

# Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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

February 2024 – Volume 9 – Issue 5

## Bronze award butcher



Congratulations to Elis Morris who won the bronze award for the Welsh Craft Butcher of the Year 2024 at the Culinary Association of Wales Finals at the ICCWales, Newport.

Elis had to undertake two tasks to showcase his skills to judges. He had 30 minutes to cut a whole lamb into primal joints. For the second task, he had one hour and 20 minutes to produce a visually exciting display to merchandise the meat, showcasing his skills and creativity.

Well done, Elis!

*(Photos: Daniel Morris Butchers, Denbigh)*



## Around the village

**Congratulations** to Alan and Beverley Ramsbottom on celebrating their Golden Wedding.

**Welcome** to Deborah and Malcolm Nicholls who have moved to 17, Parc Tyn Llan. They are very grateful for the kind words and gestures of welcome from local residents and are looking forward to life in Llandyrnog.

**Christingle** £121 was collected during the Christmas Christingle Service, donated to Shelter Cymru.

**Condolences** to Martin and Melanie and families on the loss of Willie Plumb; Gareth Roberts and family on the loss of his mother Enid Roberts, Denbigh; Sian and Adrian, on the loss of Sian's brother, Tom Bryn Golau.



**Congratulations** to Tom Hughes, of The White Horse, who has been promoted to Bala Town First Team. Tom, who has been at the Academy since under-15 level, has earned

himself a first team contract following his impressive performances for the Academy's Development Team in recent months, having won two successive 'Player of the Month' awards in October and November.

The versatile midfielder will wear the number 16 shirt for the first team.

### Thank you

A very large thank you to family and friends of Dad's who left donations at his funeral. The total collected for St. Kentigern's was an enormous £500, and they are very grateful for the donation. As everybody will be aware, this sum will make such a difference to families in need, as we were with Mum last year.

*On behalf of the family, Non Jones, daughter of Gwyn and Vera*

## Village Hall Events

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Craft group	10am–4pm
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	Craft fair	10am–3pm
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	Brownies Choir	5.30–7pm 7.30–9.30pm
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	Private booking – birthday party	10.30am– 1.30pm
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church	3.30–6pm
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Brownies Choir	5.30–7pm 7.30–9.30pm
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	Brownies Choir	5.30–7pm 7.30–9.30pm
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee morning – Blood Bikes	10–11.30am
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	Brownies Choir	5.30–7pm 7.30–9.30pm

**To book the Village Hall, contact Ivan Butler:**  
**ivanbutler897@btinternet.com or 07799 570549.**

### 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

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



# The Community Shop project

It is now 18 months since we all started on this journey to get the post office and shop purchased for the community, and what a journey it has been with some very positive highs when our grant applications came to fruition and the amazing support from everyone who purchased the Community Shop Shares. Yes, there were some lows too – delays in getting decisions similar to those that we have experienced over the last 9 weeks. Despite these, the eventual release of our final grant funds now paves the way for the exchange of contracts for the purchase to go forward to a planned completion for the purchase by the end of January.

The delays have created their own problems – firstly the fact that there is now limited time to give everyone advance warning that the post office will close in order that we can immediately start on the planned renovation work to meet our grant funders deadline date. I know that this temporary closure will be an inconvenience for those that use the post office.

We are grateful for those that have been helping us so far but the next steps as we renovate and most certainly when we get to open the doors will require the support of the community and the offers of assistance from volunteers who put their names forward along the journey so far. Now that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, we will arrange a meeting for you to have an opportunity to hear how you can help.

Our mission has always been to get the centre of the village buzzing again with the shop, post office and hub at the heart of the community.

We hope you will shortly be seeing trades arriving to start the work we have planned and if you feel this is an area you can assist us with you would be most welcome – just drop me a message.

