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# Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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July 2023 – Volume 8 – Edition 10

## Coffee Morning at Maes y Wern

It was a beautiful day on Saturday, 24 June as John and Olwen Rowlands opened their lovely garden to host a coffee morning in support of St Kentigern's Hospice. The magnificent sum of £1010 was raised. Well done all concerned.



## Llandyrnog Shop and Post Office Project News

After six exciting weeks since launching our Community Share Offer to raise £40,000 towards our budget to purchase the old shop, 8 June arrived and an incredible £50,975 was raised through the kindness and support of over 300 individuals from within and outside the local area. The directors would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their support.

This is an important step forward after receiving a grant of £200,000 six months ago from the UK Government. We are now awaiting the decision on our latest grant application to bring the project to its conclusion.

You can follow our work on our website [www.llandyrnogshop.com](http://www.llandyrnogshop.com) or on our Facebook page Llandyrnog Shop.

# Around the village

## Condolences to...

... **Richard Davies and family**, Hafod y Bryn, and **Bryn Davies and family**, Bryn Ffolt on the death of their mother, **Gwen**, who lived in Ruthin.

... **Ron Lewis**, on the death of his wife, **Joan**.

... **Gwynfor Jones**, Nant Glyd, on the death of his wife, **Vera**.

Belated happy 70th birthday to **Elfed Morris**, Nant Glyd.

Best wishes to **Richard Williams**, Plas Bennett, following his hospital treatment.

A massive thank you from St Tyrnog's to all who attended the recent coffee morning, which raised the excellent sum of £522.

**Congratulations** to Elwy, Pen y Bryn who has graduated with a BVSc MRCVS from School of Veterinary Science – Liverpool University, and best wishes in your new post at Deufor Veterinary Surgery, Y Ffôr, Pwllheli.

Well done and congratulations to Caroline Hulme for completing the London Marathon in 4 hours 45 minutes. Caroline ran to support her dad who is living with dementia. Thank you for all the donations received. A total of £6,650 was raised for the Alzheimer's Society. Lots of love from Jennifer and all the Hulme family, Llandyrnog.

## Llandyrnog Community Hwb

Sadly we could not open Llandyrnog Community Hwb in June due to illness but we will be there again on 26 July 2023 in Cae Nant Pavilion from 11am to 5pm. We very much look forward to seeing you – it is always lovely to see everyone meeting friends (and making new friends) over a cuppa and a cake. We are offering soup and a roll too if you fancy something more substantial. We have decided not to charge a set amount for anything this year (apart from the Chilly Cow

ice cream, £2 a tub to cover our costs of buying them) but to ask for donations instead. We feel this gives everyone the chance to have a treat without worrying about the expense.

## Urdd National Eisteddfod – Stage Competitions

Congratulations to Mason Powell and Tyler Chown, who were members of the Ambrose Group from Ysgol Brynhyfryd (below) that came 3rd in the Instrumental Ensemble Year 7, 8, 9 competition at the National Urdd Eisteddfod at Llandovery.



Also congratulations to Beca Evans (right) and Gwenan Lloyd for their resounding successes in various singing competitions.





## Cocoa Rooms Events

Mon 3rd	Trefoil Guild 2pm Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee 7pm
Tue 4th	Women's Institute 7–9pm
Tue 11th	Book Club 10am
Wed 12th	Mothers' Union 2pm
Tue 18th	Community Council 7pm
Wed 19th	Tuesday Club 2pm
Mon 24th	Block of the Month 7pm
Tue 25th	Book Club 10am

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

## Dyffryn Chapel Services

2nd	10.00	Festival Service, Trefnant
9th	11.00	Rev. Huw Pritchard
16th	11.00	Rev. Andras Iago
23rd	9.45	Prayer Meeting

