist with the project. It would be good to hear from anyone who would particularly like volunteer to help during the renovation and fitting-out phase (if we have your name already, please rest assured we will be in touch!).

*Emyr Morris*

## Llandyrnog Hub

There was quite a buzz at the Pavilion on Cae Nant while the Hub was open on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and was apparently too busy for any photos to be taken! The Hub ladies were very pleased with the feedback they received and will open the next Hub on 20<sup>th</sup> December. This will have a festive atmosphere with mince pies and mulled punch in addition to the usual coffee, tea, cakes etc. and any donations received will be given to the Vale of Clwyd Food Bank. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December between 11 am and 3 pm.

# Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society

## Escape to Gwrych Castle – a little-known story

Local History Society members and visitors were fascinated by the talk at the recent meeting when author Andrew Hesketh spoke about his book, telling the little-known story behind the arrival at Gwrych Castle of children rescued from Europe on the Kindertransport just prior to World War 2.

Andrew was visiting the castle with his family when he first thought about children that may have been there in the past. He then heard snippets about 200 Jewish young people who had lived there. Although he found very little information at first, he persevered in his research.

There was a background of antisemitism in 1933 Germany, and the Nuremberg Laws removed the right of citizenship for all German Jews. On the night of 9 November 1938, Nazi authorities staged a violent riot with the aim of massacring or expelling the Jews. This became known as Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass). After this, there were pressures on the UK government to help, and they decided to allow certain categories of Jewish people, including children under 18, to come to the UK for a short period of time. The intention was that they would join their parents later, when they had settled in another country.

Many of the children who came to the UK were Zionists (someone who strives for an independent Jewish state) and they wanted to recreate a kibbutz here to help them develop the skills needed to eventually set one up in Israel. The ideal location was a rural, agrarian economy, unaffected by evacuation, somewhere unused, very large and free of charge. They were made aware of Gwrych Castle, which was not wanted by Lord Dundonald the 13th Earl, who had already offered it to the government for alternative uses. In 1939, 24-year-old Arie Handler, applied to the UK government. The application

was successful and Arie became the community's founder, with 100 children selected for what was planned as a flagship centre in Gwrych.

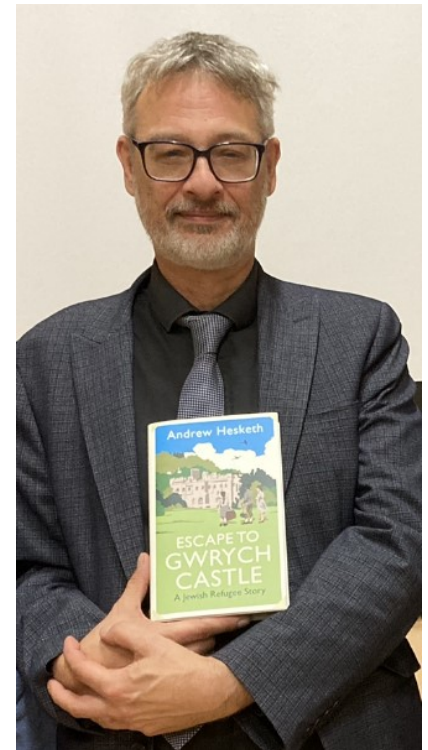
The castle buildings were dilapidated, without electricity and with an unreliable water supply. The interior was practically bare, as the furnishings had been sold off prior to their arrival, so they initially slept on the floor, using straw to make it a bit more comfortable. Marks and Spencer donated some furniture and the local Baptist church provided support and items to help.

This community became the model for the development of other kibbutzim but the Gwrych model kibbutz gradually declined after 1940.

Through his research, Andrew managed to speak to some people who had lived at the castle and relatives of others. He obtained copies numerous family photographs, which he used in the presentation. Many of these appear in his book, *Escape to Gwrych Castle*.

Some of the children rose to fame in later life. The translator of Hitler's will was at Gwrych, as was a person whom Andrew describes as 'a well-known film director', who did not wish to have his connection with Gwrych acknowledged.