Emyr Morris

# Cocoa Rooms Events

Monday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Craft, knitting and crochet group, 10am
		Trefoil Guild, 2pm
Tuesday,	6 <sup>th</sup>	Book club 10–11am
		WI, 7pm
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Llais Llandyrnog Voice committee meeting, 7pm
Monday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Craft, knitting and crochet group, 10am
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Merfyn Parry, training session
Monday	19 <sup>th</sup>	Craft, knitting and crochet group, 10am
Tuesday	20 <sup>h</sup>	Book club 10–11am
		Community Council, 7pm
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday Club, 2pm
Monday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Craft, knitting and crochet group, 10am

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

## COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 24 February

10:00 – 11:30

Llandyrnog Village Hall

CAKE AND PRODUCE  
STALL AND RAFFLE  
ANY CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO THE ABOVE  
GRATEFULLY  
RECEIVED



# Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

Both classes are learning about the rainforest this term. Dosbarth Iau has been making animals' masks during independent learning. The nursery class has been starting to learn about how deforestation affects the animals in the rainforest through small world play.



We have had two visitors to school since Christmas. Jack came and delivered a fun workshop to all the children about how to be inclusive of people with visual impairments.



Caro Collingwood, the red squirrel Ranger for Clocaenog Forest, spoke to all the children about how to know if red squirrels are in their area and comparing our local forests to the rainforests of Borneo.



**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**



# Leap Year 2024 – Trivia

Some interesting facts about that extra day that comes every 4 years:

**Leaping or a Leaper** – the name for a person born on February 29! If you're a *leaper*, then you're one of only 5 million people throughout the world out of a population of 8.1 billion, who were born on this day! Famous people born on leap day include composer Gioacchino Rossini, Julius Caesar, Leonardo da Vinci, David Copperfield, Vladimir Putin, Mark Zuckerberg, jazz musician Jimmy Dorsey, actors Dennis Farina and Antonio Sabato Jr., and rapper/actor Ja Rule, to name a few.

**Caesar and the Pope** Julius Caesar introduced the first leap year around 46 B.C., but his Julian calendar had only one rule – any year evenly divisible by four would be a leap year. That created too many leap years, but the maths wasn't tweaked until Pope Gregory XIII introduced his Gregorian calendar more than 1,500 years later that is still used in most parts of the world today.

**Popping the question** According to tradition, it's OK for a woman to propose to a man on February 29. The custom has been attributed to various historical figures including St. Brigid, who is said to have complained to St. Patrick that women had to wait too long for their suitor to pop the question. Patrick supposedly gave women one day to propose! Since February 29 wasn't recognized by law, the day had no legal status, therefore it was OK to break with convention and a woman could propose. In the *Flint Archives* there is an example of a proposal by a Caroline Hughes, Stottesdon (d. 1901) to a certain David Bowen, in the form of a poem, found hidden in a book of recipes and advice about the home.

*'As I am in want of a life situation  
I offer this as a recommendation  
I should make you a loving wife  
One to keep you on through life  
Keep your homestead free from dirt*

*Sew the buttons on your shirt  
Cook your dinners nice and tasty  
For no pretence grow cross or hasty  
With care and skill I'll spend your money  
And make your life as sweet as honey.'*

However, there is no record that the proposal was successful!!

**Refusing an offer of marriage** There are other traditions that put a price on saying 'no'. If a man doesn't accept a leap year proposal, it will cost him. He was expected to buy a pair of gloves (or 12 pairs in some countries!). It's possible that this tradition appeared so that women could wear the gloves to hide the shame that they had not received an engagement ring!

**Bad luck** One in five engaged couples in Greece avoid tying the knot in a leap year. Why? Because they believe it's bad luck. In Italy, where they say '*anno bisesto, anno funesto*' (leap year, doom year) people warn against planning special activities such as weddings. The reason? '*Anno bisesto, tutte le donne sono strano*' which means, '*In a leap year, women are erratic*'!!

**Leap Year Capital** The twin cities of Anthony, Texas, and Anthony, New Mexico, are the self-proclaimed Leap Year Capitals of the World. They hold a four-day leap year festival that includes a huge birthday party for all leap year babies.

