
Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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February 2022 – Volume 7 – Edition 5

Tree Felled

It was both sad and fascinating to see a large pine tree being felled behind the church recently. It took a couple of days, several lumberjacks and a massive crane to bring down this magnificent tree, which had been severely damaged by storms. Unfortunately, it was considered to be dangerous and had to be felled, but the skill of David Weyman, Glyn and the team was impressive to watch. It is hoped that the church will plant a couple of replacement trees but the landscape has changed considerably.



Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition and to those who have given generous financial contributions for the upkeep of your magazine – it's greatly appreciated

Around the village

Happy birthday to ...

... **Hughie Plumb**, who recently celebrated his 81st birthday.

... **Gareth Roberts** from Bod Hyfryd Farm on his 80th birthday, from his family and friends.

... **Evelyn Weyman**, who has just had a significant birthday (don't worry, we won't share the number!).

... **Gwenan and Meilyr**, Pen y Bryn, on reaching their 18th birthday.

Congratulations to ...

... **Claudia Howard** on her engagement to Stephen West of Scarborough. Claudia is the daughter of **Mr & Mrs David Howard**.

... **John Morris** and **Kelly Cumston**, Penisarwaen Cottage, on their engagement.

Welcome ...

... to the world, **Ivy Thomas**, a new granddaughter to **Aled and Jane Thomas**. We wish them many happy times with the new addition to the Thomas household.

Condolences to ...

... the family of **Andrew Prescott** (92), who for many years lived with his wife **Doreen** and son **Leslie** at Pont Horn, Llandyrnog. Andrew worked at NW Hospital and after retirement spent a lot of time cycling around the area. They had moved to Abergele to be closer to their family.

... the family and friends of **Mrs Joan Owen**, widow of the late Hefin Owen, 2 Hen Ysgol. Mrs Owen passed away in December at Llys Meddyg Nursing Home, Denbigh.

... **Mrs Edith Hughes**, Cwm Tawel, whose sister, Elizabeth Parry of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, passed away in January.

... **Huw Williams** and family, recently bereaved following the death of his grandfather, Trevor Williams of Llanrwst.

Useful telephone numbers

Denbighshire CC Customer Service Centre
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Out of hours: 03001 233068

North Wales Police: 101 (Non-emergency)

Report dog fouling free 0800 2300 2345

Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

Ruth Griffith (Chair), Ivan Butler (Treasurer and Composer), Catherine Howarth, Anwen Davies (Composer), Gwen Butler (Co-ordinator), Bryn Davies (Minutes), Ann and Iestyn Jones-Evans (Co-ordinators), Rhian Jones, Rod and Margaret Williams.

Send all news contributions and articles to llandyrnognews@gmail.com.

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What's on in February?

Church services

St Tyrnog's

6 Feb – 11.15am, Morning Prayer
13 Feb – 11.15am, Morning Prayer
20 Feb – 11.15am, Morning Prayer
27 Feb – 11.15am, Holy Eucharist

St Cwyfan's

6 Feb – 9.30am, Morning Prayer
20 Feb – 9.30am, Holy Eucharist

There was no Messy Church in January but it will be back on Sunday, 13 February at 3.30pm in the Village Hall and all are welcome. Children please bring an adult with you!

Coffee morning

Village Hall,
5 February
10.00–11.00

Proceeds to *Llais Llandyrnog Voice*,
your local news magazine
Contributions gratefully received
Raffle will be drawn

Post Office Opening Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9am–12pm, 2pm–5pm

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Dyffryn Chapel

6 Feb – 9.45am, Prayer Meeting
13 Feb – 10.00am, Circuit Meeting
27 Feb – 11.00am, Parch Nan Powell Davies

The Tuesday Book Club is also back! It will be meeting on 8 and 22 February, 10–11am in the Cocoa Rooms.

Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society will be meeting at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 16 February at 7.30pm. Glynis Shaw will give a talk on historical gardens in Denbighshire.



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Three places – Rona Aldrich

Those of you who know me are aware that I am a true fan of Italy. It will, therefore, come as no surprise that the three places I have chosen are in that country. That is not to say that I could not have chosen three places in Wales that are just as or closer to my heart – but we will leave that until another day.

