

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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

March 2024 – Volume 9 – Issue 6

Sporting achievements



Llandyrnog Women's Player, Alisha Whitehead-Hughes, has joined Connah's Quay Nomads Women's FC from Henllan. Alisha has scored 107 goals since September 2021 and 21 goals so far this season.

Tom Hughes made his début for Bala Town FC against Flint Mountain, and fortunately, the match was transmitted live on S4C. A moment to remember forever for Tom and all the family! And this only a month after we congratulated him on being awarded a contract with the club's first team at 17 years of age.



Congratulations to Daniel Whelan who has been selected for the North East Wales under-11 rugby squad. He will be in the team playing Llanelli shortly in a national competition.



Jimmy McNally has been appointed Ruthin Town FC Colts team manager for the 2024/25 season.

Happy
St David's
Day



Around the village

Condolences to Dafydd Rowlands and family, 4 Maes Clwyd, on the loss of his father, Rev. Tudur Rowlands, Rhewl.

Best wishes to Peter Vine, Maes Tyrnog, following his illness.

Congratulations to Jackie Le Fevre who recently received a PhD with industry experience from the School of Life and Medical Sciences at the University of Hertfordshire.

Fundraising The church once again this year is fundraising for WaterAid over lent. If you would like to take part, that's all you have to do is collect small change in a jar (jars available from the church) and take it to the church after Easter.

Thanks to all who supported the coffee morning for Blood Bikes Wales and donated so generously. £460 was raised.

Village Hall Events

Sat 2 nd	Craft group	10am–4pm
Sun 3 rd	Craft fair	10am–3pm
Mon 4 th	Brownies Choir	5.30–7pm 7.30–9.30pm
Tues 5 th	History Society committee	7pm
Sun 10 th	Messy Church	3.30–6pm
Mon 11 th	Brownies Choir	5.30–7pm 7.30–9.30pm
Tues 12 th	Flower Show Committee	7pm
Mon 18 th	Brownies Choir	5.30–7pm 7.30–9.30pm
Tues 19 th	History Society: Penycloddiau Carbon Dating – Rachel Pope	7pm
Sat 23 rd	Coffee morning: Tuesday Club	10-11.30am
Mon 25 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm

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

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March services at St Tyrnog's

3 rd	11.15am	Holy Communion
10 th	11.15am	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Messy Church at the Village Hall
17 th	11.15am	Morning Prayer
24 th	11.15am	Palm Sunday Service
	3pm	Welsh evensong
31 st	11.15am	Easter Communion

The Community Shop project

After 20 months of working on the Shop and Post Office Project, 9th February 2024 became a very memorable date when we finally completed on the purchase of The Llandyrnog Post Office.

We are grateful to Rob and Ros for their support and allowing us the time to get our grant funding together to complete the purchase. We want to wish them all the best in their new home after running the Shop and Post Office in the Village for the last eleven years.

The post office is now temporarily closed to enable a programme of renovations and improvements to be undertaken before the reopening. We know this temporary closure will cause some inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

I am sure the community will see much activity as the work starts to be undertaken in the coming weeks and look forward to showing everyone the big changes when the doors finally reopen.

We are grateful for the help of volunteers who are assisting with some key aspects of the work and welcome anyone who would like to give a helping hand.

In the last few weeks, we have also secured a grant from the Brenig Wind Farm and appreciate their support. This will assist us with architect fees and costs associated with relocating the post office counter.

Once work on the property has been completed, in addition to help from volunteers, we will need to recruit two paid shop managers to oversee the retail shop, post office and hub on a job share basis. Please feel free to contact us for an informal chat if you think this may be of interest.

Please follow our progress on our webpage Llandyrnog Shop or on our Facebook page.

