

# Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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

January 2023 – Volume 8 – Issue 4

## Engaging with the local community



Thanks to Ysgol Bryn Clwyd for inviting the villagers to their Christmas lunch. This annual event certainly helps towards the aim of helping the pupils to contribute fully and effectively to the community in which they live. Best wishes to all at the school for 2023.

### Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all our readers, and thanks to all who have contributed to the pages over the past year.

We are indebted to the small band of people who ensure that we go to press on time each month. Please help to keep us in touch with the lives of one and other so that we can fill the Llais with fun and interesting articles.

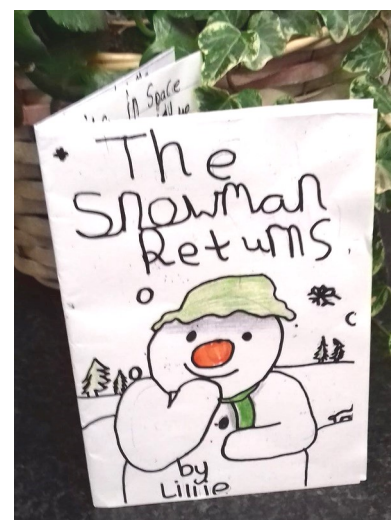
May we all have much to celebrate in 2023.

*Ruth Griffith,  
Chair,*

*Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee*

The juniors of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd wrote sequels to the story *The Snowman* and turned them into illustrated books. They wrapped them as Christmas presents and

delivered them to randomly chosen homes in the village. The positive response from the community was overwhelming, with lots of lovely messages on Facebook, phone calls, and thank you visit from Mrs Duffy. A wonderful way to start Christmas!



## Around the village



### Congratulations...

to Chris Williams (centre) and friends on completing the Valencia marathon, raising money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. The total raised so far has reached over £4000;

to John and Kelly Morris, Pen Isa'r Waen Cottage, on the birth of Edward John. Also to proud grandparents, Emyr and Anwen Morris, and uncle, Eurwyn Davies; the committee of the Llandyrnog Community Shop and Post Office project in securing £200K of funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

**Welcome** to Richard and Llinos Longstaff and family to Ffin Gaer, and to Charlotte Matthews to the Stabal, Llangwyfan. We wish Dafydd and Jackie and family well in their new home, Erw Frân, and to Carol Bellis, formerly of Erw Frân, in her new home in Gellifor.

**Best wishes** to Penelope Todwick, daughter of Barbie Major, Llawog Isa, following her accident; and to Alun Jones, Llys Aled, following his hospital treatment.

**Condolences** to Adrian Evans and family, Nant y Mynydd on the loss of Adrian's father, who lived in Llanrug;

to Catherine and Edwin Howarth, Forrest Cottage, on the loss of Catherine's mother, who lived in Manchester;  
to Jon and Mandy Morgan, Parc Tyn Llan, on the loss of John's mother, who lived in Anglesey.

Cllr Merfyn Parry challenged the primary children of Llandyrnog to design a 'dog poo' poster. The winner was Scarlet Tynan and her poster will be laminated and put up at targeted locations around the parish.



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[enquiries@bluehandmowers.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bluehandmowers.co.uk)

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# Cocoa Rooms Events

3 <sup>rd</sup>	7pm	Llais Llandyrnog Voice committee meeting
10 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Book Club
18 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Tuesday Club
23 <sup>rd</sup>	tbc.	Quilting craft
24 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Book Club

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

# Village Hall Events

17 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Brownies
17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Choir
24 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Brownies
24 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Choir
28 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Coffee morning: proceeds to St Tyrnog's
31 <sup>st</sup>	5.30pm	Brownies
31 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Choir

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

## January services at St Tyrnog's

1 <sup>st</sup>	11.15am	Holy Comunion
8 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	Morning Prayer
15 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	Morning Prayer
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.15am	Holy Comunion
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mission Area Service, Trefnant



Just in case you live in the village and have been wondering what’s going on at the village hall on a Monday evening, here’s your answer:

Côr Nantclwyd is a brand new choir, taking in members from the Ruthin and Denbigh area. It was established in September by some friends who wish to get together to enjoy themselves, socialise and sing. It’s a SATB choir for members aged over 30, and we look forward to the choir developing and flourishing.