**Leap year club** The Honour Society of Leap Year Day Babies is a club for people born on February 29, to advocate to every business that doesn't accept February 29 as a valid birth date. Are you a member of the Society?

**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

# The Doddie Weir Challenge 2024

I'm sure those of you who follow rugby will have known and respected the great Doddie Weir who sadly died in November 2022 aged just 52 after living with the terrible condition that is Motor Neurone Disease. Doddie's captain and team-mate Rob Wainwright set up the 'My name is Doddie' Foundation which has so far raised more than 4 million pounds for vital research.

In the time prior to Doddie's death, he raised awareness of MND and appeared in his tartan on many public platforms, often along with his great rugby friend Rob Burrows – another hard man of the game who sadly has the same disease. You may have seen all the amazing fundraising Rob's pal, Kevin Sinfield, has done for MND by running repeated marathons, carrying Rob over the finishing line



and onto the rugby field. Inspired by all these people and other MND sufferers, thousands of people, a lot being rugby-lovers, take part in Doddie Aid – a 5-week challenge competition between Scottish regions and

Wales to cover the greatest number of miles.

Myself and a group of friends walked and cycled over two thousand miles in and around the vale last January 2022 raising over £500 and we are off again this year with 283 miles logged so far. It's a great way to kickstart January and to contribute to a great cause – every participant buys a neck buff for £20 from the Foundation and then gets sponsors too.

If you see us out and about give us a wave or check in and sponsor our team,



'Penycloddiau', and help us beat the Scots!!! To donate, contact Jane Borthwick or Geraint Bellingham via messenger.

If you fancy getting fit check out the challenge yourselves next January or other fundraisers @#doddieaid.

Jane Borthwick



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

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





07873 751919  
www.extremecleanz.co.uk

**CONTACT US**



# Recipe

## Classic Welsh Rarebit with a twist

Here's your traditional Welsh Rarebit made from the best vintage Welsh Cheddar, mustard and a splash of beer (if you prefer) with a twist.

You could add bacon or ham as an extra topping if you prefer OR you could experience a more traditional Welsh '*melt in the mouth*' moment with laverbread. Yes, laverbread! – one of many Welsh foods with the PDO status (*Protected Designated Origin*), which is also known as the 'Welsh Caviar'. It even has its own '*Laverbread Day*' on April 14.



It is, of course an edible seaweed full of minerals (e.g. iodine, iron), found mainly in south west Wales – that could explain why it's more popular in that area! The seaweed itself is washed many times before it is boiled into a green pulp – nothing like bread! Fresh laverbread can be frozen, and you can even order it online! Enjoy!

### Ingredients

225g mature Welsh cheddar  
25g butter, melted  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce (or vegetarian equivalent)  
1 tablespoon mustard  
1 tablespoon plain flour  
freshly ground black pepper  
4 tablespoons Welsh beer  
1 tablespoon laverbread  
4 thick slices of bread

### Method (serves 4)

1. Grate the cheese and put it in a saucepan along with the butter, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, flour and pepper. Mix well and put over a gentle heat. Gradually add the beer to moisten but do not make the mixture too wet. Stir until melted and when it has reached a thick paste, remove from the heat and leave to cool a little.
  2. Meanwhile toast the bread on one side only then spread the laverbread over the untoasted side before spreading the cheese mixture. Grill gently until the topping is cooked through and well browned.
- The mixture can be made and kept in the refrigerator for several days if required.

Ann Jones Evans



## Volunteering opportunity

How would you like to volunteer to help preserve your area's local history? North East Wales Archives (NEWA) are currently looking for volunteers to join their volunteer group in Ruthin. On selected Tuesdays (2 sessions per month), the volunteer group meets for up to three hours between 9.30am and 12.30pm at the Archives in Ruthin.

The current project involves working through uncatalogued council files which cover many aspects of the council's responsibility during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

For more information please visit the North East Wales Archives website.