Emyr Morris



Rob and Ros handing over the keys to Emyr and Viv

Cocoa Rooms Events

Monday	4 th	Craft, knitting and crochet group, 10am Trefoil Guild, 2pm
Tuesday,	5 th	Book club 10–11am WI, 7pm
Wednesday	6 th	Llais Llandyrnog Voice committee meeting, 7pm
Monday	11 th	Craft, knitting and crochet group, 10am
Monday	18 th	Craft, knitting and crochet group, 10am
Tuesday	19 th	Book club 10–11am Community Council, 7pm
Wednesday	20 th	Tuesday Club, 2pm
Monday	25 th	Craft, knitting and crochet group, 10am

To book the Cocoa Rooms, e-mail Mrs Emily Williams: emilylloyd1@tiscali.co.uk

Spotlight on ... Ben Lindquist

Ben was recently appointed headteacher of the federation of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd and Ysgol Gellifor.

What are your earliest memories?

I would have to say that my earliest memories are based around Abergele Golf Club and being taken there as a young child, by my father. We would spend time practising on the putting green, followed by a drink and a packet of crisps in the bar. Fond memories indeed.

How did you choose your career?

I went to University in South Wales and gained a degree in Sport Science. On my return to North Wales, I was unable to find any employment opportunities related to my degree. In need of income, I applied for, and was successful in gaining a job as an administrative assistant at Ysgol Dewi Sant in Rhyl. The Headteacher at the time, Mr Alun Jones, was instrumental in allowing me classroom experience during this time and insisted I apply to Bangor university to complete my PGCE. I owe a great deal to Mr Jones for his belief in me.

Why did you want to be the headteacher of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd?

Having previously worked at Ysgol Bryn Clwyd from 2013–2017 I was able to get to know and understand our wonderful community and families. When the role of Headteacher was advertised, I knew that this was an opportunity to return to where I started my career and build on the fantastic work in place, alongside a dedicated staff at Ysgol Bryn Clwyd and Ysgol Gellifor.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

You can always find me on a Saturday at Abergele Golf Club, where I am lucky enough to spend a few hours a week in the fresh air with my friends. Of course, I also cherish the

quality time I am able to spend with my wife and four children.

Who is your hero?

Growing up, I always looked up to my mother and father. They cared for my brother and me so well, while also working hard as a teacher and nurse respectively. These are the values I try to live by and instil in my own children.

I would also have to say Tiger Woods; most children had footballers on their walls, but I had Tiger Woods. Attitude, determination, commitment – he had it all. LEGEND!

What annoys you and what makes you happy?

There aren't many things that annoy me, to be honest – I would have to say running out of time to spend time with the family and to do the things I enjoy. Having things to look forward to makes me happy. For example, a holiday, sporting trips etc.

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Ysgol Bryn Clwyd



Babanod have been enjoying the story 'Rumble in the Jungle' and making animal masks of the different characters.



Both classes are continuing with their rainforest topic this half term. Dosbarth iau have been making artwork inspired by the Rousseau painting 'Surprise' and carrying out science investigation into flower pollination using bees made from pipe cleaners!



Friends of the school have been busy too, holding a really fun valentine's disco in the hall.

James Davies, MP for Vale of Clwyd

james.davies.mp@parliament.uk

Constituency office: 01745 888920

Westminster office: 0207 2194606

St David

Most of us are familiar with the stories about David and the miracles he performed, but what about lesser known tales?

One miracle story tells us of the importance of bees. An Irish monk called Modomnoc was the beekeeper in David's monastery, making honey and wax. He had to return to Ireland, but his bees kept following him to the boat. Three times he returned the bees until David blessed them and allowed Modomnoc to take them with him, reputedly introducing honeybees to Ireland!

Another not so well-known story is the one of David's struggles with a pagan chieftain, Boia, when establishing his monastery in 'the valley'. Boia was an Irishman and local pagan chieftain. David came into the valley below his fortified homestead and lit fires which staked his claim to the area. Boia sent his warriors to drive David and his companions away, but David cast a 'spell' which made Boia's men and all his cattle fall as if dead. Boia made peace with David and converted to Christianity, so David lifted the enchantment. But Boia's wife was still opposed to David and sent her maidservants to bathe naked in the river to tempt David's monks. When this failed, she lured her stepdaughter into the valley and cut off her head. A miraculous healing well sprang from the spot. Boia's wife went mad and ran away and Boia was beheaded by invaders after turning against David. Legend has it that fire fell from heaven and destroyed all trace of Boia.