*Escape to Gwrych Castle: A Jewish Refugee Story* was published in June 2023. It is available in many bookshops, including The Bookshop, Mold, and can also be ordered online from various suppliers.





# Remembrance Day

As ever, the war memorial outside Llandyrnog Church was the scene of remembrance, and a number of wreaths were laid. Councillor John McGuire represented the Community Council and Mr Ethan Plumb laid the Denbighshire County Council wreath in the absence of Councillor Merfyn Parry. There were other commemorations at the school where the children remembered Peter Edwards who was killed in The Falklands.



But did you know that in Llangwyfan churchyard, near the gate, there is a grave of a soldier who died during World War 1, which is one of very few single graves maintained by the War Graves Commission. This is the final resting place of 19-year-old Private Thomas Charles Jones who died on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1916. Private Jones was not killed by the enemy on active service however but died of scarlet fever – a highly infectious disease in those days - which ripped through his army camp.

His body was returned home for burial by train but when his devastated parents received the coffin at Denbigh railway station, they noticed that it had another soldier's name on it. It seems there had been two bodies sent home that day, one bound for Manchester, one for Denbigh. Somehow the two got mixed up. The distraught relatives had to return to Llangwyfan without the body of their loved one. The correct coffin arrived on a later train and was buried in the churchyard the following day.

## 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





# The Wright life

Doesn't it seem that the 'festive season' has been with us since mid-November and now we are counting down to the big day. It won't be long before we see our first creme egg. December is a month for coziness and comfort eating with slow stew pots, shepherd's pie and my favourite broccoli and stilton soup with crusty sourdough bread. The dark nights are certainly brought to life with endless twinkling decorations adorning houses in our communities. When I see the large tree go up outside the church with all its lights, I know the festive season is upon us.

What do us gardeners do at this time of year apart from browsing seed catalogues? Prune and mulch. Deciduous trees are now visible and anything that is dead, damaged, or diseased needs to be cut away. It used to be a time for tidying up the garden to put it to bed for the winter, but nowadays I am certainly more relaxed with the tidying up. A few untidy areas are excellent for wildlife and provide a valuable source of food for birds. The big question circulating is whether to rake up fallen leaves or leave them to naturally decay?

There is a growing movement called 'Leave the leaves' which has been spreading in popularity over the last few years. It's a belief that we all refrain from raking up our leaves from our lawns and gardens. In urban areas it is felt that too many are put in black bin bags and sent to landfill. It's proposed that leaving them allows them to naturally decompose over the winter into a rich organic matter which is beneficial for insects. Can we ditch the rake? Is it a good or a bad idea?

Leaves on pathways are a health and safety issue making them slippery so do need sweeping up with a stiff broom. Thick piles of leaves on your lawn can do it harm, by suffocating it as they form a covering of heavy and often sodden material which could take years to fully break down if not raked up. Personally, I use my mower without the box to

shred them up from the lawn and they break down quicker into a rich soil conditioner. I have noticed some people use a leaf blower, does that help? My observation is that it just blows the problem somewhere else. Windy weather can help 'whoosh' them into a natural corner to be collected by hand and then added to your compost bin to make leaf mould. The best leaves for leafmould are oak and beech. Leaf mould is decayed leaves which are broken down by the slow action of fungi rather than bacteria and can produce an invaluable soil enhancer. In my garden though this area attracts hungry scratching hens who enjoy looking for grubs and worms and the pile ends up scattered back across the lawn anyway. I also find my leaves blow straight into my utility room; there always seems to be a stray oak leaf in there at this time of year despite my best efforts to remove it.



It's certainly a contentious one, but whatever you do with your leaves, enjoy their wonderful colours before they fall, hopefully not in your garden.

Hazel

## A message from our priest

In the church calendar, the Christian year with all its festivals starts again afresh on 3<sup>rd</sup> December as we enter the season of Advent. Advent is a season of closer observation of our faith, the Bible and prayer and a chance for self-examination. This lasts until Christmas day when the actual Christmas season itself starts and continues as a time of celebration, wonder and joy until 2<sup>nd</sup> February when Candlemas is observed. A time when Jesus is remembered being a child taken to the temple for what was the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Read Luke 2: 22 – 40 in the Bible.)