The choir started rehearsing at Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch, Llanrhaeadr, but it soon had to look for a bigger location – due to its popularity, the membership rose to over 140.

We were very fortunate in being able to hire the village hall in Llandyrnog for rehearsals every Monday, and we are therefore very grateful to the residents of Llandyrnog for their support.

Anyone over 30 is welcome to join the choir.

Angharad Rees  
Secretary



They certainly look as if they’re enjoying themselves!

# Reflections on the ups and downs of Llandyrnog Utd.

Hi folks, it's that time of year again where if you are at all interested, you get to read my thoughts on our club, and how things are going as we head into a new year.

This season has certainly had its ups and downs so far, and whilst I think we've improved in some aspects, we've let ourselves down in others, but hey, that's football for you.

We started the season poorly, crashing out of the cup competitions with merely a whimper. But we did manage some fantastic form in the league, which as always has to be your bread and butter. I have to admit, I love a cup run, so it always hurts to go out early doors.

This season, we brought back Roger Jones as an addition to the coaching staff. I have worked with Roger in the past, and have always loved his enthusiasm and his application to the coaching role. The boys have taken to him as well, which for me is the most important thing.

We also brought in some new faces, and a couple of familiar faces returned to Cae Nant. I think on the whole, we've gelled very well, we're a solid bunch.

Last season, I struggled to get consistency through the team, constantly having to change the starting 11 each week. This causes no end of problems on the park, but I feel that we've improved in that area this season. I won't lie, further improvement is needed, but we're heading in the right direction.

Our league campaign has been a very mixed bag this season, where unfortunately our discipline let us down. This then cost us valuable points along the way.

On the park, our work rate in most games has been great – very few complaints from me (shocking, I know!) as it's been so much better than last season. That's what we need, we need to build and better ourselves each week.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank my players for their efforts so far this season, and I hope they thoroughly enjoy the festivities. They're a top bunch of lads, in all fairness, and I hope they can help me bring the club some success in the new year.

I'd also like to thank my coaching team:

Tudur Morris, who deserves a medal for putting up with me and my frustrations;

Roger Jones who has been an integral part of the training sessions and match day routines;

Jack Crompton, who has been a huge help when available and always at the end of the phone when needed;

Sion Morris, who came in as my GK coach, then played a vital part in a league win for us; to Ethan Plumb for being there for me in every aspect of my football week.

Huge thanks also to the committee – our chairman Clive Jones, his number 2, Mark Langford Jones, our world-class secretary, Chris Pengelly and his wife, our treasurer Jo.

To Rachel Langford Jones and her helpers who keep our canteen stocked and our supporters fed;

to Selina Humphreys who washes our kit (I promise our next kit won't have white shorts);

to Mike McCool for his fantastic graphics throughout the season, he does an amazing job for us.

Each game, home or away, we have a fantastic band of loyal supporters. Thanks to them for their immense, unwavering support.

Thanks to Mark and Sam in the Golden Lion for our after-match refreshments and warm welcome.

And finally, a huge thanks to all of our sponsors – your support means we have a club to represent. Thank you all.

I'd like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year. From everyone at Dyrny, blwyddyn newydd dda.

*Jimmy McNally*



## Tuesday Club

The members enjoyed their annual Christmas lunch at the Cherry Pie, Melin y Wern, again this year. We had a good time in each other's company, and David Snowdon-Jones, father of the proprietor and former owner of the Kinmel Arms, came to pay us a visit and looked very well.

Simon Jones and his staff were wonderful hosts, as usual, and the clean plates were testimony to the good food.



The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 18 January at the Cocoa Rooms – new members welcome. Come and join us!

### 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

## Dating the Spider Tree



*Photo: J. Hulson*

The 'spider tree', a rowan on Penycloddiau, has become very well known after winning the 'great trees of Offa's Dyke' competition in 2021.

Jonathan Hulson, is a North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT) manager who oversees the Alun and Chwiler Living Landscape project. He invited Dr M.C. Bridge from the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory to take cores from the tree in an attempt to date it.

It takes time for a tree to grow from a sapling to a good height, so to date a tree, one needs to take any ring samples from as close to the ground as possible, as it may take many years to grow to a comfortable sampling height.