David's monks, fed up of David's pious way of life, once tried to poison him. St Scuthyn, a medieval Irish saint with strong Welsh connections, raced over from Ireland on the back of a sea monster to warn him. St David then blessed the loaf, ate it and only suffered minor indigestion.

David was the only Welsh saint to be canonised by the Western Catholic Church and the only British patron saint born in his own country.

Messy Church

In our first Messy Church session of the year, we learned about God's great love for us, and how he cares for each one of us. We made all sorts of heart crafts, including a big, big heart that is now in Church, which says 'Jesus loves us to bits'. We sang some songs and then all enjoyed a lovely meal together.



Our next session will be at 3.30pm on 10th March in the Village Hall and everyone is welcome. Children must bring an adult along to share the fun!

Mary Steel

Mothers' Union

In our February meeting we were joined by Graham Jones, CEO of Woody's Lodge, an organisation which helps former service personnel, emergency service and NHS staff. Graham gave us a very interesting and informative talk about Woody's Lodge and we gained some valuable insights into the many and diverse challenges faced by so many veterans and we hope that, with help and support from Woody's Lodge, they will find a way forward.

Tuesday Club



In the February meeting, the guest speaker was Liz Jones from Bodfari. In 1987, her family moved from Llanrhaeadr to live at Maes Sied, Bodfari and her father established a fruit farm there. Pick-your-own fruit was a very

popular phenomenon in the 1990s and many types of soft fruit were available there.

With time, growing the fruit to eat was very hard work and Liz decided to diversify, using the fruit to flavour gin and make fruit liqueurs. The brand's name is Schlizzy and the liqueurs are available in apple, blackcurrant, cherry, strawberry, gooseberry, raspberry and Denbigh plum flavours. Liz sells them in food festivals and some fairs.



In 2021, Liz and her sister, Rosie, decided to place two glamping pods on their land. These have been exceedingly popular and some clients have

returned many times to The Hideaway pods for their holiday.

And as if Liz and Rosie don't already have enough work, they also take in animals from Almost Home Dog Rescue near Nercwys. As well as dogs, they've taken in a ram, pigs, hens and cats.

Liz was thanked for her interesting talk and members had a taste of some of the Schlizzy drinks – lovely! The raffle was drawn and members reminded that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, 20 March. It was agreed to hold a coffee morning to raise funds for the Club on Saturday, 23 March, and to share the proceeds with Blood Bikes Wales.

Knitting and craft club



Karen Connell explaining the intricacies of a crochet pattern to members of the craft club that meets at 10am on Mondays at the Cocoa Rooms. If you would like to come along, please contact Carolyn 01824 790122 for further information.

Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society

The next meeting will be on TUESDAY 19th March at 7.00pm 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. For further information email llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com.

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 23 March
10:00 – 11:30

Llandyrnog Village Hall
in aid of the Tuesday Club
and Blood Bikes Wales

CAKE AND PRODUCE STALL AND RAFFLE

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for further details



The Wright life



Hasn't it been a long wet and windy winter, but Spring is finally on its way with warm sunshine, bird song, buzzing bees and flowering bulbs. Meteorological spring starts on March 1st with Astronomical spring on March 19th at approximately 11:05 PM as it's a leap year. It marks the moment when the sun sits directly over the earth's equator as it heads northward. This is a time of transition as we hopefully move away from the cold winter months towards the balmy summer ones.

For me one of the first signs of spring are when the cockerels start to crow. This starts exceedingly early on a dark morning to start with. After having lived harmoniously together for months, they suddenly decide to have minor disagreements which can turn into fights. Over the years I have had some insanely aggressive cockerels who will attack me, visitors and even the poor unsuspecting dogs. Numerous brooms have been used to wave in their direction and I even made a 'chicken paddle' to push them away. They lay in wait for you to appear and rush up behind you, jumping and flapping their wings.