The theme of Advent is one of waiting. In society, waiting is something that people seem to have tolerated less and less as the years have gone by. Even more so now as technology and provision races on. Just look how easy it is to flick on an app on the phone and order items that can be delivered to the door the following day. The more that we get so many things so quickly, the more we seem to come to expect a sudden turnaround in all areas of life.

The other kinds of waiting in life can be the ones filled with anxiety, like waiting for exam results or even more so, waiting to hear from the doctors about a serious illness. Then there are those times which are joyful anticipation, like waiting to share the good news of a expecting a baby after a three-month scan or getting the keys to a first house.

The waiting of Advent is like none of these things which we observe in society, it is one of deep peace that a Christian can enter into when they sit, think and meditate on the coming of Jesus Christ, whose day is near. We can keep watch and take heart as we know with divine reassurance, deep in our existence, of the goodness of God and the truth of God's love for everyone.

At the start of this Advent season, why not take some time to have a look and consider something new about the Christian faith.

Many extra people come into our church services this time of year. Maybe you're one of them – why not have a look at Bishop Gregory's book, *An Advent Book of Days*, exploring the characters of the Christmas Story on a daily basis or the Archbishop Andy John's book, *The Word was God, Short Reflections for Advent*. This offers really short thoughts that help you to enter the waiting, watching and wondering of the season. There are all kinds of resources – perhaps try searching with BRF who publish Advent books and often show selections this time of year.

We look forward to seeing you some time this December in one of our churches in Denbigh Mission Area and hope that you have a safe and good Advent season followed by a truly jubilant, joyous Christmas from 25<sup>th</sup> December.

*Rev Martin Pritchard*



**hgweb 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)**



# Gwinllyn y Dyffryn Vineyard

We had a bumper harvest this year with over 12 tonnes of grapes being harvested over a period of six weekends. We would like to sincerely thank all the community who came to help us on many a busy harvest day – we are so grateful for all your help.

We went to *Llanerch Vineyard* in Glamorgan for the *Wales Vineyards Trophy Awards Evening* in November. This year, over 50 wines were introduced to the four judges, who had the enviable task of tasting them all – minus the labels of course! It was a shock and an honour to receive the award for the best rosé sparkling wine in Wales. This is the first rosé wine that we have produced, the grapes being harvested in 2021, so it is a long process to produce rosé wine in this traditional way, but it was worth the wait as the rosé was also awarded a gold medal – the first for the vineyard! It has been a pleasure to welcome hundreds of visitors to the vineyard over the summer. Thanks to all who have visited us and the support of the local community. We look forward to welcoming you back soon!

Gwen Davies



Gwen and Rhys receiving the gold award from Andy Mounsey, Chairman of the Welsh Vineyards Association and Deiniol ap Dafydd of Blas ar Fwyd, Llanrwst.

**James Davies, MP for Vale of Clwyd**  
james.davies.mp@parliament.uk  
Constituency office: 01745 888920  
Westminster office: 0207 2194606

# Dyffryn Chapel

- |       |       |                                    |
|-------|-------|------------------------------------|
| 03/12 | 9.45  | <i>The Spirit of Christmas</i>     |
| 10/12 | 11.00 | <i>Rev. Huw Dylan</i>              |
| 17/12 | 11.00 | <i>Minister/Children's Service</i> |
| 24/12 | 9.45  | <i>The ABC of Christmas</i>        |
| 31/12 | 10.00 | <i>Circuit Service On-line</i>     |

**Y Gymdeithas** On Monday 30 October, a very interesting and educational quiz was prepared by Bethan, Alys and Leah Evans. Siôn Williams proposed the vote of thanks.

On Monday 13 November a *Beetle Drive* was held by Iona and Hywel – a very noisy and enjoyable evening as everyone did their best to complete a 'beetle'! A stall was also held to raise funds for the Christmas Party and a collection was made towards Gofal Dydd y Waen Day Centre, St Asaph.