Since the trunk of the tree is hollow, the two largest branches of the spider rowan tree on Penycloddiau were sampled near their bases (i.e. close to the trunk). The samples were mounted and polished to reveal their ring sequences. The ring boundaries were mostly distinguishable under a binocular microscope. One branch yielded 64 rings, the other 67.

If it is assumed the rings are annual, this suggests the branches were formed around 65–70 years ago on an already established trunk, which was much bigger when the tree was healthy. This would suggest that the tree is likely to be at least 100 years old and may well be older. It could in fact be the tree marked on an OS map of 1870.

# Interesting facts about electric cars

As things stand at the moment, with a commitment by the present government to phase out petrol and diesel cars by 2030, I guess we will all have to consider the alternative that is on offer – electric vehicles.

Incidentally, when you have reached a certain age like I have, 2030 is sort of next weekend. So I guess I had better get a wiggle on and get my head around it – is it for me?

Considering we are running on very near blackouts as it is, no-one has seemed to work out where all the additional electric will come from. Demand is likely to exceed supply unless drastic action is taken to ramp up electricity production, but I dare not use the N word.

And of course, Messrs Redrow, Taylor and Wimpey cannot connect their housing estates to gas any more – all electric heating.

Anyway, back to where I started from – how ‘green’ is an electric car?

I read a very interesting article recently which shows how much trace minerals are in an electric car, compared with the fossil-fuelled alternative:

- ◇ Copper: an electric car will have 53kg copper, while a petrol/diesel car will have just 22kg
- ◇ Cobalt: 13.3kg – petrol/diesel none
- ◇ Lithium: 9kg – petrol/diesel none
- ◇ Nickel: 39.9kg – petrol/ diesel none
- ◇ Manganese: 24.5kg, petrol/ diesel 11.2KG
- ◇ Graphite: 66.3kg – petrol/ diesel none

All of the above are mined and are a finite resource. The scenes of women and children digging with very basic tools for lithium in Indian mines are harrowing. Did you know the price of lithium has tripled in the last twelve months, making it very lucrative and worth taking the risk? – or asking others to take the risk, of course, but at what cost?

The two largest owners of lithium mines are Albemarle and the Chinese giant Tianqi. However they are both in a race to snap up the smaller mines around the world to mechanise them and make them more

efficient.

Meanwhile back in Britain, Britishvolt, is on a financial life-support machine. This is a company set up in 2019 hoping to open a state of the art battery-making factory in Blyth, Northumberland at a cost of £3.8 billion. The life-support is about to be switched off, since the company has been unable to pay its 2000 members of staff last month – staff employed to do essentially nothing for three years.

The good news, though, is that Green Lithium has selected Teesport, one of the UK’s largest ports, for its £600m lithium refinery plant – recycling batteries which should have been made by Britishvolt but now won’t be.

Little wonder that BMW, after this uncertainty or farce, really, has decided to relocate the production of its E Mini from Britain to the Jiangsu province of China next year where they will have a guaranteed supply of batteries.

I will finish with an interesting fact about the fastest electric vehicle available at the moment at a cost of £2,000,000 – the Rimac Nevara, built in Croatia. It’s obviously aimed at the billionaire market, but remember that there are 3300 billionaires in the world and 177 in Britain. They have only made 125 of these cars, so they are very much in demand by the Russian oligarchy and billionaire oil sheikhs – just to say they’ve got one, because I don’t think they would be much cop on the road, really!



It can accelerate 0–60 in 1.85 seconds has a top speed of 258mph, but for safety reasons



# Electric cars: ctd

has been limited to 250mph. Try and work that one out. And wait for it, it has 1914bhp.

What does that mean? Well, consider your average car will be circa 120bhp and your Ferraris and Lamborghinis – termed ‘supercars’ – are anywhere between 225bhp and 350bhp. Compare those with the Nevera which has 1914bhp! The power is distributed equally between the four wheels. That’s a massive 159 bhp to each wheel.

It was tested recently on Top Gear and the acceleration was such that the driver and Top Gear presenter Chris Harris, who is a professional driver, admitted he had been unwell for a few days after his test drive. He was advised by medics that this was probably due to the fact that his kidneys had been temporarily repositioned – his words, not mine.

