
Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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

September 2021 – Volume 6 – Edition 12

Local factory sold



Councillor Merfyn Parry received this letter recently:

Hi Merfyn,
Many thanks for all your assistance of late. I am pleased to confirm that the purchase of the Creamery went through last Thursday evening.

We are very excited at the prospect of conducting operations from Llandyrnog and hope that we can have a positive impact on the village and wider community.

Just to give you an idea of who we are and what we do:

Procter Johnson manufactures pigments and additives for the construction industry, with the vast majority of our business being colour for precast concrete – roof tiles,

pavers, patio slabs, walling, facing bricks, etc.

We are a privately owned business and have been on the site at Flint since 1984. I have worked there since 1993 and have been part of the management team since 2002. The business has grown significantly since 2010 and we have now outgrown the site at Flint. The Creamery presents us with an opportunity for further growth and to future-proof the business. We currently employ 37 people and hopefully we can expand on this as the business continues to grow.

We plan to make some significant investment, mostly in new equipment, and hope to be operational by Easter 2022.

I hope to meet you in person soon. If there is anything I can assist with in the meantime, please let me know.

Best regards

Harvey

Harvey Jackson

Managing Director

Procter Johnson

From the company's website: 'The UK's leading independent supplier of pigments and additives to the global concrete and asphalt markets.' For further information, visit procterjohnson.com.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition and to those who have given generous financial contributions for the upkeep of your magazine, including Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society

Around the village

We wish Earle Wright a speedy recovery following his surgery, and we're glad to see John Hugh, Hyfrydle, and Haydn, the Anchorage, around and about again. Take care, to ensure your recovery.

Best wishes to Alan and Buddug (Rhydonnen) in their new home, and to Sue Vine, who is temporarily at Llanrhaeadr Hall.

We extend a warm welcome to the village to Alex Wray and Matt Roberts to 1 Hen Ysgol; Sam Maddock and Jade Dolan to 2 Hen Ysgol; and to Phil ac Ann Sutcliffe to Min y Nant.



Congratulations to ...

... Dan, our butcher, and Hannah on their wedding, 15th August; to Dave and Emma Bass, Tŷ Coch on their wedding, and to the football club's secretary, Chris Pengelly on his wedding to Jo.

... Manon Dafydd (formerly of Bryn Ffolt) and James Fitzpatrick on their engagement. Dad's already worrying about the cost of the wedding.

... Gwenan Mars Lloyd on her success in the Alternative Eisteddfod (Eisteddfod AmGen): second in the folk solo under 21, third in the cerdd dant (singing to harp accompaniment)

solo 16–21, and second in the cerdd dant duet with Ynwr Rogers.

... Neisha Roberts on coming the under 17 Welsh champion in the steeplechase. She competed in the Welsh athletics championships held in July in Newport. She has been selected to represent Wales in the Schools International Athletics Board championship in Derby in September.



Belated 70th birthday greetings to Willy Plumb. Also birthday greetings to Gwen Davies, Ruthin – formerly of Hafod y Bryn – who celebrates a very special birthday at the beginning of this month.

Children's football will be returning to Cae Nant in late September, once things settle with the return to school and hopefully some normality. The sessions will be on Tuesday nights, on the AstroTurf, 6pm–7pm for ages 6–11, 7pm–8pm for ages 11–16 (Yr7–Yr11). The sessions are free of charge and further information about the start date will be available later on from Jimmy McNally.

I would like to thank everyone for their phone-calls and good wishes during my stay in Ysbyty Glan Clwyd and after coming home. I very much appreciate the community's concern and am pleased to say I'm recovering well.

John Hugh Roberts

Llandyrnog Virtual Show 2021



In early August, Alan Evans from Glan Conwy, judged the best garden competition – one of the events of this year's virtual flower and produce show. He was very pleased with the gardens. The winner was Richard Davies, Hafod y Bryn, and runner-up, Evelyn Weyman, Plas Siors. To see more pictures of the beautiful gardens, you'll have to wait until the show's brochure has been published.



Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

Ruth Griffith (Chair), Ivan Butler (Treasurer and Composer), Anwen Davies (Composer), Gwen Butler, Jack Crowther, Bryn Davies (subscriptions), Ann and Iestyn Jones-Evans, Rhian Jones, Rod and Margaret Williams, Sian Gwyn-Ifan (translator).

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

Off to Carolina to study

Local student Joe Hinchcliffe is one of only five from across the UK to secure a four-year scholarship from Morehead-Cain.

This US-based merit programme provides a complete fully-funded educational experience for students of the highest calibre to study at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill.

The talented 19-year-old impressed the admissions committee with his academic results, sporting credentials – being a keen football player, as well as his voluntary work outside of school, which included campaigning for changes to road safety legislation.

He is now excited to further his interest in community and legislative programmes and pursue studies in environmental science and public policy at university.

Once he completes his degree, Joseph plans to study a Masters in Law and pursue a career in environmental policy or law, and hopes to return to Wales in the future.

Congratulations, Joe, and we wish you the very best.



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Llandyrnog Utd



The club has announced the signing of local boy Josh Newcombe. Manager, Jimmy McNally said, "I'm so pleased to welcome Josh to the club. He's taken part in our local fun football sessions over the years and has represented the village's junior summer league sides whilst also plying his trade in the youth set-up at Ruthin. Josh epitomises what Llandyrnog Utd have to be, and that is a stepping stone for the local lads, as well as remaining competitive, Josh will learn a lot here, especially from Steve Crompton and Tudur Morris' coaching abilities, not to mention the experienced lads we have here at Cae Nant." Welcome to the club Josh!!!

Huge congratulations to our club secretary, Chris Pengelly and his partner Jo on their marriage in July and to our very own Daniel Jones and Hannah who yesterday became man and wife in 15 August. Everyone at Llandyrnog Utd wishes you every happiness in your future together.

Happy Birthday to our club Chairman, Clive Jones and to Mike McCoolle, the man behind all of our amazing graphics. Best wishes from everyone at the football club.