Congratulations to Gwenan, Pen y Bryn who won third prize in the Folk Song competition (Year 12–21 years of age) at the National *Cerdd Dant* Festival, Cardiff, and to Beth with her recitation group. We wish a belated happy 40th birthday to Rhys Davies.



# Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

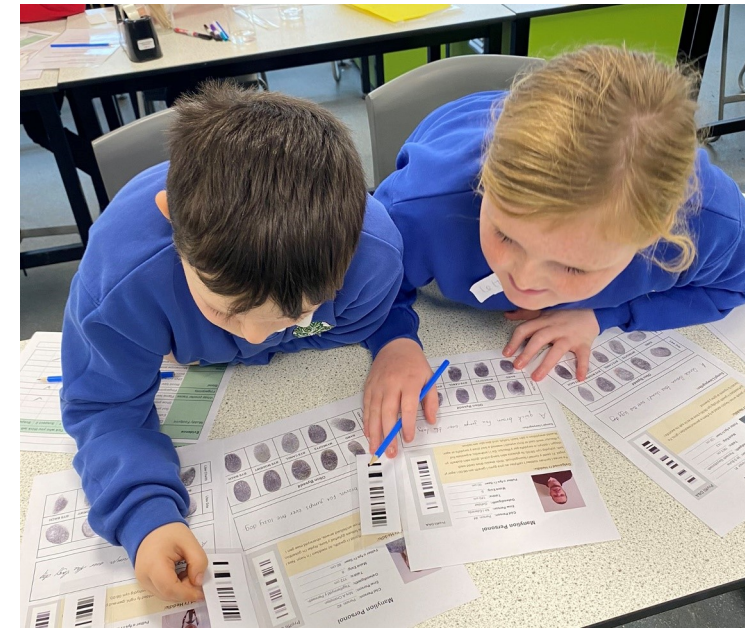


Sam Painter, the community coach in North West Wales of Cricket Wales, visited the school to help the pupils to practise their batting skills and learn how to throw, aim and catch. The session was thoroughly enjoyed.

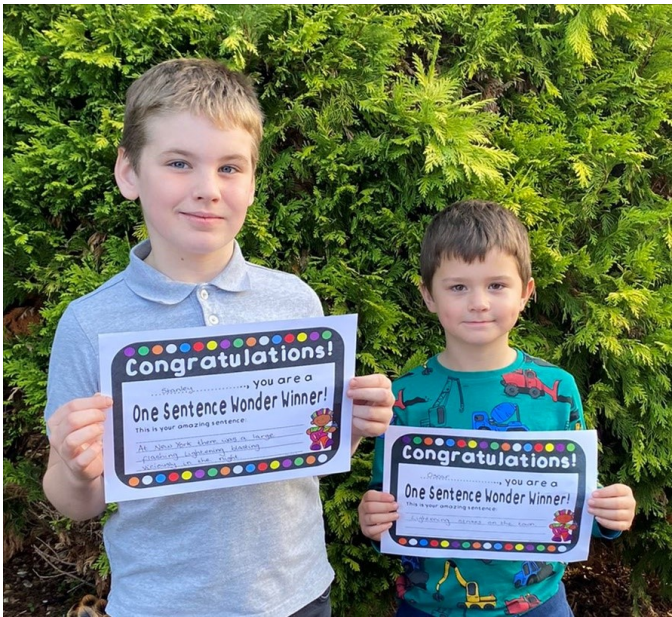
The school is very proud of the Four Purpose achievers.



In the summer term, Dosbarth y Babanod wrote cards and a checklist of what makes a good king. A very special card arrived in the post – a thank-you card from the King!



Year 5 pupils had a fantastic afternoon at Ysgol Brynhyfryd where they enjoyed an afternoon of science and crime scene investigation.



Congratulations to the winners of our One Sentence Wonders this week. They were treated to a hot chocolate with Mr Lindqvist!