# The Wright life



2024 is a leap year so we get an extra day in February on the 29<sup>th</sup>. This extra day is added nearly every four years to the calendar giving us 366 days in 2024, this keeps our calendars aligned correctly with the astronomical seasons.

The Gregorian calendar, like the Julian, is a solar calendar with 12 months of 28–31 days each. The year has 365 days according to Earth's orbit around the Sun which is approximately 365.242190 days. Without this extra day we would gradually get out of sync. An interesting fact is that without a leap day our calendar would be off by 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds more each year. After 100 years the seasons would be off by 25 days and after 700 years our summers would begin to occur in December!

Why is it called "leap year?" Well, a common year is 52 weeks and 1 day long. That means that if your birthday occurs on a Monday, the next year it should occur on a Tuesday. However, the addition of an extra day during a leap year means that your birthday now "leaps" over a day. Instead of your birthday occurring on a Tuesday, during a leap year your birthday "leaps" over Tuesday and will now occur on a Wednesday. So how to make full use of this extra day as by the end of the month the outdoors is coming to life and nature is waking up after the long dark winter.

The work to 'reclaim' my old bakehouse from the overgrown garden has been completed. As you can see from the 'before' and 'after' photos, it's been a radical change and has certainly opened up this part of the garden and brought much needed extra light into the house. Natural sunlight makes a home feel healthier, the lighter and brighter your indoor space is the more comfortable it is. We all need natural light during the darker months as it helps our bodies produce



*Before (above) and after (below)*





# The Wright life

Vitamin D and improves our Circadian rhythms and sleep patterns.

I had also noticed that a lot of moss was growing on the pathways on this side of the house despite it being south-facing. Every year I had to scrape the paths as they would end up quite slippery, but I am hoping that removing all the overgrown planting will help the light and reduce the moss growth. Moss generally prefers low light conditions with indirect or dapple shade. Removing the old cordon cherry tree and cutting the beast of a Viburnum back will allow as much sunlight as possible to shine on the concrete pathways. The clematis had also suffered from being overshadowed by the more dominant Viburnum, so I have cut it back to below ground level in the hope that it will send up new shoots.

The only plant which has flourished is the Winter Jasmine, a joyous winter plant which produces bright yellow flowers early in the year. It had grown right up the trellis and stuck its head above everyone else towering over the Viburnum and needed tying in. I will, however, miss the collared doves which had constructed quite a large nest at the top of the Viburnum from sticks and sheep wool, but I won't miss their poo on the pathway underneath. How will I be making good use of the 29<sup>th</sup> of February? With a gigantic bonfire.

## Hazel

### Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee

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

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

## Dyffryn Chapel

**Y Gymdeithas** On Monday 8 January a Prayer Meeting full of blessing was held in the vestry.

On Monday 22 January, Elen Lloyd, Ruthin gave a very interesting and educational illustrated talk on healthy living. She discussed the 4 'Doctors' that are essential for good health: *Dr Diet, Dr Movement, Dr Quiet and Dr Happiness*. She was introduced by Gwenno and Gwenan gave a vote of thanks.



*Mati, Leusa, Elen Lloyd, Gwenno, Medi and Gwenan*

### Services

04/02	5.00	Rev. Anna Jane Evans
11/02	9.45	Rev. Andras Iago – Communion
18/02	10.00	Circuit Service – Y Fron
25/02	9.45	Children's service with Debbie Roberts

**Thanks to all who supported the coffee mornings in January and donated so generously.**

**£637 was raised for Dyffryn Chapel and £560 raised for**



# Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society

Over 80 members and friends of Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society were delighted to welcome Fiona Gale MBE to their January meeting in the Village Hall. Fiona was Archaeologist within Denbighshire Countryside Service from 1996 until 2018, during which time she was involved in projects at the Clwydian Range, including Penycloddiau and Moel Arthur.