Interesting fact: last month, the sales of electric cars dropped dramatically due to a number of factors – price of electric, range anxiety, life of batteries and cost of replacement, lack of fast charging points.

But hey, I own an electric bike and it’s sort of marvellous. My friend had the loan of an electric car while his car was being serviced and the seats swallowed him and his wife squealed, so who knows – I might change my mind!

Bryn Davies



*Especially for Bryn – an electric tractor. Unfortunately only available in America!*

# Capel y Dyffryn



The children of the Sunday School held their annual Christmas service (above), and the following evening Father Christmas came along to their party to thank them for taking part.



## Services in January

- 1 January 10.00 Circuit Service On-line
- 8 January 10.00 Circuit Service – Llanrhaeadr
- 15 January 9.45 Prayer Meeting
- 29 January 11.00 Rev Andras Iago

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*The ‘selfie bench’ looking very festive – any photos taken on it? Thanks to Gerry and Karen for the decorations and to Bryn for the lights.*



# The Vale of Clwyd Tractor Run

The organisers of the recent tractor run wish to thank the circa seventy brave ladies and gents who turned up in appalling weather and hopefully enjoyed the Vale. It was not at its best! A massive thanks to Llysfas for allowing the brave tractor and Land Rover drivers to thaw out half time; to Alex and Pete for slaving over a hot stove flipping and flogging a hundred burgers; to Iona and her team dishing out teas and coffees; and to Morrisons, ABP Meats, and Henllan Bread for donations and sponsoring the food.

£1755 has by now been split equally between The DPJ Foundation and Epilepsy Wales.

The DPJ Foundation was set up in July 2016 following the death of Daniel Picton-Jones. Its aim is to support those in the agricultural sector suffering from poor mental health. Daniel's mental health problems went undiagnosed and unseen by many. His widow Emma decided to set up the foundation to support the mental health of those in the farming sector, for those who feel just as Daniel did, providing them with the support that he didn't know how to get. For further information, visit [www.thedpjfoundation.co.uk](http://www.thedpjfoundation.co.uk).

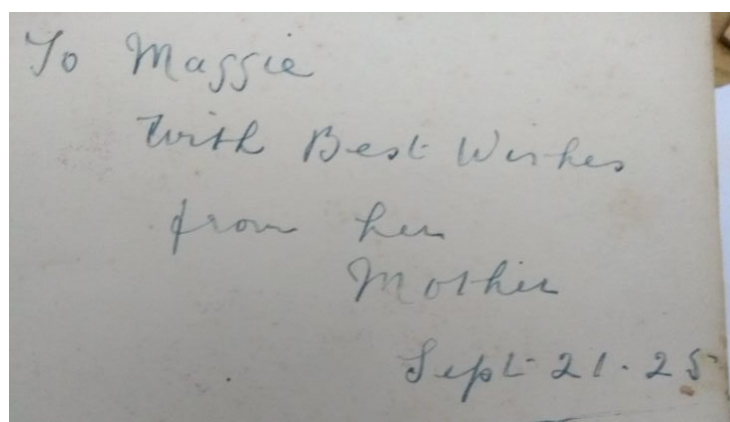
Also visit [epilepsy.wales](http://epilepsy.wales) for further information about this charity.



*Gaynor and John Barnett, Maes Clwyd, were very much in the festive spirit with their decorated tractor!*

# Recipe

This month's recipe comes from the 'new edition' of Mrs Beeton's Family Cookery. This was given to my grandmother as a wedding gift in 1925.



One of the features of the new edition was '“The art of using-up”: the cry and the need for economy is greater today than ever. A number of recipes for the utilization of odds and ends have, therefore, been included.'

## Hashed pork

### Ingredients:

1 lb cold cooked pork  
2½ oz butter  
2 tbsp Worcester sauce  
2 tbsp ketchup  
1 tsp English mustard  
½ teaspoonful of lemon juice  
Cayenne, salt and pepper

### Method:

Cut the meat into small slices and sprinkle them with salt and a little cayenne.  
Put the butter, Worcester Sauce, ketchup, lemon juice and mustard into a saucepan. When quite hot, add the slices of meat and allow them to remain for about 15–20 minutes to become thoroughly impregnated with the flavour of the sauce.  
Shake the stewpan, or stir the contents occasionally, but on no account, allow the sauce to boil (says Mrs B!).  
Sufficient for 3–4 persons.