Great fun was had in a samba drumming workshop with Johnny Baxter from Denbighshire Music Co-operative.



# Ysgol Bryn Clwyd: ctd



Dosbarth y Babanod made and tasted pumpkin soup.

Dates for the diary are:

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December @ 5.30**

Christmas market and carol concert on the outdoor Mrs Morris memorial stage. Warm welcome to all.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Panto trip to Llandudno

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Community Christmas lunch

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

School closes for Christmas.

# Dark skies

December seems to be the darkest time of the year, but it's worth taking a moment to go out in the evening and do some star-gazing. We are lucky living where we do, close to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB which has some of the best areas with dark skies. Dark sky sites are areas where the view of the night sky is not affected by light pollution or unnatural light sources. More than 50% of our wildlife is most active at night and for us humans, distinct night-time darkness is essential to the rhythms of life. Within towns and cities it is never totally dark and this can affect our wellbeing. Clwydian Range and Dee Valley have created 'Prosiect Nos' – The North Wales Dark Sky Partnership to help create the largest area of protected dark skies in the world and is made up of Snowdonia National Park, AONBs on Isle of Anglesey, Llŷn Peninsula and of course our own Clwydian AONB.

Choose a clear night and go out into the countryside away from buildings and bright lights. It may take approximately 20 minutes for your eyes to adapt, but then suddenly the wonders of the night sky will emerge. At this time of year look for a bright 'star' close to the Moon, this is Venus and in the evening you can clearly see Jupiter ascending above the Clwydians to the east in the early evening. Experiencing the night sky provides us with perspective and inspiration. Indeed, without the natural night sky we could not have navigated the globe. For further information about Dark Skies visit the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Web site:  
[www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/projects/dark-skies/](http://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/projects/dark-skies/).

*Hazel Wright*

## 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

## Post Office Opening Hours

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**  
9am–12pm, 2pm–5pm  
**Wednesday & Saturday 9am–12.30pm**  
01824 790310

# Llandyrnog Community Council

The following items were discussed at the November meeting of the Community Council:

- ♦ The Community Police Officer was unable to attend but sent a report detailing the following incidents in our area during October and November:
  - ♦ 12/10/23: Attempted fraud but no money transferred – a ‘friend in need’ scam. See [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) on how to avoid becoming a victim to fraud.
  - ♦ 10/11/23: Road Traffic Accident at Green Farm corner – no injuries. The Community Council has requested the installation of speed-monitoring equipment to measure speed and to see whether there is a distinct pattern.
  - ♦ 17/11/23: Cold-caller in white Toyota pick-up, offering to sell farm gates, feeding troughs etc. Whilst there is potential that such sales calls may be genuine, it is a common tactic that criminals will use – attending rural properties (with a plausible sales pitch) to have a look around and assess security measures in place (locks on outbuildings, floodlights, CCTV) and whether any items are easy targets (insecure trailers, quad bikes left unattended, keys left in vehicles).
  - ♦ As the evenings get dark earlier and the weather becomes more wet/windy, please secure outbuildings and items that might be desirable to a thief. A storm is good cover for burglary, as people may pay less attention to loud bangs and other odd noises.
- ♦ Following a community council finance team meeting, it was decided to ask Denbighshire County Council for an increase in the precept of £532 from £10,688 to £11,220. This was justified to cover increased costs such as insurance, grass-cutting, increase in minimum wages, and equates to a £1.00 per property increase.
- ♦ Following a request from the organiser it was decided to give the Tuesday Club £100 as a contribution towards the cost of their annual Christmas Lunch at the Drovers Arms, Rhewl.
- ♦ The Standards Committee member, Samuel Jones, who had attended the July meeting reported that he was very impressed with the proceedings and the manner in which the meeting was Chaired by Cllr Butler and the constructive contributions of the Councillors.
- ♦ It was disappointing, in view of the recent incidents, that DCC has decided not to replace the warning sign by Brynlllys corner which had been removed since it was unsafe.
- ♦ The council has decided to submit a grant application for additional audio-visual equipment at the Cocoa Rooms. Numerous letters of support have been received and quotations are being sought.
- ♦ It is disappointing that most of the local bus timetables are either out of date or

**EXTREME CLEANZ**

Trustpilot  
Excellent ★★★★★

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

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

07873 751919  
[www.extremecleanz.co.uk](http://www.extremecleanz.co.uk)

**CONTACT US**

Cymraeg



## Llandyrnog C. C.: Ctd

non-existent and a request for them to be reinstated has been made. It seems the timetable at Morrisons, Denbigh, is an updated version, and this will greatly assist those without access to a smart phone and dependent on the written word.