Since retirement, she has become involved in many projects including the Ruthin Civic Association's project to refurbish the old railway crane, which is in the grounds of the Craft Centre. This has led to a much bigger project about the history of the Vale of Clwyd Railway and Ruthin Station in particular, as well as people's memories of travelling on the train.

Fiona gave a brief overview of the development of railways in the UK.

The first passenger railway to come to North Wales was the North Wales Coastline. Construction began on 1 March 1845 with George Stephenson's son, Robert, as chief engineer.

The LNWR, which subsequently owned the Chester and Holyhead Railway, also owned the London Euston to Carlisle line, set out to promote traffic on the coastline by encouraging tourist traffic to the seaside resorts of Rhyl, Colwyn Bay, and Llandudno.

Other lines developed in the area with the line between Ruabon and Dolgellau/Barmouth via Llangollen begun in various stages.

The Vale of Llangollen Railway was built as a spur from the Shrewsbury and Chester railway south of Ruabon to the town Llangollen.

Then the Llangollen and Corwen Railway was formed to continue the line along the Dee Valley to Corwen. This was opened on 1 May 1865 and was worked by the Great Western. It was then a natural progression to link this line to the coast line, and the first section was built in the north to link Rhyl to Denbigh. This opened to passenger traffic in



*Fiona Gale with Julia Hughes, Society Chair*

1858, with the permanent station opening at Denbigh in December 1860.

The original route proposed for the railway line in Ruthin was to the west of the Castle, through what is now Cae Ddôl park and close to the Park Place public house -this had been built speculatively, to serve the Railway. However, the Cornwallis Wests, living in the Castle, objected and it was built to the east of the centre of the town instead

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 1860 Miss Florence West of Ruthin Castle cut the first sod of the line. By early 1862 the line had been constructed from Denbigh to Ruthin with stations at Llanrhaeadr and Rhewl. The part to Gwyddelwern was finished by March 1863, while the final section to Corwen was completed by October 1863.

The Ruthin station, which was situated where the roundabout by the Craft Centre is today, had a main platform and second platform – it was only used if two trains were in the station at the same time. There was a large goods yard at the station as there was a lot of produce coming in and out, coal, timber,



# Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society: ctd

and agricultural supplies.

Railway Terrace, which still stands today, was designed by the bard and architect Talhaiarn (John Jones) and ran alongside the railway line in 1864. There is a date on the terrace between numbers 7 and 8. The train went underneath the road at the bottom of Well Street.

Trains served Ruthin Station for nearly 100 years. Regular passenger services south to Corwen stopped in 1953, and the last passenger train through Ruthin went on April 1962. The last station master, William Glynne Hughes, retired when the line closed. Formal closure was in 1965, and the line was lifted very soon after.

When the railway was closed, the crane that was used in the goods yard was 'dug out' and left abandoned in the old station yard until it was re-erected when the Ruthin Craft Centre was opened in the mid-1980s. Funding received from the National Heritage Lottery Fund has now enabled it to be serviced and refurbished. Also, working with *The Book of You*, it is intended to collect stories and memories of people who knew or were part of the Vale of Clwyd Railway.

All are welcome to society meetings with members paying only £8 for the yearly programme of 4 meetings and visitors £3 per meeting. Light refreshments are served for all at the end of every meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 19 March at 7pm when the speaker will be Dr Rachel Pope, Reader in European Prehistory Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology, University of Liverpool who will talk about Penycloddiau carbon dating.

Members of the Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society were sorry to hear that the Society Finance officer Earle Wright and his wife Elaine (deputy Finance Officer) have left Llandyrnog for pastures new in the Mold area



At the Society meeting in January, Chair Julia Hughes, took the opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and support for the Society and to give them a card on behalf of members wishing them all the best for the future. They will continue in their roles until the Society AGM later in the year when a new Finance Officer will hopefully be nominated and selected.

For additional details or queries or to join the society, or volunteer to be part of the projects, please e-mail Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol Llandyrnog & Llangwyfan Local History Society on [llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com](mailto:llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com).