At this time of year, they fight to establish dominance with the younger ones trying to step up the ladder to a more senior position. They seem to know when the top cockerel is getting a bit old and try their luck. Hopefully 'Elvis' is still up to the job and after a few jousting sessions they settle to the 'pecking order'.

Do they fight with the hens? They will administer a peck to a dominant hen, but nothing serious. However, there are some stropky hens who will square up to Elvis, particularly a black tail called 'black tail' (I know, not very creative). She will put her head down and raise her tail saying, 'do you want some, come on, do ya?' Elvis will initially look startled and ignores her until she gives up. The boys gather their favourite girls into a flock. One gang persistently escapes under my fence to my neighbours' fields and I have to shout for them at feeding time.

The garden will be starting to burst into life, the frequent sunny days will give more opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Main jobs for me include preparing the vegetable beds and sowing seeds. There will be lots of tidying up jobs before everything starts to grow. By March the grass is greening up for Bob. He gets fed up with the hay and will pick at the hedges, pulling off holly leaves for some reason and depositing them on the ground, uneaten out of frustration I think, as they must have a bitter taste. Not sure why horses do this, but all mine have. He will soon welcome the longer days when the sweet spring grass starts to grow. Not me as it will mean the start of the lawn mowing season – not one of my favourite jobs.

Hazel

Llandyrnog United FC



On Tuesday, the current First Team Manager Sion Morris, said he will be standing down at the end of the season. Sion and his partner are

expecting their first child towards the end of July. Naturally Sion will not be able to concentrate on the management of the team, which is completely understandable. The club would like to thank Sion everything has done since taking over the role. He has been hampered in moving the club forward within the league, due to so many key players being injured. We wish Sion and his partner all the best for their future.

We are also sad to announce that the coach, Jack Cooledge, will be leaving at the end of the season to travel to the USA for four months. Again, the club thanks Jack for everything he has done during his time at the club. The team's fitness has improved whilst he has been here.



We wish Jack safe travels and we will no doubt see him on the sidelines cheering the team on once he is back. The club is now actively looking for a new management/coaching team. Please get in touch if there is any interest.

Dyffryn Chapel

Y Gymdeithas On Monday 5 February, a lively Bingo evening was held with Rhys Davies.

On Monday 19 February, Sara Evans gave a very interesting talk on all the exciting developments that have taken place at Llanbenwch in the last three years, regarding the campsite, shop and café.



Ffiona and Sara

Best wishes to Helen Roberts, Llanrhaeadr, who will be celebrating her 90th birthday in March.

Services:

10/03	11.00	Rev Aneurin Owen
17/03	9.45	Rev John Owen
24/03	9.45	Rev Andras Iago
24/03	17.00	Hymn-singing festival
31/03	10.00	Circuit Service, Llanrhaeadr

Palm Sunday Hymn-singing Festival

24 March at 5pm

Dyffryn Chapel

Guest conductor: Trystan Lewis

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.

Journey to Egypt

We went on holiday at the beginning of the year to Egypt and researched a little of the Davies Bryan family. They came originally from Llanarmon yn Iâl and established a very successful business in Egypt.

The Bryan brothers were uncles of my late grandmother from Pant y Gynnau in Bryn Saith Marchog and I remember her talking about her family from Egypt.

The Bryan brothers were born in Camddwr, Llanarmon yn Iâl, sons of Edward and Elinor Bryan. Edward was manager of Minera mining company. Although Bryan was the only surname originally, a member of the family, Rev. John Davies, Nercwys baptized John and gave him the surname Davies Bryan. He insisted that the baby carried his name also.