Match results

21 August

Llandyrnog Utd 1 (Garmon Hafal), Penmaenmawr Phoenix FC 0

18 August

Llandyrnog Utd 3 (Craig Jones, Adam Harvey and Garmon Hafal), CPD Llansannan 3

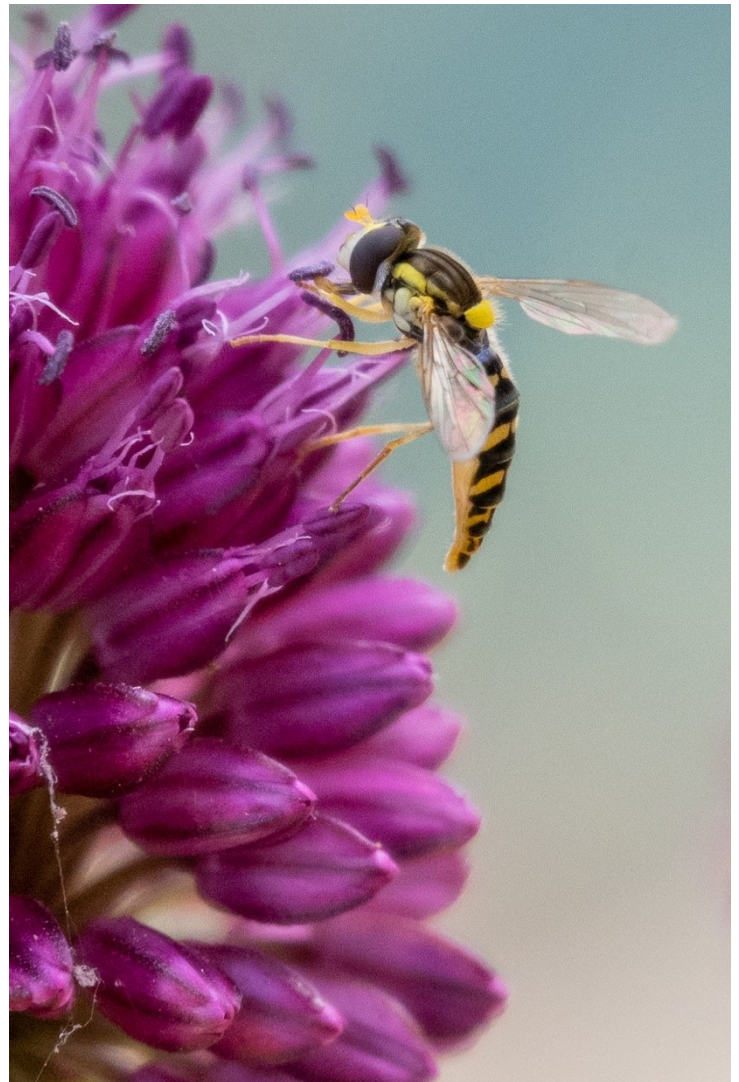
14 August

Bodedern 5, Llandyrnog United 1 (Welsh Cup)

7 August

The fixture with CPD Bro Cernyw was called off due to the opposition registering a Covid issue.

Photo of the month

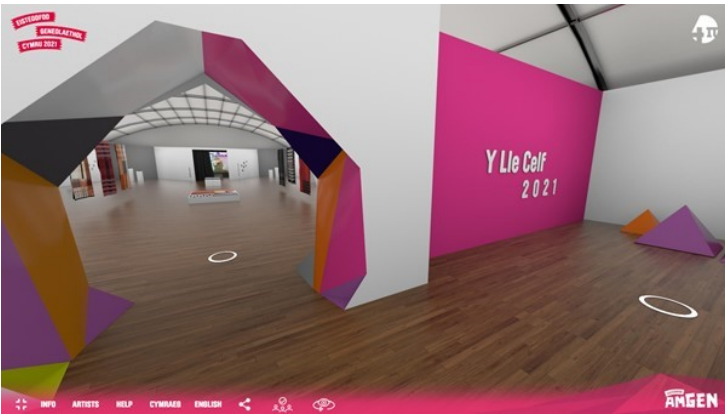


Another striking photograph from Phil O'Loughlin of a hoverfly on a scabosia.

If you would like to contribute to this new feature, send your photo to llandyrnognews@gmail.com.

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The Eisteddfod's Art Place



If you've been following the Alternative National Eisteddfod, *Eisteddfod AmGen*, on television over the summer, did you visit the festival's website to see different activities, discussions and an art gallery – *Y Lle Celf* (The Art Place)? I had the honour of being one of three selectors this year for the virtual exhibition and I loved it.

The exhibition celebrates the contemporary visual arts and architecture nationally every year and is very important in the visual arts calendar. It usually offers gold medals to the best but because of the pandemic, for the second year running, it was not possible to give out awards.

I worked with the artist, Carwyn Evans and the architect, Aled Wyn Davies, to discuss each artist who applied. This was quite a different Process to the usual since the work had been submitted in photographs and viewed on screen only. It is difficult to select such works, especially crafts but it helped that I knew personally around the galleries of Wales and on the Eisteddfod field over the years.

But this display could only be viewed on screen, as it is an interactive 3D display. It was created by 4PiProductions, a company that creates unique digital experiences. Although it's disappointing that so few applied, (numbers are usually in the hundreds, although it was a blessing that we didn't have to go through hundreds of entries in July's heatwave, while I was pregnant!), the standard was fantastic.

Y Lle Celf is open to any artist with a

connection with Wales. It was therefore pleasing to see both established and new artists applying. I was impressed by several artists including Manon Awst, Ani Glass, Andre Stitt, Sian Barlow, Rhiannon Gwyn and Llio James.

The exhibition was ambitious. I encourage you all to take a look at the exhibition, which is a very different experience to touring a real gallery. Visit: <https://eisteddfod.wales/amgen-2021-lle-arts-article>.