*Anwen Davies*



# From our County Councillor

Welcome to 2023 everyone, I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas. Let's hope that this year we can see a brighter and healthier future. 2022 was a challenging year in many ways, the country slowly coming out of a very expensive pandemic that has cost many lives and put a tremendous pressure on services across the globe, and the continuing Ukraine War. Businesses in Wales have suffered with a staff shortages and the increase in energy costs that we are all burdened with is extremely worrying.

It was fantastic to see the Llandyrnog Flower and Produce show again last year and the Historical Society also seems to be thriving. I must give a special thanks to the team at *Llais Llandyrnog Voice* for keeping you all updated on local news and events, how would we manage without it? And also to the Davies family of Bryn Ffolt for their dedication to our village.

As your County Councillor I sit on several committees, from Planning to Communities Scrutiny, and on the local Community Councils. I also get involved with budgetary decisions. These possibly for this next budget year are not quite as bad as expected, but 2023–24 looks to be extremely challenging and difficult decisions are ahead. If you feel you would like a chat with me any time, regarding any council-related subject, just get in touch.

In Llandyrnog we are going to see some changes with hopefully a successful community shop and quite a few new homes from the housing developments around the village. We will as a village be gifted a large community fund from these developments (commuted sum) that will be available to improve facilities in community open spaces, like Cae Nant.

There has been some road works done through the village this year and there is some work on rural roads and drainage planned for 2023. Improving the local broadband seems to be back on the agenda again, keep your eyes

out on the *Llais* for updates.

One special request please: as we are all aware, our emergency services are under terrific pressure and response time for ambulances is extremely slow, please be very careful in looking after yourselves and also keep an eye out for your neighbours.

Wishing you all a happy New Year  
Cllr Merfyn Parry

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



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**TRWSIO CEIR AR ÔL DAMWEINIAU**  
**CEIR I'W BENTHYG**  
**GWASANAETH NÔL CEIR WEDI TORRI I LAW**  
**01745 815141**  
**07808970364**  
E-bost: evansautodinic@btconnect.com



## The Wright life

The merriment of the holiday season has finished, with winter certainly here. However, January is not as dormant as you think in the garden and there is plenty to do to keep busy. It's a time to look after the soil in your garden. Protect any bare soil with a mulch of leaves gathered in the autumn or cover with a fleece to protect leaves from blowing away. As the brassicas are eaten, I give any leaves and stalks to the hens who love something 'green' to peck at in the winter months. It's also 'manure month', as I mulch everything in well-rotted horse manure (I do have a never-ending supply). It's arduous work but does warm you up on a frosty morning. I am always joined by a robin on my trips to the midden, because as I dig and disturb the heap, it uncovers tasty worms, and the robin pops down to grab a snack. Sometimes I am joined by the hens who sneak past me when the gate is left open and jump onto the midden. They scratch away in the hope of finding something exciting and to chortle to the ones left on the other side of the fence, 'Ooo look what I've found!'

When there is a chill in the air and the hungry gap is upon us and the garden birds are struggling to find food, we need to keep feeding and replenishing the bird table. I make my own bird seed cakes, a good way to save money too. Ingredients can include good quality bird seed, mixed raisins (I don't put these in mine as I have dogs and they aren't suitable for cats or dogs), mixed corn (don't tell the hens I'm using theirs), grated cheese, suet or lard, dried porridge oats and some old apples from the store chopped up (don't tell Bob). I mix all into the melted fat and then fill large old yoghurt pots and put them into the fridge to set. In the meantime, make a hole in the bottom of the pots and thread string through the hole to hang them outside. It's surprising what birds you will attract. What I

didn't expect to see was a heron – it flew across the field and landed in the garden. Maybe it was after a small mammal as there are no fish in my garden.