A knitting/craft club has started at the Cocoa Rooms on Mondays at 10am. **Non-crafters are welcome.** If there is enough interest,

the meetings will continue indefinitely. Please contact Carolyn 01824 790122 for further information or to express an interest.

## Post Office Opening Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
9am–12pm, 2pm–5pm

Wednesday & Saturday 9am–12.30pm  
01824 790310

# Spotlight on ... Carolyn Langford Jones

## **What are your early recollections?**

My father was a master painter, decorator and sign writer, a fact of which he was very proud and had served a seven-year apprenticeship. My mother had worked at the dentist's on Upper Clwyd Street Ruthin.

I was born at Ruthin Hospital, my parents lived in rooms at Felin in Bontuchel. Not long after, they moved to Llanrhaeadr where I was christened at Llanrhaeadr church. When I was twelve months old they moved to Ruthin where I spent the next 35 years of my life.

One of my first memories is when I was 3 years old and the late Queen's coronation. Every estate had its own 'Queen' and float with attendants. I had been picked to be an attendant but I'd contracted measles with the complications of pneumonia and was still recovering, so I was unable to take part. When the procession passed our house my father wrapped me in a blanket and took me out to watch for a brief time.

## ***What about school, further education and first job?***

I attended Borthyn School and passed the 11-plus to go to Brynhyfryd. Then to Wrexham Tech as it was then, to learn shorthand and typing.

My first job was at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at Ruthin. During this time there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. I was sent to the Royal Hotel at Llangollen to be the shorthand typist for the vets based there, many of whom had travelled to this country to study how we dealt with foot and mouth disease. My mother was not all pleased because she came from a farming family and none of them visited us for months, as you can appreciate. The clerk who accompanied me was also my chaperone because I was 17 years old and considered to be too young to travel alone. My, how the times change.

Part of the measures taken was the culling of birds because they were considered to spread



the disease. My chaperone and I made enough money for a new wardrobe of clothes, plucking and preparing pheasants for 5 bob a brace in the bathroom between our duties, answering the telephones and sending telexes to Pirbright. Every morning when we entered the function room that served as our office, we would be met with yards and yards of telexes informing us of the latest outbreaks. It was heart-rending and seemingly never-ending. On a couple of occasions I had to go to Cheshire to take files and I've never forgotten the sight and smell of carcasses burning in the fields. It was like Dante's Inferno.

## ***And then?***

I married and had three children, a marriage which subsequently ended in divorce.

Gwyn and I moved to Llandyrnog in 1986 and I continued to work at Ruthin. When Gwyn became disabled and I had to leave my job and care for him, that was when I really settled in the village and joined in village life. I worked at the village shop and got to know people. I was Clerk to the Community Council for a while – it was interesting but my maths are abysmal and I used to have meltdowns with the auditing every year. Later I became a Community Councillor, far less wear and tear on the



## Spotlight: ctd

nerves. Gwyn and I were part of the fundraising team to rebuild the Pavilion at Cae Nant, of course the village donated money magnificently as usual and a lot of fun was had in the process.

At the Millennium, Ruth Griffiths and I set ourselves the task of raising £2,000 towards new play equipment for Cae Nant playground. We raised the money in six months with coffee mornings and donations.

I've been a member of the various clubs and societies in the village.

I've been fortunate to have been born and spent my life in the Vale of Clwyd. When I open my curtains in the morning and see the beautiful hills, I realise how lucky I am.

### ***What makes you angry/happy?***

The thing that makes me angry is that governments can always find money to make war but say they can't afford to give money to the homeless, the starving and the sick.

## Tuesday Club

Anwen, the organiser, started the January meeting by wishing the members a happy new year. It was then her sad task to commemorate Gwynfor Jones, the newest member of the club, who died so unexpectedly in December. Regards were also sent to Menna Davies, who was unwell.

The members were then told the history of the establishment of the club and its early days. Anwen had been reading the club's records, which have been kept in order since the very beginning. The club was established in 1976, with the support of the Clwyd Voluntary Services Council. It was a very active club during the early years, raising money for many charities.