Indeed, I look forward to being able to stroll through galleries and certainly to attend the Eisteddfod again.

Gwenno Angharad

Gwenno, Dafydd her husband and the children are now well-settled in Llandyrnog. She has had a successful career in the arts, and is Director of Arts and Business Partnerships Wales.



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From the Rector

Lockdown and the restrictions over the past 18 months meant many weddings had to be postponed. Some couples are making arrangements for their third wedding date, but as restrictions gradually lift, it has been a delight to once again be able to celebrate weddings in church. We had a wonderful wedding in Llandyrnog in August and it was a joy to share in their celebrations. When we arrived in church to get everything ready, the lights tripped and all was gloomy. My first thought was not so much for the light, we could manage if need be, but what about the organ. It may be a pipe organ but it still needs electricity to work. Thankfully all was well, the organ worked and the lights were soon restored.

In the days before electric pumps, organs were worked by someone manually pumping the bellows to put air in the pipes. If they didn't press hard enough, the organ would get quieter and quieter, the organist would tap their foot on the floor and then the bellows would be pumped for all they were worth to make the music come again.

There is a story of a talented organist, who in bygone days, gave a wonderful concert. After people had congratulated him, the little boy who had worked with all his might at the bellows remarked, 'We did pretty well, don't you think?' The organist scornfully replied, 'We...and what did you do?' he said looking down his nose at the boy. 'I am the famous musician, the one the people came to hear.'

A month or so later, the same organist came to a stormy passage in a piece of music which required all the wind the bellows were capable of. Suddenly the organ began to fade away. The organist impatiently tapped his foot for more wind. The boy pulled aside the curtain and said, 'Now do you know what I do.'

No matter how famous someone may be, no matter how talented, we all need to work together to make things work. The organist

was the visible figure, but without the boy pumping away at the bellows, no sound came out. They needed to work together for the beautiful music to be heard.

We all have different gifts to offer and together we can make a difference. We may not be the visible figure but we may well be the one that enables it to happen. So many tasks, seemingly small and insignificant, are the means by which bigger things can happen.

Preparations are well underway for the start of a new school year. We hope and pray that this school year will be uninterrupted and schools can once again be places of learning and friendship.

Heavenly Father guide and protect all who are returning to school after the summer holidays. Be with staff and pupils, parents and governors. We remember all who are starting new schools or colleges. Help them to make friends and to settle well in their new environment.

Amen

With every blessing

Val Rowlands

Church Services

St Tyrnog's Llandyrnog 11.15am

Sunday 5th September Holy Eucharist

Sunday 12th September Morning Prayer

Sunday 19th September Morning Prayer

Sunday 26th September Holy Eucharist

St Cwyfan's Llangwyfan 5pm

Sunday 19th September Holy Eucharist

Sunday 19th September 3.30pm

Messy Church Llandyrnog Village Hall

St Tyrnog's Church is open daily from

10am – 4pm for private prayer/visitors.

Walk in memory of Lis

On a dull but dry Wednesday afternoon mid-August, a group of us set off on the Llwybr Tynog Trail. This was a special walk organized by Meg Jones and friends of Lis Morris, and everyone in the village was welcome to join in the 5 km walk. We had plenty of time to chat about each other's recollections of a totally unique character, who died so suddenly at the beginning of the year. At a leisurely pace, we reflected upon all the fun, the laughs, the kindness, the thoughtfulness and dogged perseverance that belonged to Lis.

We made our way up to Llangwyfan, then across to Tan y Glyn Woods, where we had a short break for a snack and a drink. We then crossed the road and made our way through the fields above Ffordd Las. We walked across Lôn Goch and made our way through the fields above Tyn y Caeau, before reaching the village. We spent a few, precious moments in the cemetery to reflect quietly, before ending our 'In Memory Walk' at the Village Hall.



Nia Rowlands and family and David Plumb having a well-deserved break on the walk.