It's also wonderful for your own health and well-being to get out in the fresh air and do something physical. With the short days, it's beneficial for us all to get outside in the sunlight, it lifts your mood, reduces any stress and gives you a bit of 'me time'. Even if you don't want to do anything strenuous, I recommend watching one of the fantastic sunsets and sunrises we get over the Vale of Clwyd. On a clear morning or evening at this time of year, the light and colours are intense – it's magical to watch. My brother, who lives in Bristol, says we have a lot of 'sky' up here.



Of course, when all this exertion and exercise has been done, it's lovely to go back inside, sit by the fire and sip some hot homemade soup – broccoli and stilton is my favourite.

*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, Ed & Catherine Howarth, Rhian Jones, Rod and Margaret Williams.

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



# New Year's resolutions

When we think about New Year, the first thing that strikes our mind is a New Year's resolution. These are nothing new and originate from ancient Babylonian times, around 4,000 years ago. The Babylonians used to celebrate the New Year for 12 long days and called the festival Akitu (photograph below). They crowned a new king on the occasion of the New Year and also made promises to the God, i.e. resolutions, to clear their debts if they had any.



They believed that if they kept their promises or resolutions, their god would bestow everything good upon them in the coming year. Even the ancient Romans followed the ritual of resolutions seriously. They used to offer sacrifices to their god and make resolutions before him to bless them for good in the coming year.

Christians too consider New Year as a day to correct their past mistakes and resolve to be better persons in the coming year.

No matter how modern we get, New Year's resolutions are still made.

## **The top 10 most broken resolutions:**

1. Lose weight and get fit
2. Quit smoking
3. Learn something new
4. Eat healthier and diet
5. Lower debt and save
6. Spend more time with family
7. Travel
8. Be less stressed
9. Volunteer
10. Drink less

**According to the website statista.com, the most popular resolutions for 2022 in the UK were:**

1. Exercise more 43%
2. Eat healthier 43%
3. Lose weight 40%
4. Live more economically 24%
5. Cut down on alcohol 20%
6. Spend less time on social media 19%
7. Quit smoking 17%

We'll end with wise words from Gwen Butler, one of the co-ordinators and committee members of *Llais Llandyrnog Voice*:

It's always been my resolution to firmly resolve not to make a New Year Resolution – at least then I won't have broken it by February. However this year (being a procrastinator by nature) I've decided my mantra will be "Just Do It". It remains to be seen how long I can put it off!



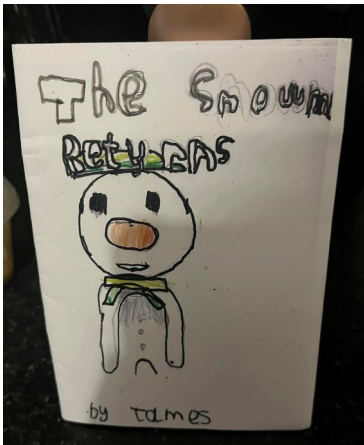
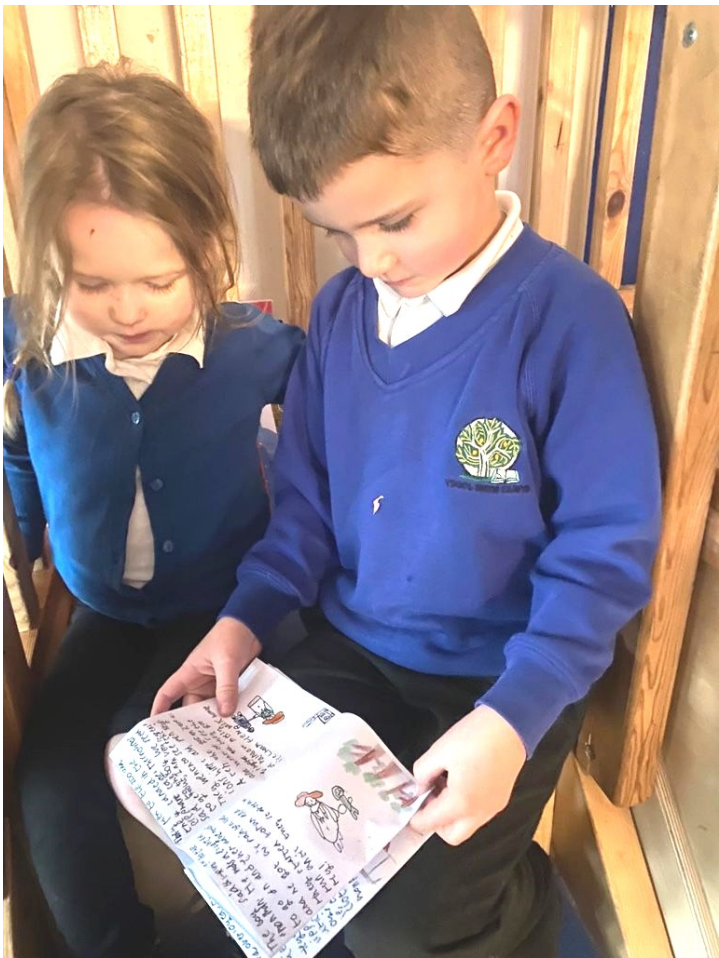
The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch starts on 27th January. This is an annual event that records the number of garden birds that land in gardens or local green spaces across the UK. It is fun, free and for everyone, and you don't need a garden to take part – you can count birds from your balcony, or your local park. Sign up for your free guide and let's look out for birds together on 27-29 January.