**Coffee Morning  
ST JOHN AMBULANCE**

**Saturday, 29 July**

**The Village Hall, 10.00–11.30**

**Contributions to home produce  
stall gratefully received**

### Post Office Opening Hours

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

**9am–12pm, 2pm–5pm**

**Wednesday & Saturday 9am–12.30pm**

**01824 790310**

### Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

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

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

## Village Hall Events

Sat 1st	Craft Group 10am–4pm
Mon 3rd	Brownies 5.30–7pm
Mon 3rd	Choir 7.30–9.30pm
Tues 4th	School Sports Day
Sat 8th	Birthday Party 11.30am–1.30pm (private booking)
Sun 9th	Messy Church 3.30–6pm
Mon 10th	Brownies 5.30–7pm
Mon 10th	Choir 7.30–9.30pm
Tue 12th	Flower Show Committee 7pm
Sat 15th	Birthday Party 10am–4pm (private booking)
Mon 17th	Brownies 5.30–7pm
Mon 17th	Choir 7.30–9.30pm
Mon 24th	Choir 7.30–9.30pm
Sat 29th	Coffee Morning 10am (St John Ambulance)
Mon 31st	Choir 7.30–9.30pm

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF BOOKING  
ARRANGEMENTS. To book the Village Hall,  
contact Ivan Butler on 07799570549 or  
email: [ivanbutler897@btinternet.com](mailto:ivanbutler897@btinternet.com)**

## Services at St Tyrnog's

2nd	11.15	Holy Communion
9th	11.15	Holy Communion
	15.30	Messy Church at the Village Hall
16th	11.15	Matins
23rd	11.15	Holy Communion
30th		Service at Llanefydd

### 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 Wright Life

Well, we've sizzled our way through June and now summer is in full swing. In hot weather, water is a crucial element in the garden, so looking to save and use water efficiently is important. Collecting rainwater is a good way to start, with the most obvious being a rain barrel or water butt. I have several recycled lemon concentrate barrels, which were salvaged from Liverpool docks in the 1970s by my brother, who was working there at the time. They've lasted very well and collect rainwater from the greenhouse gutters to use on my tomato plants. To stop them cracking, I was advised to add a buoyant object, such as a tennis or football to keep the ice clear. Alternatively, float a weighted plastic bottle filled with salt water, which also stops the ice forming as the salt means its slower to freeze. Well, whatever I've been doing the butts are still here over 40 years later and doing an excellent job.

Installing a gutter and water butt is well worth the effort. Any garden structure with a roof can harvest water: sheds, conservatories and, of course, hen huts. So, when is the best time to water the garden in hot weather? Between 5am and 9am apparently, not convenient for me, so I water in the evening when its cooler for less evaporation.

Of course, greenhouse plants such as tomatoes need a regular supply of water so they're always moist. Inconsistent watering will cause the plants to wilt, the leaves to curl and the fruits to get black bottoms! Don't panic! This is blossom end rot and, to get a bit 'sciencey', it's caused by a lack of calcium in the fruits. There needs to be a good flow of water through the plant, as uneven watering causes the fruits most distant from the roots to get less calcium, which leads to a deficiency and hence the ends of the fruit go black.

I grow my tomatoes in growbags and I admit I'm rather casual with my watering routine.



Occasionally I do forget to water during the day or am just too busy – not good I know, so I do tend to get these black-bottomed fruits, but I don't waste them as I just cut the rotten bit off and eat what's left – still tasty.

St Swithun's Day is on 15 July and, according to folk law, if it rains on that day it will rain for 40 days, but if it's fair, we'll get 40 days fair.

*St Swithun's day if thou dost rain  
For forty days it will remain  
St Swithun's day if thou be fair  
For forty days will rain na mair*

St Swithun was Bishop of Winchester from 852 to 862 and was buried, at his request, in the churchyard, but legend says that after his body was moved inside the cathedral on 15 July there was a great storm. This superstition around a change in weather pattern may have evolved from pagan beliefs around Midsummer, but we do see a meteorological change in our weather patterns around this time; however, we know it's the jet stream.

Do gardeners and farmers need to consider growing drought-resistant varieties? If hot, dry summers continue, our plants will have to adapt and so will we.

**Hazel Wright**

# A message from our priest, Martin Pritchard

July is here and the holiday season is well underway. In our household we holiday with the children each year and also just together as man and wife to nurture our relationship away from all the day-to-day stresses and strains of life. Last year the good lady and I went to Greece and this year we had our time together in Edinburgh. When we go away like this, it's a pleasure to turn on email responses and turn off the phone and get some much-needed rest.

But I don't ever try to have a break from God. Yes, my structured daily prayer pattern isn't the same but with travelling normally comes new experiences of God's goodness through the rest and recuperation. On our honeymoon ten years ago, for example, I was struck by St Paul's legacy, who had been nearby. That effective early apostle who had shared the good news of Jesus so well that he established churches in God's name in so many places.