Matera

‘The name’s Bond. James Bond.’ If you have seen the latest 007 film, *No Time to Die*, you may remember the start of the film and later a chase through a rock-faced town. The photograph here shows our trusty Morris Minor doing the same route – but a great deal slower of course!



Today Matera is a popular tourist destination, especially for people exploring Puglia and the surrounding area.

It is, therefore, difficult to believe that until as recent as the 1950s, about half of the people of Matera lived in caves known as *sassi* (translated – stones). The area was a source of shame for Italy due to its poverty, illness and high rates of infant mortality where people lived in slum conditions without natural light, running water, or sewerage. In 1953 a plan was put in place and the entire *sassi* population was relocated to new housing

developments. The suggestion that the whole district should be walled up and forgotten was not implemented. By the 1980s, a new generation started taking an interest. Government archaeologists examined the site and city authorities began offering 30-year leases at nominal costs to tenants who agreed to renovate the caves under the supervision of conservation experts. The former inhabitants were given the opportunity to return but most did not want to do so as they had grown used to their own homes and easy access to services. Businesses, however, saw its potential.

It became a World Heritage Site in 1993 as the most outstanding, intact example of a cave settlement and was the European Capital of Culture in 2019. The houses, artisan shops, restaurants and hotels that line the historic area are cut out of rock and have been beautifully restored to provide magical, comfortable facilities. Together with the range of beautiful church architecture and internal decoration, it provides a wonderful, peaceful place to spend time.

Morrone del Sannio

Morrone is a hilltop village in the Italian region of Molise. ‘Where?’ That is usually the reaction when we tell even native Italians the location of the house we bought in 2007. It is the forgotten part of the country and, as such, is very much unspoilt and ‘proper’ Italy.

To put it into context it is in southern Italy and if you draw a line from Naples to the Adriatic coast and drive back about 40 minutes, that is where Morrone stands. It is 2,753ft above sea level (Snowdon is 3,560ft). The nearest big town is Termoli, which boasts a beautiful sandy beach and attractive promenade.

It has a thriving fishing community and it is not strange to be told ‘the restaurant owner isn’t here, he’s gone to buy the fish’. Pretty good from sea-to-plate result. The ski resort of Campitello Matese is in the other direction.

Three places ... contd

The major occupation is agriculture. Much of the work of tending the land is done by hand. It is a regular occurrence to see a small pick-up type vehicle going past the house with a trailer on the back where the farmer's wife sits as they go to tend the vegetables in their fields. In the summer we look forward to the daily visit of the shepherd and his flock of sheep as he leads them to eat on scrub land and any unfenced areas. They look pretty good on this diet. The photo shows the sheep on their journey past the house with the village on the horizon.



Very little English, or any language other than Italian is spoken. I have a basic knowledge of Italian but it is amazing what the waving of hands and pointing can do to be understood. We are the only Brits in the village and have received a warm welcome and been accepted.

We went to the ironmongers. A notice on the door said they would be back in ten minutes. The keys were in the door of the shop and a whole range of gas barbecues were left unsecured outside. And as far as service goes, when our boiler blew on a Friday evening we called our local 'man who knows' and by Monday afternoon a replacement was in place.

Like most other areas, we have noticed a recent rise in prices. However, you can still get a good four-course Sunday lunch with wine and coffee for €30 or the most delicious, large prawn pizza for €7.

Firenze (Florence)



My third location is, perhaps, a more traditional one – the Centro Storico in Florence. I have been here many times but it never ceases to please. We are lucky to have found a hotel that is literally yards from the Ponte Vecchio. This 'old bridge' is a medieval arch bridge with expensive shops of jewellers, art dealers and souvenir sellers on both sides. It is extremely busy during the day but in the evening or at night, when the day-trippers have left, it is a magical area in which to walk, dream and watch the river Arno flowing underneath.

If you want an art gallery, Florence has many to spare! The Uffizi houses a major collection of paintings and sculptures including some by artists you may have heard of such as Giotto, Botticelli and Caravaggio. The Galleria dell'Accademia houses my favourite sculpture – the statue of David by Michelangelo. This bright white marble sculpture is 17ft tall and I challenge anyone who sees it not to feel its presence. There are 30 replicas of the statue around the world. Queen Victoria received a replica as a gift but was so appalled that a fig leaf was cast to spare the blushes of anyone who saw it!