And that is how the family named the company Davies Bryan in years to come. The parents of the brothers were determined that they should seek a better life for themselves and start their own business. To gain experience, John worked in clothes shops in Mostyn and Liverpool before establishing a menswear shop in 12 Bridge Street, Caernarfon. The business grew quickly and in time, all three brothers had become partners in the business and lived in Segontium Terrace. The brothers worked together closely all their lives and were very dependent on each other. Unfortunately, John was not in the best of health, and a cousin of his, Samuel Evans, who worked in Egypt, persuaded him to spend the winter of 1886–87 in Cairo. The milder climate was far more suitable for his delicate health.

Samuel was very influential in Egypt before moving to South Africa to become one of the most prominent figures in the gold and diamond industry – but that's another story. Due to his background in agriculture, Samuel spent weekends buying and selling camels, therefore he understood the Egyptians very well. John's visit to Egypt was perfectly timed. Following the war of 1882, when Britain conquered Egypt to safeguard its investment in the Suez Canal, rich Europeans had a great



Edward, John, Robert and Joseph Davies Bryan

interest in spending the winter in Egypt. John saw an opportunity and in time, he established a business on the ground floor of the Continental Hotel to respond to the demand for luxurious clothing.

The business was successful, selling clothes, hats and shoes, and luxury goods imported from Europe for a specific price, rather than by haggling, as was usual in Egypt. The business was very successful and another shop was soon opened in Alexandria in 1888. Unfortunately, John died in 1888 when he was only 31. But by then, the other brothers were involved in the business in Egypt, as well as running the business in Bridge Street, Caernarfon.

The three brothers, Robert, Joseph and Edward, opened additional shops in Port Said and Khartoum in Sudan. In time, the shop in Bridge Street was sold to concentrate on the four shops in Egypt. By 1910 the business' turnover and profit were sufficient to build a huge shop in Cairo, called St David's Building. At the time, it was the largest trade building in the country.

Yes, we had an opportunity to look around the building and inside it. The letters D and B can be seen clearly above one entrance. Over another entrance, we saw the words: 'Y gwir

Journey to Egypt: ctd



yn erbyn y byd' (the truth against the world) and the logo of the Gorsedd of the Bards on another wall. The name Davies Bryan & Co remained on the shops until the 1950s and they were run by the business' accountant, who eventually sold it to a family from Syria.

The youngest brother, Robert, died aged 61 in St David's Building in 1920, even though his heart was in the National Library of Wales and the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Apparently, Robert was more of a musician and academic but all four brothers contributed greatly to Welsh culture. John's letters to the Welsh nation were published in one volume yn 1908, titled *O'r Aifft (From Egypt)*.

Several of the brothers' articles are quite humorous and in one quite satirical item the clothes of the natives are described 'as if their house was on fire and had grabbed whatever was to hand before escaping'! They were fortunate that the residents of Cairo didn't understand Welsh.

One of the brothers had learnt to fly an aeroplane, apparently, and had hoped to be permitted to fly into the family's garden in Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth. Fortunately, the authorities refused!

The family contributed generously to various movements in Wales and Egypt but perhaps the most noteworthy contribution was buying 85 acres in Penglais, Aberystwyth,

to extend the National Library and the University's buildings.

The book, *O Gamddwr i Cairo* by Sian Wyn Jones tells of the family's tale in detail. According to my mother, (Margaret Williams, Rhiwbebyll Isaf) there is a great deal of information about the family in Caernarfon Library.

*Caerwyn Williams,
Cardiff (formerly of Rhiwbebyll Isaf)*

Trefoil Guild

Trefoil had an interesting talk by Beth Taylor about her father's activities in the navy during the last war. He was in the navy and torpedoed twice – he lived with a leg full of shrapnel. We passed around papers, some of which were secret at the time. We enjoyed a Christmas cake given in memory of Grace by Mary Steel – Grace always used to bring a cake. We welcomed a new member.

In the next meeting we will be celebrating St David's day with the school choir.

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Bryn takes the controls

It was that time of year of giving and receiving within family and friends and I was quite excited to see – once again – the little red box from ‘Virgin Experience’. It was Lisa, my daughter, who had decided it was time for something different in my old age – and different it was – a tactical flying lesson in a helicopter.