James Davies, MP for Vale of Clwyd

james.davies.mp@parliament.uk

Constituency office: 01745 888920

Westminster office: 0207 2194606

Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

Ysgol Bryn Clwyd's first sponsored event for the Lis Morris Memorial Stage will be held on Sunday 12th September – a sponsored 'Dawn to Dusk Relay Walk'.

The walking route will be around the village and the event will last for 13 hours (dawn till dusk), with individuals or groups doing a period of time each in a non-stop relay.

The first person/group will start the relay at 6.41am from school and when they arrive back the next person/group will set off on the same route. This will continue all day until the last person/group arrives back at school at approximately 7.38pm.

There will also be a coffee morning held on the day for anyone who wishes to watch the walkers come and go.

If you wish to contribute, go to www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jason-jones-34 or send your contribution to the school.



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Three places

Benllech, Anglesey

Home, sweet home – that’s Benllech, or ‘Benllach’, to me, even though I flew the nest and left the island many years ago. I was born and raised there and have many fond memories of the place.

Benllech is a seaside village on the eastern side of Anglesey. It is one of the island’s most popular beaches, and at low tide, the sand stretches for miles. As you can imagine, I am not the only one who is drawn to the golden sands and the clear, blue waters. During the summer months, the village is packed with tourists and visitors flocking to the many camps and caravan parks that have existed for generations, and more recently the luxury Airbnbs.

I certainly didn’t appreciate at the time how lucky I was to be brought up in such a beautiful place. My home is within walking distance of the beach and we spent much of the summer at the seaside. Just a picnic, a bucket and a spade was needed to keep me entertained for hours and having a treat from the ice cream hut was always the icing on the cake (to mix metaphors) at the end of the day.



Fortunately, my mother still lives in Benllech and now Mati and Leusa, my daughters, love

having a holiday with their grandmother. Although its location has now changed, the ice cream hut still exists and this is undoubtedly the highlight for them too!



Cape Town, South Africa

I was fortunate to visit Cape Town in the summer of 2010. I rarely feel the urge to go back to any place I’ve been to on holiday as there are so many different places to discover and explore, but Cape Town is certainly one of those places. There is a certain atmosphere here and so much history and so many wonders to see.

Cape Town is the oldest city in South Africa and the largest after Johannesburg. It is on the coast with the Table Mountain and its flat summit and vertical cliffs protecting its inhabitants like a giant. The city is often referred to as one of the most beautiful in the world. However, despite the fact that the city is a paradise for some, the poverty is unavoidable when driving past the hamlets where many live in critical conditions. Although apartheid ended almost thirty years ago, the scars of those days certainly still exist to this day.

Sailing to Robben Island just six miles north of Cape Town was a memorable experience. The island had been a place of detention for nearly four hundred years and in 1959 it became a prison for opponents of the South African government and apartheid regime.

Three places: ctd

The island is now a tourist destination and ex-prisoners serve as guides. The best known of the prisoners held there was Nelson Mandela. The cell where he spent eighteen out of his twenty-seven years under lock and key, is as it was during Mandela's time there. I cannot say that I enjoyed the visit to the island, hearing about the hardships of the prisoners and their nightmares, but it is an iconic setting that is vital to South African history.

Boulders Beach is a beach on the outskirts of Cape Town. Here a colony of African penguins roam freely in their natural environment. As the penguins are a species at risk of loss, they are protected and protected. It was a pleasure to watch the locals in their own locality – it was impossible not to dote on them!

Mallorca, Spain

This island is the largest of the Balearic Islands in Spain. The island is widely referred to as the Mediterranean Star and I tend to agree! This is one of the places where I have been fortunate enough to spend many family holidays, both as a child and an adult. It's a magnificent island full of character with its stunning beaches, charming scenery and fascinating towns. However, despite the fact that I have visited the island several times, unfortunately I cannot say that I have learned about its history and culture. Mallorca is a place for me to relax and recharge the batteries.