After all this culture, what better way to relax than in a traditional gelateria to enjoy an ice cream and to watch the world go by. Lavender, bergamot and vanilla anyone?

Introducing Rev. Martin Pritchard

How lovely it is to introduce myself to you in this effective magazine, which celebrates good strong community cohesion. What a pleasure it is to be able to continue to serve you as a community so soon after Val Rowland's retirement. I've had the good fortune of working closely with Val for the last 15 months as we've served Denbigh Mission Area, in fact she interviewed me at one of my three interviews, which were part of the process to join the family of the diocese that this area falls in, known as Teulu Asaph. Val and I came from the same area before moving here and worked with some of the same people in Bangor Diocese.

It is unusual to follow somebody into post so soon in our Anglican tradition but given the times we are living through it does good to know there is a priest in your community. Given that Denbigh Mission Area is formed and Rebecca and I are working closely with an effective, evolving team of both employed staff and people who give of their own time, it makes sense and seems to be what God wants us to do. I really look forward to getting to know people better, both in the church and chapel, and of course in the community as a whole.

It was good to go to the Messy Church event at Christmas, which was very well attended, and so good to see so many families delighting in this well-planned and safe yet fun occasion. I look forward to the next one too at 3.30pm on 13 February, as I'm sure many others do, including the two children in the care of myself and Vicky my wife, who also really enjoyed the Christmas event in the school hall.

There has been a lot of misery caused by the global pandemic we're enduring and yet as people in our Western contexts we're learning from it in the way that we should learn from all the experiences of life.

Ironically, through our separations and need to be distant for protection, we've learned something of the delights of real-life human interaction in a new way and the value of spending time with loved ones has been renewed and enhanced in many people's situations too.

Mark Drakeford and his team have made the decision to try to keep us safe this winter and, to the delight of many, restrictions will be easing by the time you read this, just in time for the Six Nations rugby. 'Let's hope there is a future like the past we knew' is a profound way of putting it, which drums up universal patterns of thought and the human condition as captured well in this delightful poem:

Poem for a grandchild

Let no-one hurry her, Lord,
Give her the rare, the incomparable gift of time.
Days to dream, dragonfly days, days when
the kingfisher suddenly opens for her a
window on wonder.
Let no-one chivvy her, Lord.
Let her meander lark happy through
childhood, by fern-curved stream fringed
butter yellow with kingcups, by secret ways
that paws have worn through the wild.
Give her cuckoo-loud days, and the owls cry
by night.
Give her rainbows; show her a nest filled
with sky-blue promises; scoop up the
sounding oceans for her in a shell.
Let her keep her dreams so she will always
turn her face to the light.
Live merrily, love well; hold out ungloved
hands to flower and child, be easy with
animals, come to terms with time.
Let her keep her dreams, Lord,
Let her riches be remembered happy days,
Amen.

Rev. Pritchard ... contd

It is with delight that I serve Jesus in this delightful home of yours tucked into the glorious landscape of the Vale of Clwyd. Both of my ordination retreats before becoming a deacon and a priest were at the Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Tremerechion and I remember on more than one occasion looking out at the stunning landscape from the top of the garden wondering where my calling would take me to be in the midst of which communities. How could I have possibly known that one day it would be in this very area itself? God, who enfolds time, knew and was musing lovingly, and God knows what is to become of us all.

Very often as Christians we're inspired by the words of the prophet Jeremiah, who spoke God's words to God's people before and

during a time of absolute disaster for them in Babylon. These words are as true to us now as they were then; not offering quick solutions like the modern world seems to demand and major on but deepening faith and inviting us to draw closer and trust more in the living God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit: 'For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.' Jeremiah 29:11.

I hope that many of us are able to move into spring filled with that hope about all that God has in store for this community. May God bless you and all who you love abundantly, throughout February and for evermore.

Reverend Martin Pritchard

Urdd World Record

On Tuesday, 25 January, Urdd Gobaith Cymru – the Welsh League of Youth – celebrated its centenary. Over the years this movement has provided cultural, sporting and social activities for hundreds of thousands of children and young people.