I think I was ashen for a while – this may well go wrong. Seeing me in a state of semi-shock – well, quiet – Anwen tried to persuade me to ‘swap it for something else’. Yes, even a solo ride in a microlight running on three cylinders over the Swellies and under the Menai Suspension bridge in a 60mph headwind sounded less risky than this.

But it had to be done, but sooner rather than later – get it over and done with. So I booked straight away.

The only thing I knew at the time was that a helicopter is notoriously difficult to fly – perfect eye, hand and foot co-ordination is vital. I can manage two but three is a struggle. It did not help that there was a report in the *Daily Post* in January of a helicopter coming down in Welshpool Airport – my choice of venue – and a picture of it like an Airfix dropped from a great height onto concrete.

This had happened because of a lack of communication between the pilot and his ‘learner’ – that’s me, I thought. You will be glad to know that they both survived anyway. So, something else I had to master – communication. Not one of my great strengths – Anwen, bless her, is a mind-reader. What could possibly go wrong?

Cyclic pitch levers, collective pitch levers– a total new vocabulary

Anwen and I ventured to Welshpool and sure enough, all sorted. I was expected along with two other people who had opted for this white-knuckle experience. One of the passengers was Richard ‘Moggie’ Morgan (with Bryn, above), who has his own tv series



on converting classic cars to being electric cars, *Vintage Voltage* (visit www.elctricclassiccars.co.uk to learn more about him). Funnily enough, apparently he had received a Virgin Experience box for a whisky tasting session in London – but preferred a helicopter lesson, along with his son who looked about twelve years old. Anwen and Moggie’s wife struck up a conversation – probably a discussion about life insurances – on the café patio whilst pointing their phones at the helicopter to get photos and videos of their spouses at the controls and it transpired that young Mr Morgan had just passed his driving test last week.

Rather than just a jolly in a helicopter, which Anwen really enjoys, this time I was shown the engine, how it works, what’s connected to what. Trust me it’s complicated. And of course, how to treat the cyclic pitch lever – the handlebars. Well – very gently. Don’t sneeze or cough. No sneezing or coughing, or reaching into your pocket with the other hand. Normally I root around in my trouser pocket for the car keys, however this time I had handed my car keys to Anwen before taking off – just in case !

I was extremely pleased to hear Andy our pilot saying that we would not be expected to take off – just take control once in the air and

Bryn takes the controls: ctd



‘Don’t play with that, Bryn’

that’s it. I was fine after that.

Communication is key – we all put our headsets on and Andy was extremely assertive with my two passengers: ‘Do not talk – the only people I want to hear is Bryn and the control tower!’ The helicopter sprung into a very noisy start – and boy, was I looking forward to taking control.

Andy had explained that as soon we were at a certain height he would tell me – ‘Bryn, you’re in control’. Within a whisker, I heard the instructions and he lifted his arm off the cyclic – and that was it. I was told to head towards Kerry Ridge – sort of to the left of Newtown and since we were travelling at 100mph then we were there in about ten minutes. With assistance from Andy, who was using the pedals, I managed to turn manoeuvre a very wide semi-circle and head back towards Welshpool. In all fairness, Andy had told me that if I was a bit nervous, just to say ‘Andy, take control’ or if my passengers started screaming, he would be there for me – bless him. It’s like a dual-control helicopter, purpose made for the job.

Being that I had been the first of the three, once we had landed we did a shuffle and I got in the back. Off we went again but this time I was just taking in the fabulous view.

Another memorable Experience – diolch, Lisa!

Bryn Davies

Keep our pavements clean

A polite reminder to those riding horses on the footpath between Celynog Crossroads and Llangwyfan, that Rule 54 of the Highway Code states: You **MUST NOT** take a horse onto a footpath or pavement.

This was the situation recently: a mother and young baby had to step out into the road due to the disgusting state of the pavement.

So if you know who rides on the pavement, or see anyone doing so, please ask them to ride on the road and remind them that they are contravening the Highway Code.