In Greece last year I bought an icon of John the Baptist from a shop close to where my cousin lived and I look at it now in my office as I write this, so telling of the absolute significance and certainty of John's calling to prepare the way for his cousin, Jesus Christ.

In Edinburgh, I've been learning some Ukrainian, running up Arthur's seat and paid a visit to St Giles's Cathedral. Each of these has been filled with the awe, wonder and depths of joy and duty that are at the heart of my relationship with God. The takeaway thing this time is the Lewis collection chess set that we were fortunate enough to see in the National Museum of Scotland. They were discovered on Lewis in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland in 1831 and are distinctive 12th-century chess pieces.

In the UK in the 12th century, many people believed in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the core belief of Christian faith. There were many new Augustinians in the early part and Cistercians later in the century. The

Dominican, Franciscan and Cluniac orders were each prevalent too, and pilgrimage was an extremely popular religious practice throughout the Middle Ages. The kinds of experiences I've spoken about so far are personal experiences while on holiday. Pilgrimage is, however, an intentional time journeying to a specific location to spend time experiencing God in a deep, meaningful, significant way.

On 25 July it's the feast day of St James the Apostle. Santiago de Compostela is an incredibly popular walk with all kinds of people in our modern age. This pilgrimage in Spain takes you to the church where James's body is laid. We have a walk here in Wales, the North Wales Pilgrim Way, which takes you to Ynys Enlli, the Island of 20,000 saints.

Llanefydd church, one of our churches, is also on the route. We also have a pilgrim church in Denbigh Mission Area, Llangwyfan, and Llanrhaeadr is extremely popular with its well and the Jesse window, to mention just a few of our 12 churches.

God is calling you too, into a relationship filled with delights, to live your life to the full and to that ultimate pilgrimage to life eternal.

**The Reverend Martin Pritchard**

Myself, Non and Alun, Darren and Kate would like to say thank you to family, friends and neighbours who attended Vera's cremation, Tuesday 13 June. A lot of laughing and crying – Vera would have enjoyed the day.

Also thanks to Peter Morris, Funeral Directors, and to Martin Baldry. Thank you all.

*Gwynfor Jones*

## 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



# Women's Institute

## Meeting June 2023

The WI welcomed Margi and Lynne from Y Ty Gwyrdd community enterprise in Denbigh this month. They explained that the shop is in the old Threads building in Back Row, opposite the Town Hall, selling all types of cooking ingredients, wholefoods, household products and gifts. These are all sourced from local and ethical suppliers and you can bring your own containers to buy any amount, no matter how small. There is a space for children and for customers to sit and chat and have a local blended tea or coffee. They were keen to engage any new volunteers at the shop. The team also runs a family-friendly garden club at Bro Cinmerch at Llanrhaeadr on Thursdays after school.



Below is a picture of some items that the WI entered into the Caerwys show – the woolly cat got a commendation!



The group also had a lovely day trip to Bodnant Gardens near Conwy, where the laburnum arch was in full flower (photo above right).

If anyone would like to come along to try a WI meeting, please contact either Jane Borthwick (Secretary) or any other member and we will be happy to make you feel very welcome. All ages are invited and it is an enjoyable evening with good chat, fun and friendship – you just need £2 for the raffle! Meetings are held at the Cocoa Rooms on the first Tuesday of every month from 7–9pm.

## Trefoil Guild

The guild enjoyed a talk from Glynis Shaw, who is the North Wales Chair for Historic Gardens. We looked at ancient landscapes, trees and ornamental gardens, some long gone, but some are being saved. It was all very interesting.

A cup of tea and some cake ended the meeting.

In July we will be doing craft.

**Ruth Griffith**



# Football news

## Children

The children's 7-a-side tournaments in the Llandyrnog Summer League will be coming around soon.

2 July – primary school tournament (aged 6–11)

9 July – secondary school tournament (yrs 7–11)

## Ladies (Dyrnasses)

From **Jimmy MacNally**: Absolute honour and privilege to manage this group – Llandyrnog's first-ever ladies team! Thanks to each of the ladies for their participation and efforts today. We were unlucky to go out in the group stage on goal difference, having won two of our three matches.