To celebrate, the Urdd attempted and achieved two Guinness World Records: the largest number of videos of people singing the same song uploaded to Twitter in one hour, and the largest number of videos of people singing the same song uploaded to Facebook in one hour. The previous record of the former was 250 – the Urdd and its supporters uploaded 1,176.

The Urdd National Eisteddfod will be held at Kilford Farm, Denbigh at the end of May/early June this year – more details will be given over the coming months.

Here are Mabon and Medi making their contribution to the videos, singing 'Hei Mr Urdd'.



Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

Ysgol Bryn Clwyd's Day Care Group, Little Acorns, which is managed by Miss Ruth Perrin, has received a glowing inspection report from Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). Little Acorns was judged to be an excellent environment for children to learn and to be cared for, with Miss Ruth receiving a judgement of excellent for her leadership of the provision.



Mr Jason Jones, who also works with Little Acorns, was commended on his work in the provision through supporting the care, development and wellbeing of the children who attend. The highly successful partnership that Little Acorns has with Ysgol Bryn Clwyd was noted as a particular strength and the school had a special assembly to celebrate the publication of the inspection report, which can be read in full on the CIW website.



Recipe

Lemon cheese (aka curd)

(handwritten original found on the back of an envelope that was addressed to No. 6 Post Office Lane Denbigh and dated 4 February 1948)

1 lemon

1 egg

2oz margarine (50g)

1oz sugar (25g)

Grate and juice the lemon. Beat the egg.

Melt the margarine and sugar in a pan. Add the grated rind and juice of the lemon and the well-beaten egg together. Stir well and simmer slowly for 10 minutes.

This will make ½lb of lemon cheese.

Gwen Butler

Denbighshire Music Co-operative



Congratulations (rather belatedly!) to Denbighshire Music Co-operative (DMC) for winning the Tech for Good category at the Social Business Wales Awards. Heather Powell, Tŷ Capel Isa, Llandyrnog is the Managing Director of DMC (a not-for-profit organisation that provides quality music provision), and manager of 'Music Mania'. Heather is supported in her role by a board of directors and a full-time Office Manager as she now also works as a consultant in the set-up of music co-operatives all over the UK.

Heather plays the baritone horn and graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2005. She was a member of the National Youth Brass Band of Wales for many years, and following her degree spent a year with a military band in Germany.

Well done Heather and team, and best wishes for the future!

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It shouldn't happen to a landlady

'It Shouldn't Happen to a Landlady' was the title of the presentation given to the Probus Club recently. Sue Kerby and her husband Brian gave a very interesting talk about the trials and tribulations of establishing their business at the Golden Lion Inn at Llangynhafal.

The previous owners got them off to a good start with £4,000 worth of whisky. Sue, a trained cordon bleu chef found herself feeding cyclists, parties for birthdays, weddings, walkers, Route 76 travellers and local regulars. The property also provides accommodation for visitors.

The historic property dates from 1760. It was refurbished during the recent lockdown and features ancient ships' timbers, forming part of the structure of the building.

It is not a place for 'chips with everything', if only because chips have not been cooked since the fat fryer blew up. Luckily Brian was quick enough to cover the flames with a fire blanket, saving the premises from serious damage.

The one-acre garden is being developed for outdoor activities with a tented area. A dilapidated Sinclair horse trailer was stripped, cleaned and converted to a bar. A modern kitchen was installed, including a wine cooler. The floral garden is a good place to relax while viewing the wonderful scenery and sunsets ... weather permitting of course.



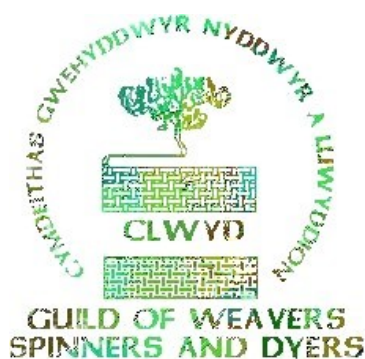
Maes Llan

Planning Application 18/2021/1260

Land adjoining Maes Llan, Llandyrnog, Denbigh, DENBIGHSHIRE, LL16 4HF

Erection of 40 dwellings, construction of a new vehicular access, landscaping and associated works

An application for details of the above development has recently been submitted to Denbighshire County Council as planning authority. The Llandyrnog Community Council was consulted, discussed it at its regular monthly meeting and will submit its views and concerns to the County Council. It is not yet known whether the planning application will go to Denbighshire's Planning Committee for determination or will be made by the planning officers, but details of the application are available on the Planning Services website for you to view and comment upon. The Community Council is urging residents of Llandyrnog to make individual representations to Planning Services. The deadline for submission of comments to the planning authority has been extended to 15 February 2022.