Light refreshments were served following the short presentation, the raffle drawn, and the members reminded that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, 21 February.

**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)**

## Palm Sunday hymn-singing festival

**24 March at 5 pm**

**Capel y Dyffryn,  
Llandyrnog**

LL16 4HL



**Conductor: Trystan Lewis**

**Organist: Rhys Roberts**

**Retiring collection towards chapel buildings**

For further details,  
contact Bryn Davies: 07585 170592

# A message from our priest

It's a privilege to write my first contribution for *Llais Llandyrnog Voice*, 2024. Looking at the year ahead as we journey deeper into it, I noticed in the media that drivers are going to be facing stricter testing when it comes to wearing glasses. We also have many modern technology advancements using glasses such as ones in China where police can see criminal record data on their glasses about people as they look at them in a crowd.

I remember a planned conference in 2014 in India, being called **Vision 2020** where a lot of effort and professional material had been put in with the play on this well-known phrase i.e. the average and acceptable vision to be able to read the chart from 20 feet away in an eye test. Coming in to 2020 when we did, the events that unfolded shocked practically everyone of us, being at the least surreal and more often than not resulting in some kind of tragedy or loss in our networks of family and friends. I was struck by the irony of the title of the conference in 2020 as it got closer and was also by this stage and even more so now, wiser and closer in tune to the reality of the people in our churches versus the big provincial plans and the aims to take us in to the future.

In life then our plans are important but our ability to see into the future is most of the time extremely difficult or impossible. A devoted Christian lady once recommended a book called *Kika and Me: How one extraordinary guide dog changed my world* by Dr Amit Patel. He had been working as a trauma doctor when a rare condition caused him to lose his sight in just 36 hours. I had a big accident at the turn of the Millenia and whilst I lay in hospital feeling sorry for myself, I remember seeing a programme about somebody blind, which made me so grateful for my sight.

There are many of us with some kind of sight problems. Jesus healed at least 10 blind people in places such as Siloam, Jericho and

Bethsaida fulfilling scripture such as Isaiah 35: 4-5. When we come across Jesus healing the blind in the Bible, we are drawn to the metaphor of seeing better and clearer through the eyes of faith in Jesus. So as we look ahead with so much of 2024 left, what can we see in our future? The truth is we cannot fully know but we can hope, plan and strive to transform the individuals and communities where we live. The community shop at the Post Office in the village seems to be becoming a reality and this is bringing joy to many. Jesus at the heart of the community has the power and love to bring about such a healthy flourishing, if we just open our eyes to the invitation and recognise Jesus' call.

*Rev. Martin Pritchard  
Denbigh Mission Area*

## Mothers' Union

In January the members of Mothers' Union enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Drovers' Arms in Rhewl.

We will start our 2024 programme in February and anyone is welcome to join us at our meetings at 2pm on the second Wednesday of the month in the Cocoa Rooms in Llandyrnog.

### February services at St Tyrnog's

- |                  |         |                                  |
|------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 11.15am | Holy Communion                   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | 11.15am | Holy Communion                   |
|                  | 3.30pm  | Messy Church at the Village Hall |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | 11.15am | Morning Prayer                   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | 11.15am | Holy Communion                   |

### 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



# Holidays in the Philippines

Hilary and I eventually decided, after some consideration for our holiday destinations, to visit the Philippines. It was a last-minute decision as we had originally planned to revisit Vietnam, specifically the North, which we didn't get to visit on our trip in 2019. Upon our flight from Manchester to Manila, with a layover in Abu Dhabi, we booked accommodation in Manila. Although we had an idea of places to visit, our plans remained fairly flexible, as we've learned from past travels that recommendations from fellow travellers often lead to enjoyable detours.

The Philippines, consisting of 7,641 islands (of which 2,000 are uninhabited), presented choices to make about which ones to visit, how to travel between them, and where it was safe to go, given some unrest and terrorist activity, particularly in the Mindanao area, which we avoided. However, everyone we encountered on our journey was incredibly welcoming and helpful.