Also , massive thanks to Dyrny villagers that turned out in huge numbers to cheer us on. It's always appreciated.

Our history makers were:

Cara Jones, Laura Jones, Chomphunart Janpheng, Ruby Jones, Leah Whitehead, Jordan McNally, Lois Morris, Alisha Whitehead, and Heather Powell.

Our first-ever goal scorer was Alisha Whitehead. And keeping it in the family, our other scorer today, Leah Whitehead.



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# Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

Thank you so much to all our families and everyone from the community who supported our open day and coffee morning on Saturday, 17 June. With your help we raised just under £400 for the school! Thanks also to Anwen Davies, Bryn and David who helped with the planning and running of the event. It was a truly lovely morning!



Bryn Clwyd junior pupils who (along with children from Ysgol Gellifor) travelled by coach to Dangerpoint, where they learned about how to keep themselves safe when in the house, out and about, crossing roads and even when out at sea.



The junior children who travelled to Gulliver's World in Warrington as part of their engineering topic. The children completed workshops on how roller coasters at the park are designed and built, as well as having a chance to go on the rides as well!

# Messy Church



In our June Messy Church session, we heard about the miracle of Jesus feeding 5,000 people just using the five small loaves and two fishes given to him by a young boy. We made lovely baskets, decorated wooden fish decorations, played a fish-catching game, did lots of fish colourings and puzzles and we even made our own bread rolls to have with our fish fingers and beans! Our next session is on 9 July at 3.30pm in the Village Hall and all are welcome to join us.



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# Bridges, part 2

## Pont Glan y Wern



The bridge over Afon Clwyd between Llandyrnog and Denbigh is Pont Glan y Wern, and I've driven over it thousands of times. I've also been under it quite a few times, fly fishing in the pool – it's well known for salmon and sea trout (say no more). Although a splendid bridge from the underside, it has unfortunately over the years lost the parapet and coping stone. There's a very low parapet of concrete, badly scored with wheel marks (some probably mine) and dull green rails.

## Pont Clawdd Ddu



To be honest, although this bridge has a very interesting name, you'll probably not have noticed that you've crossed a bridge when driving down from Pen y Mount. But this bridge plays a very important role in controlling flooding – there are four massive culverts that carry the water from one meadow under

flood, go down there and have a look – the force of water that goes through is frightening.

## Pont Parc Canol



I'm ending this journey with the bridge between Pont Clawdd Ddu and Denbigh – Pont Parc Canol. Only when you lean over the fairly fresh stone parapet wall will you notice that it's a very basic concrete slab – so what's so interesting? Quite frankly, nothing, unless you have an interest in astronomy and have heard of the famous Welsh astronomer, Isaac Roberts. He was born in Groes Bach, Groes in 1829 but moved to Liverpool as a young man. He was the first to take photographs of nebulae over a prolonged period, using his very special telescope, and showed previously unknown features of galaxies.

Where is this story going, I hear you say? Well, the original Groes Bach farmhouse where Isaac was born was demolished in the early 1970s and the council bought the stones and built this bridge. There's something new to learn every day! Indeed, we're very fortunate that there's a public footpath all the way from Pont Telpyn to Pont Glan y Wern, and I would urge you to walk this path. Take a picnic with you – you'll see the Vale at its very best.

**Bryn Davies**



# Recipe

## Quick & easy shortbread rounds

Ingredients:

- 170g plain flour, plus extra for sprinkling on baking tray
- 170g butter at room temperature
- 55g icing sugar
- 55g cornflour

Method:

Heat oven to 190°C and sprinkle large baking tray with flour, or use a non-stick liner.  
Mix all ingredients together by hand or in a mixer on the lowest setting until the mixture forms a soft dough.  
Roll the dough out to about 1cm thick and cut into circles with a scone cutter.  
Bake for 10–12 mins until they are firm to the touch but still pale.  
Remove from the tray with a slice and leave to cool on a wire rack.

Ruth Griffith

# Armed Forces Day



Llandyrnog Community Council was represented by **Gwen Butler** at the raising of the flags by Denbighshire County Council to commemorate Armed Forces Day on 24 June.