Join a friendly group at the Llysfasi Community Hub (Coleg Cambria) between Ruthin and Llandegla on the A525.

Meetings are usually on the third Saturday of every month, 9.30–16.00. Bring a packed lunch and, for now, a face mask. Take a look at our website, www.spindizzy.net/clwyd and have a look at our Facebook page.

We have talks, workshops or sometimes we sit and spin and learn from each other. Also, in the Summer, we exhibit at cultural shows (when Covid rules allow).

Publicity for Community Council meetings

It was good to see public participation at the Community Council meeting on Tuesday, 22 January (on the subject of the proposed housing development adjoining Maes Llan). At the end of the meeting members of the Council commented on the benefit of having community input, especially when major issues are discussed. It was decided to discuss this in more depth at a later date but suggestions from the residents of Llandyrnog would be most welcome.

During the pandemic the use of Zoom to conduct virtual meetings has proved useful as it allows participation from home or office (or even from the car for those with sufficient mobile phone strength) but on the other hand it can exclude those without such facilities or the technical expertise to use the software. Meeting physically also has its challenges in these precarious times, especially in a compact space such as the Cocoa Rooms.

Could publicity for the meetings be improved? If so, how? The Council meets

regularly on the third Tuesday of the month, 7.15pm in the Cocoa Rooms (or 7pm on Zoom when this is deemed necessary). The Community Council has a website (www.llandyrnogcommunitycouncil.co.uk), which has all the meeting agendas and minutes available. Items for discussion can vary and be late arriving so it is not always possible or advisable to publish the agenda too early. Advertising the meetings on social media is a possibility but does this disadvantage those without access to Facebook, Twitter, etc?

If you have any suggestions or comments please let the Community Council know by e-mailing the clerk Bryn Davies (rbrynd1@gmail.com) and don't forget that on 5 May this year there will be County and Community Council elections, which give everyone the chance to stand for election.

Photo of the month

Another stunning photograph courtesy of Phil O'Loughlin.



A cheeky red kite

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Matters discussed in the January meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council (on-line)

An incident of fly tipping in the Llangwyfan area has been reported to and swiftly dealt with by Denbighshire County Council.

The CC is awaiting a site meeting with the Sports Association to establish what effect extending the footprint of the Pavilion at Cae Nant would have on the play area.

It was discussed whether it would be possible to undertake any traffic calming measures around Pont Clwyd. It would have to be a joint approach between Denbigh Town Council and Llandyrnog Community Council, the river being the boundary between the two parishes.

The wheelie bins placed by others in Cae Nant have been removed and parking is to be monitored – two cars reported as regularly parking overnight.

A deep pothole has appeared in the road by the side of an inspection chamber opposite the sewage treatment plant – Clerk to log the matter with DCC.

The bus stops are in need of a spring clean and a coat of paint – Clerk to organise.

Confirmation received from DCC that, unfortunately, funding for completing the installation of broadband to the Cocoa

Rooms is no longer available, which is disappointing considering most of the work has been done.

David Plumb has confirmed that for the time being he is taking a break from his voluntary litter picking duties.

Gullies between Rhiwbebyll Isaf and the entrance to MHC are in need of cleaning as they are full of pine needles from a fallen tree – Clerk to log the matter with DCC.

Planning matters discussed:

Application 18/2021/1031 – Change of use of land to site five luxury glamping lodges at Cae'r Fedwen.

Application 18/2021/1260 – Erection of 40 dwellings, construction of new vehicular access, landscaping and associated works – land adjacent to Maes Llan, Llandyrnog (two members of the public attended the meeting to discuss this item).

Llandyrnog School c. 1948



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