Our itinerary included visits to seven islands, each involving various modes of transportation, including internal flights, ferries, tuk-tuks, and motorcycles and sidecars.

Our first stop was Boracay, a bustling island with stunning beaches and a relaxing resort, where we spent five nights. From there, with the help of our trusty travel assistant, Mr. Google, we made our way to Bohol, with a stopover in Cebu.

Bohol, a small island known for its unique geological formations like the Chocolate Hills and the tarsier, one of the world's smallest primates, was our next two-night stay before taking a ferry to Siquijor, another small island. Initially planning to stay for two nights, we extended our visit to five. On one memorable day, both Hilary and I hired motorbikes to explore the Cambugahay Falls, where we indulged in rope swings and snorkelling.

Our travel adventures continued as we took a ferry to Cebu (about four hours) and then a car to Moalboal. However, the accommodation

we originally booked in Moalboal turned out to be less than ideal, so we found a more suitable option to stay. Moalboal turned out to be one of the best places we visited, offering great snorkelling, including the breath-taking sardine run, as well as encounters with turtles. We also took the time to celebrate my 65th birthday, complete with a special dinner and even chanced upon a 2-for-1 cocktail bar.



Subsequently, we travelled to Oslob, also on Cebu, to snorkel with whale sharks. This was an unbelievable experience where these amazing creatures swam up to us, defying the suggested distance. Learning that whale sharks only eat plankton put us both at ease. Our stay at the Mark Venelli Hotel was excellent, providing us with an opportunity to visit Tumalog Waterfalls and experience the local town where there was a netball championship and funfair.

From there, we took a ferry to Dumaguete on Negros Island, where we relaxed before heading to Manila to catch our homeward flight. We stopped in Abu Dhabi for four nights to see Jacob, Georgia, Spencer and George before our flight back to Manchester.

It's hard to sum up the amazing experiences we had during our trip, but we're already planning another month-long getaway for next November.

*Merfyn Parry*

# Llandyrnog Community Council

Nine members out of ten were present at the December meeting and some of the matters discussed were as follows:

- ◆ Both the PCSO and his Sargeant attended the meeting and reported that there had only been four reported incidents in the village since the last report in December, three being domestic incidents and one a road traffic accident.
- ◆ There were concerns about off-road motorbikes going literally off-road and creating havoc – PCSO advised that the only means of reporting issues of this sort was to use 101 or live chat on line, or if it was deemed an emergency, 999. North Wales Police would welcome any intelligence such as registration numbers so that the matter could be followed up when and if resources permitted.
- ◆ The Audit has been completed with no recommendations and the notice of completion has been displayed and is also on-line.
- ◆ A planning application to change the use of some of the buildings at the creamery to manufacture paint pigment has been received. Members were supportive of the application with a proviso that conditions are imposed to address the concerns of near neighbours – emissions, noise, hours of working, large vehicle movement and an approved lighting scheme.
- ◆ Confirmation was received from Denbighshire County Council that the access road from the Llangwyfan road to Maes Llan car park is not owned by DCC, is not an adopted highway and therefore will not be maintained at public expense. Neither would footpath 62 along the same stretch of track be maintained at public expense.
- ◆ Although there has been an appeal for assistance to update the website via *Llais*

*Llandyrnog*, no volunteers have offered their services.

- ◆ While discussing the financial report, Cllr Parry reminded members that DCC faces a £20m deficit 2024/25 and possibly £34m 2025/26. It was therefore important that the community council had a plan how to spend their reserves as a precautionary measure – it was felt that collectively community councils have substantial reserves.
- ◆ Dark Skies – light pollution – it was felt that one property in the Llangwyfan area is not complying with the condition of planning regarding the approved lighting scheme. Intermittently the property is over-lit, can be seen from miles away and is inappropriate for a property within the AONB.

## **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**