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A message from our priest

I am heartened by the chance to communicate with you through this article. It's good to have this opportunity to make contact with people in the community on behalf of your village church. Of course as churches and chapels, that's exactly what we exist to do, to be at the heart of the community, to serve it. A bit like a gym keeps people physically healthy, one of the best things about churches and chapels is the good we can do for community, its spiritual and moral well-being.

Both churches and Chapels believe that Jesus is God. In believing that Jesus is God, like his first followers at the start of his ministry in Galilee who gave up instantly what they were doing and physically followed Jesus, we Christians in our billions around the world commit varying proportions of our life to learning from his lessons, listening to and living by his stories. A faith in Jesus is difficult to describe to someone who has no interest or somehow struggles to take it seriously or give it any credit. When you see somebody come to realise that Jesus is real and you watch the impact this has on their life, journeying with them as they begin to reap the benefits of realisation for themselves and grow in the understanding of God's love, it is the most amazing feeling and glorious encounter. You know in Jesus that they will have a friend for life, whatever it throws at them and they are on a journey to knowing the truth of life and swelling with meaning and purpose for themselves.

There are no end of good examples of lives lived in that faith journey to inspire us. Every Wednesday, all are welcome to St Dyfnog's, Llanrhaeadr, where we meet regularly at 10.30am and learn about the saints gone by and how they can draw us closer to Jesus. As this is the magazine for the month of March, it would be ignorant to not mention our very own patron saint, St David. Of course the first day of March itself is the feast of St David, Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant. There are many stories

related to St David and the one saying that is often repeated is, "Gwnewch y pethau bychain a welsoch ac a glywsoch gennyf i." – "Remember to do the little things you've seen and heard me do."

For most of the month of March, we will be in the Christian season of Lent, celebrating Easter day itself on the very last day. It is a time we observe our relationship with God closer and more intentionally. It is a time which represents the 40 days and 40 nights that Jesus spent in the desert at the start of his ministry.

Because Jesus overcame temptations in that wilderness, we think of the things in our life that we're not so proud of and we know that being baptised is the beginning of asking Jesus for help with all the bad stuff in life, because he did overcome them. He helps us to do the same and to live a healthier and happier life in his love. Why not have a think yourself about anything you think you should resist from in the life you've been living?

God is real and God loves you, maybe you can try and connect with God yourself this month. Take a moment or two to open up your existence to the possibility and you can recognise the creator of all that is, ever has been and ever will be communicating with you in intimate and loving truth. As we journey through March, may you enjoy the beautiful daffodils appearing all around and may God bless you in a myriad of ways!

*The Reverend Martin Pritchard
Parish Priest*

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry

Contact details

Mobile: 07836 208446

E-mail: merfyn.parry@denbighshire.gov.uk

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Llandyrnog Astronomy Society

Have you recently looked up in the night sky and thought, “What is that bright star in the sky?” Well, that ‘star’ that has been dominating our night sky for a few months is not a star, but the planet Jupiter, the biggest planet in our solar system.

On the night of January 30th – the 15th anniversary since the start of Llandyrnog Astronomical Society, a strange group of people met in a car park behind the Golden Lion in Llangynhafal. These were the members of the Llandyrnog Astronomical Society, and for the first time since pre-covid, managed to arrange a star-gazing event.

Although the members have met regularly over the past couple of years, our lovely North Wales weather has prevented us from doing what we love, which is peering up at the night sky either through binoculars or telescopes or even just with naked eye gazing up at the glorious views that our dark skies give us.

Astronomy is one of the most accessible hobbies that anyone can take up as it needs nothing more than a clear sky to enjoy. Even without a telescope, you can observe how the constellations change over the year, enjoy looking at the planets as they orbit the sun with us, enjoy spectacular meteor showers and even, with the darkest skies, see a distant galaxy with the naked eye! But even a small pair of binoculars will reveal an abundance of star clusters, the moons of Jupiter and stellar nurseries such as the Orion nebula, where new stars are born.