How to take part in Big Garden Birdwatch:

1. Watch the birds around you for one hour
  2. Count how many of each species of bird lands on your patch
  3. Go online and tell RSPB what you saw
- So register now at [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)!



# Ysgol Bryn Clwyd



The illustrated books project was certainly very popular. The infants loved them so much, they wrote their own books and sent them to the juniors as presents.



The children had a brief rest for a play in the park after delivering their books, and some hot chocolate to warm them up when they got back to school.





# Ysgol Bryn Clwyd



Christmas has understandably been the focus of much of the work and activities in the school throughout December, and the school worked right up until almost Christmas Eve! Above is the school's Christmas concert which all the parents enjoyed.



Diolch to Mrs Tynan for the lovely Christmas lunch which members of the community came into school to enjoy with the children.



A great time was had by all at the panto in Rhyl! Oh yes they did...



£240 was raised on a stall at the Ruthin Christmas market towards the cost of the coach for the summer school trip. Thank you to everyone who donated items and to the wonderful Miss Elin and Mrs Woodward for giving up their weekend to help out.

**Post Office Opening Hours**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

**9am–12pm, 2pm–5pm**

**Wednesday & Saturday 9am–12.30pm**

**01824 790310**

(More photographs in Welsh version)

# A word from the Priest

What do we have to look forward to in 2023? Every year many people make New Year's resolutions. Promises that don't tend to last long at all. What lasting promises are there in our lives? Ones we hold to and stay true to, whichever difficulties occur and seem to want to make us change our mind. Marriage vows are one of the most common set of promises people make but I wonder how many people enter into them wholeheartedly, expecting to honour and respect that person, meeting their needs and putting them first, in sickness and in health all the remaining days of their life?

As a church we have faced much criticism for being so slow to collectively agree upon marrying people of the same sex in Holy Matrimony. In the Church in Wales we can now conduct same-sex blessings, so as long as people get married in a civil ceremony first it is possible to have a wedding blessing equivalent to a heterosexual church wedding whenever they like. The change has arrived and the Bishop of Monmouth, Cherry Van, being openly in a long-term committed same-sex relationship helps further to repair the outside image of our wrestling with this as people of ancient scripture.

In those Scriptures, in the original Hebrew and Greek, there are a few different types of words for the notion of promise. The biggest promise being God's covenant to each of us, woven throughout the 66 books that make up the Bible, starting with Abraham and reaching their fulfilment in the resurrection encounters where Jesus had been witnessed to have conquered death, therefore graciously inviting us all to everlasting life.

Here's one from "Hebrews":

## **"The Certainty of God's Promise"**

**13** When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, **14** saying, 'I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.' **15** And so after waiting

patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

**16** People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.

**17** Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.

**18** God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. **19** We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, **20** where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

We are not good at keeping our New Year's resolutions on the whole and struggle to hold fast to promises long-term too, because our human nature and the society we live in seems to thrive off us going for the easy option. It encourages us to strive for things, to want other things, to seek new lives. The more we want, the better the capitalist system we live in functions. God's promise is real and it is everlasting. It has stood the test of many a system over a great deal of time and invites us to the bliss of everlasting life secured by Jesus.