# Tractor run

You may well have noticed about 90 tractors coming through the village like a long noisy snake on Sunday, 4 June – the Llandyrnog team were at it again. We are very pleased to announce that over £3,000 was raised for St Kentigern’s. A heartfelt thanks to you all for your generosity and patience. We were on our way to Tremeirchion for an ice cream then back over the mountain to Llangwyfan. Everyone was amazed at how beautiful the Vale looks – yes we know it is, but keep it quiet!

Bryn Davies



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# Meet your Community Councillor – Gwilym C. Evans

I am passionate about the parish of Llandyrnog, having been brought up in Llangwyfan and later in the village of Llandyrnog. I am a fluent Welsh speaker and attended the village school and Caledfryn School in Denbigh. I later qualified as an electrician by attending college in Wrexham and worked locally, later establishing my own electrical contracting business.

My interest in council affairs came about as my father was the clerk for several years and had devoted a vast amount of his time and knowledge in the local community.

I have served on the Community Council since 1974 and was elected on to Denbighshire County Council from 2004 to 2012, where I was able to secure several benefits for our community.

I am a member of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd Governing Body as well as the Village Hall Management Committee, Llandyrnog Eisteddfod, the Flower Show and Dyffryn Chapel.

I would encourage anyone with an interest in community issues to join the Community Council in order to express your views and those of the local residents.

## Llandyrnog Horse Show

Llandyrnog Horse Show was held on Sunday, 25 June. The weather was good and there was an excellent turnout. In total the show raised £817 for local charities.

Secretary **Iona Pierce** writes:

This show has been running for many years. In fact I have some trophies going back to the 1960s. I have been secretary for 25 years and would like to pass on the running of the show to a new committee. Actually, at present there is no committee and I have been running the show on my own for the past six or seven years. If anyone is interested in keeping this local show going, please let me know.

It would be ideal to find a secretary and treasurer, plus other people willing to arrange a section of the show each (show jumping, in hand, ridden, working hunter pony, etc.). I am quite happy to help in any way, but feel it is time for new ideas.



# Matters discussed in the June meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

The Community Police Officer was not present but sent a report. They have been dealing with a dangerous dog incident in Maes Clwyd and one of the PCSOs will be attending the Tuesday Club to give advice on basic home security.

The matter of Cae Nant gates was discussed again and it was decided that, although closing the gates would manage the risk to pedestrians, it would drastically increase the cars parking along the road, which on balance would present more of a hazard.

It was reported that the shares in the community shop had sold well and by now were in the region of £50k, while the board was awaiting confirmation of additional grant funding.

Cllr Gwen Butler represented the CC at the AONB meeting, where there was a very interesting presentation on a project to protect the rapidly declining population of curlews. Since 1980 the population has reduced by 80 per cent due the loss of their natural inland breeding ground cover; however, the AONB Rangers are working with landowners in the Llandegla/ Bryneglwys region to protect these areas and it may in future be necessary to remove eggs, incubate and release the birds later. On a more positive note, some rare birds such as the ring ousel and nightjars can be heard in Llangwyfan forest and on Pen y Cloddiau.

Cllr Butler also represented the CC at the recent AGM of the Ruthin Hospital League of Friends. Funds this year have been used for the purchase of clinical equipment and towards the refurbishment of the reception and the tea bar, which now has a machine offering fresh coffee and hot chocolate 24/7. At only £1.50 it is excellent value for money. It was also reported that all 23 beds in the hospital ward are occupied.

Cllr A. Evans and E. Morris represented the CC at a Local Development Plan (LDP) meeting, which was an informal presentation prior to the formal consultation taking place. This is leading up to a new LDP being in place by 2025 and this will show which sites have been allocated for development in Denbighshire. Several candidate sites have been put forward in our area.

Two planning matters were discussed:

Erection of agricultural building for the storage of fodder/implements, including sheep pens, two stables and formation of access track and associated works at Cwm Hyfryd.

Change of use of stables to dog daycare centre facility at Wern Llandyrnog – amended application.

## Community Council Vacancy

The Community Council presently has a vacancy for one councillor and would welcome the opportunity to co-opt someone on to our team. If you live or work within the Community Council boundary and would be interested in being an integral part of the decision-making process, shaping the future of our community and bringing in fresh ideas, we would be delighted. Training will also be available. For further details of the process of co-option and the role of being a councillor please get in touch with our clerk, Bryn Davies by e mail at [rbrynd1@gmail.com](mailto:rbrynd1@gmail.com)

### 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**