Anyone who knows me knows that I love the sun, in fact, I'm a bit of a sun worshipper! Here, the sun is sure to shine and who can't enjoy the occasional sangria when lying by the pool of a nice hotel! I love Mediterranean food, especially if I'm not cooking, so what better than sitting in a restaurant enjoying the local atmosphere and delicacies? Another bonus is that no it only takes a couple of hours to fly to Palma from Manchester, a crucial detail when the girls were small!



Gwenan and the girls in Mallorca

When thinking about my three special places, the sea is definitely the link between them. Although it is lovely to live in Llandyrnog with the beauty of the Clwydian Range on my doorstep, I often long for the sea. That probably came naturally after I had spent most of my life living within a stone's throw of it in Benllech, Aberystwyth, Felinheli and Conwy. In fact, apart from missing the company of family and friends, not being able to see the sea was one of the great frustrations of the recent lockdown for me. At that time, walking up Penycloddiau (from the house, of course) was the only way to get a glimpse of the sea in the distance!

Gwenan Williams

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

Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society coffee morning

The Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society held the first post-Covid lockdown coffee morning in the village on Saturday, 21 August in the village hall. There was plenty of space for everyone to feel comfortable.

Entry and refreshments were free and 60 people came to support the event. There were stalls selling cakes, produce, plants and bric a brac and a raffle was held with numerous prizes which had been kindly donated by individuals and local businesses.

It was wonderful to see so many people attending and everybody starting to socialise again and have a good chat and catch-up. The event was supported by Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm Community Fund and £392 was raised towards the Society's projects.

The society is currently working to compile its programme of meetings for 21/22 and anyone interested in the meetings, becoming a society member or helping with any projects should e-mail the secretary – llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com.



Chair of the Society, Ven. Bernard Thomas

Probus Club

Denbigh and District Probus Club restarted its meetings by holding an informal coffee morning in July at the Oriol Hotel, St Asaph when there were 16 attendees. The regular first Monday of the month lunch meetings will commence on 6th September when Avril Robarts will speak about 18th Century Crime in Denbigh Courts. Other meetings scheduled for 2021 include Denbigh in Bloom by Lyndsey Tasker on 4th October, and on 6th December, Steve Tootell will explain the Power of the Potter's Wheel.

For 2021 the President is John Peel and Vice President, Julia Hughes. The club exists to form a social forum for friendship and it provides an extension to members' interests. Prospective members can meet club members and enjoy a free lunch by contacting Keith Lester, Club Secretary, on 07388 084361.

Exhibition

I have been asked to put some paintings in an art exhibition in Llangollen. I have chosen quite an eclectic mix of some of the stuff I do. From a dramatic in-your-face painting in vivid colours of my odd 'take' on the Welsh landscape. An inspiration from a local garden of some beautiful re-wilding, reflections under a jetty, and flowers from my dog walk. I paint mainly in acrylic though am happy with most media. I make cards from my paintings which will also be on sale in the exhibition, a percentage of which I give to North Wales Animal Rescue. Be good to see you there.

Sylvia Evans

Exhibition: 8 September–17 October

Llangollen Artists: Richard Buxton, Simon Collinge, Sylvia Evans, Jan Murray, David Pollock, Barrie Potter

Llangollen Museum, Parade Street, LL20 8PW
Open Tuesday, Saturday Sunday, 11.00-16.00

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A walk with Bryn

This time we head for the Llangynhafal area. I'm sure if you made arrangements in advance it would be possible for you to park in the Golden Lion car park. This is a good place to start and end our journey of about an hour and a half. It has a few steep sections and lovely views of the vale all along the walk.

Although the current name of the pub is the Golden Lion, it has had many names over the years. Apparently, the original name was The Hand, owned by Mr Roberts, who was also the owner of the Hand brewery in Ruthin. This entrepreneur also owned several other pubs in the area at one time. The Corporation Arms was the first pub he bought in 1879 at the age of 27. He then went on to buy the Boar's Head and the Royal Oak in Ruthin, the Drovers in Rhewl, the White Horse, Hendrerwydd and of course the Hand in Llangynhafal. But since he brewed his own beer in Ruthin, he had an extremely lucrative business – many farmers in the area sold what was left of their barley for brewing to him.