I hope you have a good and healthy 2023! May God bless you in every way this year – we'd love to see you in church where all are welcome to be sustained and built up in our promises to ourselves and nurtured in our promise from God live a life fully at home with ourselves in order to be a blessing to others.

Happy New Year! Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

*The Reverend Martin Pritchard,  
Priest for mission and community  
engagement,  
Denbigh Mission Area.*



# Meet your Community Councillor

## Hazel Wright

My grandmother was Dutch, and the family settled in the south east of England when my mother met my father in wartime Kent. I was born in Bromley, and we moved up to Liverpool in the early 70s. My parents then bought a dilapidated smallholding from Denbighshire County Council. The story goes that my brother was driving around North Wales looking for suitable properties for my parents to buy as a holiday cottage and passed Lodge Farm which was due to be sold at auction. My parents put in a sealed bid and were successful. It wasn't the holiday home for long as they were keen to move to the countryside. We moved to North Wales in 1976.

I have attended most schools in Denbigh and Ruthin, starting at Howells School, Brigidine Convent and lastly Brynhyfryd.



I worked in Liverpool for 10 years after graduating and then one day decided to move back to Llandyrnog permanently, getting a job at MHC Highfield Park. When my parents' health deteriorated, I left work to care for them, until both finally ended up in a care home. I've always worked locally – Denbigh and now Ruthin – after all, the Vale of Clwyd is such a beautiful place to live and work.

Initially I was asked to join Llandyrnog Community Council representing Highfield Park, but stayed on and I have been a

member for many years. I enjoy being involved in the community and contributing to the village in any way I can. For many years I was Secretary of the Village Hall and Flower Show.

Living in such a wonderful place, I have always enjoyed outdoor activities, walking my dogs and riding my horse on the Clwydians. Living on a smallholding there is always something to keep you busy and the garden is a fantastic place to be. Recently I started to contribute a regular monthly article to the *Llais* magazine – The Wright Life – where you can catch up on the many antics at Lodge Farm.

## James Davies, MP for Vale of Clwyd

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

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Westminster office: 0207 2194606

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# Matters discussed in the December meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

- ⇒ It was reported that Llandyrnog has not been successful with its bid for a community needs survey via Cadwyn Clwyd.
- ⇒ Thanks were extended to those who helped with the Christmas tree and especially David Weyman who gave of his time and fuel to collect the tree from Llanfair TH and a Saturday morning erecting and decorating it. Also to Will and Shay Parry for installing the lights on the village hall.
- ⇒ Although the light in Maes Llan car park is now working, there has been no response from DCC about the access road. However Cllr Parry has sourced recycled tarmac which will provide a temporary fix, and with help of others will endeavour to get the work completed over the Christmas period.
- ⇒ The new local development plan which covers potential building sites will be available in draft form early 2023 and will be circulated for observations.
- ⇒ Cllr Borthwick will be circulating flyers soon to see if there is any interest in setting up a basic digital skills workshop in the Cocoa Rooms, having been successful in securing a tutor for the work.
- ⇒ The Council was unable to support an application to demolish Pen Palmant at the moment – there was insufficient information available to make a firm decision. It was lacking a justification statement as to why the building should be demolished and serious concerns were expressed about the effect of this development on adjoining property.
- ⇒ An application has been received for observations re two-storey extension to Gwynfryn. The council requested an application of more time to consider the matter.
- ⇒ Concerns have been raised about a day dog-care service in Y Wern and this to be passed to DCC to investigate further. Some residents have also complained about the noise which is deemed to be a separate issue and they are encouraged to report the matter individually. A link will be forwarded to the individuals concerned.



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## Update on the former Arla factory

The situation at the factory is fairly quiet at the moment. Residents will have no doubt noticed that there is new fencing at the front of the site, which has greatly improved its appearance. The company has made a planning application for a proposed extension and alterations to existing office building and associated works. The decision regarding the application was due by the beginning of this month.

There have been delays to the start of operations because of the supply of machinery being held up due to the war in Ukraine. However, it is hoped to start production in Llandyrnog later on this year.