- ♦ Cllr Butler attended a pre-committee site visit at Wern Farm on 4th November to represent the views of the community council on the planning application for day kennels at the property. The application was subsequently approved by Denbighshire County Council (subject to a number of conditions) at the Planning Committee meeting on 8th November.
- ♦ Cllr Butler also attended a workshop about trees in the AONB which was very interesting. A colour booklet of the most special trees in the AONB has been produced which includes the spider rowan at Penycloddiau and Scots pine at Moel y Parc.



- ♦ MHC has kindly supplied a public notice board for Llangwyfan.
- ♦ It was decided to proceed to purchase a 15-foot Christmas tree and the Clerk would seek permission to erect the tree in the usual place in front of St Tyrnog's Church.

## Recipe

### Tomato and carrot soup

5g/2oz butter  
1 small onion finely chopped  
175g/6oz carrots finely chopped  
450g/1lb tomatoes, peeled and finely chopped. Out of season, I use tinned tomatoes  
50g/2oz plain flour  
1.15 litres/2 pints mixed herb or chicken stock  
1 tsp caster sugar  
1 tsp dried oregano  
½ tsp paprika  
½ tsp mace  
2 tbsps tomato purée  
Salt and pepper  
Single cream to serve

Melt butter and lightly sauté the chopped vegetables.

Stir in flour and add stock, sugar, spices and tomato purée and seasoning, stirring continuously.

Bring to boil, reduce heat and cover pan, then simmer for 30 mins.

Purée the soup in a liquidiser.

Return the soup to saucepan and reheat to boiling point.

Serve in individual bowls, with a tablespoon of single cream, swirled into each portion.

Serves 4–6.

*Penelope Major*



# The History of the Cocoa Rooms



The Archives' post explained that the Victorian Temperance Movement, a social movement against the consumption of alcohol, instigated the concept. The Temperance Movement was a popular social movement, and as their emphasis turned to teetotalism, tea and cocoa rooms soon began to appear as an alternative venue to the local Ale House. The Llandyrnog Cocoa and Reading Rooms were built in 1885. Initially they were the responsibility of the church Rector but in 1894 an Act of Parliament allowed such property to be passed to the Parish Council.

The publication on social media recently by North East Wales Archives of the attached photo (*The Cocoa Rooms on High Street, St Asaph, c.1910*) prompted some discussion about the origins of our own Cocoa Rooms.

The Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Social Club for young men was formed in the 1920s and the cocoa rooms provided activities such as billiards and bagatelle with daily newspapers being available in the reading room. The membership subscription was three shillings for six months. The Second World War saw a reduction in attendance of the Social Club because so many young men were serving in the armed forces. However, our Cocoa Rooms continued to be the hub of the community, hosting coffee mornings, Community Council meetings and many other groups. That was until the Covid pandemic. The lockdown and subsequent social distancing requirement meant the Cocoa Rooms were not big enough to host such events. Today while the larger gatherings such as coffee mornings have moved to the Village Hall the smaller groups such as Tuesday Club, Trefoil Guild, WI, Book Club etc are back enjoying the more intimate atmosphere of the Llandyrnog Cocoa and Reading Rooms.

PS There is no truth in the rumour of a tunnel linking Cocoa Rooms with the Golden Lion...as far as I know!

Gwen Butler

## 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 LAWYR

01745 815141

07808970364

E-bost: [evansautodinic@btconnect.com](mailto:evansautodinic@btconnect.com)