And so, armed with an array of telescopes, binoculars and cameras, we set up and enjoyed some of the wonders of the universe.

At this time of year, the Orion constellation dominates the southern sky, with its bright orange star, Betelgeuse and blue star Rigel and the three stars which make up Orion’s belt, it is easy to spot. But there is also a fuzzy looking star underneath the belt stars. This is the great Orion Nebula and this is where we pointed our telescopes first. And what an awe-inspiring



sight! One member had their first view of the Andromeda nebula and then they continued to find and locate the Orion nebula. The blue smudge out there brightening my evening.

Next was the king of planets, Jupiter and its four Galilean moons (named after Galileo Galilei who first observed the moons back in the 17th century through one of the first ever telescopes).

Also on the night, we observed the Beehive cluster, the Pleiades cluster (these can be seen with the naked eye, but a pair of binoculars reveals a jewel box of stars which look simply wonderful!), as well as some smaller clusters such as M35 (shoe buckle cluster) and M41, the little beehive.

Overall, a wonderful night, with great people, superb equipment and, finally, a clear sky!

One new member commented that *‘an enjoyable and educational evening was enjoyed, there was a warm welcome on a cold, and clear night. I left with my head filled with all the wonderful cosmos you guys shared.’*

We are all looking forward to the next meeting (weather permitting) – it’s free to attend and, if you’ve never looked through a telescope, come along and be escorted out of this world! Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 26th March at the Golden Lion, Llangynhafal at 7.30pm. Pop along and join us and you may learn something new about our glorious night sky.

Llandyrnog Community Council

Matters discussed at the meeting of the community council at their February meeting :

- ♦ The community policeman had apologised however provided a written report to confirm there had been no recorded incidents since his visit to the January meeting.
- ♦ The matter of parking outside Oliver's Row has raised its head again and a multi-agency approach is required to resolve this issue – highways, police and the residents. Yellow lines are not an option.
- ♦ Road leading to Maes Llan car park – the Clerk has checked with One Voice Wales that has done further research. Confirmation was given that the land is not registered and if Denbighshire County Council had said it does not own the land, it was a difficult issue to resolve. One Voice Wales' advice was to stay clear of any maintenance responsibilities and advised those affected that they may want to make an adverse claim for possession of the land.
- ♦ The planning department had confirmed that although they had resolved to grant planning permission to start work on the rotundas, the actual permission had not been issued due to the delay with the statutory undertaking linking the pub with the development.
- ♦ The Clerk had circulated slides presented at the recent workshop explaining the new recycling regime. Cllr Parry confirmed that DCC will have a dedicated team to deal with enquiries during the changeover period and all residents will receive a full information pack in due course.
- ♦ The Community Council has been successful in securing a grant from the Brenig Wind Farm to install audio visual equipment in the Cocoa Rooms, available to anyone who wishes to hold virtual meetings. This work to be put in hand.
- ♦ Cllr Butler represented the council at the Ruthin Hospital League of Friends meeting. The League of Friends has purchased, through generous legacies, numerous pieces of equipment including a vein- finding machine. The next meeting will coincide with the 60th anniversary.
- ♦ Cllr Parry is to meet a representative from Clean Tech Business Group to see if there was any benefit in upgrading the Cocoa Rooms with solar panels etc.
- ♦ It was decided that the community council needs a business plan to protect its financial reserves, to be discussed at the next finance sub-group meeting.
- ♦ DCC has received an application for a definitive map modification, upgrading what is shown as path 36 from Green Farm to Tŷ Gwyn, from a footpath to a restricted byway. This is a highway over which the public is entitled to travel on foot, horseback and non-mechanically propelled vehicles, also to drive animals. The community council discussed the matter at length and decided that it had no evidence to offer that the path had never been anything apart from a footpath.
- ♦ Brynlllys corner – it was disappointing to see that the warning sign at Brynlllys had not been replaced, despite being reported in October.
- ♦ At the next meeting, a litter-pick will be arranged.

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