However, the First World War brought a great change to its business – beer was taxed in its heyday. And so it ended – the whole business sold to Ind Coope and the brewery closed in 1917.

From the car park, turn right and immediately to your right you will see The Old School which is now a luxury home. It opened as a school in 1833 and closed in 1868. Maybe someone reading this will know what the building was used for in the period between 1868 and its conversion to a home.

Go down the dip and up towards Tŷ Coch Farm and on your right you will see a fine and rare example of a 15th century cruck frame barn – reputed to be one of the oldest remaining in Wales. Denbighshire County Council rescued the barn from complete destruction 2006. Now it houses the business Bathing Beauty, which sells quality products made from natural and chemical-free materials to care for your skin.

Continue along this road past the next dip in

the road, pass Tŷ Coch Farm on your right and you will see the sign of Pentre Farm on your right. This lane allows public access so go up the lane until you see a public footpath signpost – take the one to the right.

Cross the stile and take your time to enjoy the beautiful views across the vale. Aim for the rear of Plas Dolben farm which is visible a couple of fields away.

Daulben was probably the original surname of the Dolben family here. According to the story, Henry VII granted in its entirety the Segrwyd Estate near Denbigh to a man named Robert Daulben. This was because Daulben helped the king to defeat the Cornish rebels in bloody battle of Blackheath near London in 1497. So the Dolbens have been here for over 500 years.

There is nothing left of the original Plas Dolben. It was demolished in 1986 but has probably been rebuilt many times. When it was demolished, some very impressive murals were found – one depicting Nelson and a sailing boat. I wonder what happened to that?

Now another generation is taking over at Plas Dolben and I wish Rhian all the best on her venture, with the assistance of her parents, no doubt. If you see a social media advertisement for Plas Dolben sausages, well buy some – they're the best. Take my word, Anwen's and my mother's!



In the garden of Plas Dolben there is a well in a vault which is still visible today – Cynhafal's well. It is said that it had magical powers to heal warts. The wart would have to be pricked with a pin, the pin thrown into the well, with a prayer to Cynhafal for a cure.

A walk with Bryn: ctd

Within a few days, the wart would vanish. This was not just a myth – steps enter the water where people would bathe to recover from arthritis, too.

After passing the rear of the farm, head for a gate on your right and then go down the field to a stile. Go over that, cross a small stream and up the other side and you'll come out onto a road leading to the Church of St Cynhafal.

Take the right here instead of following the path. This is the way the pilgrims used to go to the well at Plas Dolben, but in the opposite direction.

Cynhafal was a monk of the 7th century and the parishioners of Llangynhafal have a special day to celebrate their saint, 5th October – St Cynhafal's Day.

Experts have written volumes about the church, so I won't need to say anything about it. This is purely a preview before you do your own research or go to see it in all its beauty. There is a reference to a church on the site as far back as 1254, and to the first parish priest in 1390. The church as it stands today is a double-naved church, a traditional form here in the vale – one for pilgrims' accommodation, the other for worshippers. The original churchyard is in the form of a circle which is also typical of churches from very early days.

You must visit the white marble memorial on a wall facing the main road. This commemorates the brave men who lost their lives in both world wars. Take a moment in this tranquil place to thank the young people who gave their lives to ensure our freedom. They left the beautiful countryside of Llangynhafal and never returned. It's hard to imagine the heartbreak, isn't it?

Among them is one very brave girl, Edith Evans, who was a member of the ATS. If you enter the churchyard, her grave is on the right and has a beautiful white sandstone headstone.

One name that has drawn my attention for many years now is that of a 21-year-old named Henry Davies of Selar, a smallholding a stone's throw from the church. He lost his life in Poona (now Pune), India, in August 1916 – 4,500 miles away from home. How on earth did he get there and how long did it take? I would love to know. If you know, well, let *Llais Llandyrnog Voice* know! And if you look closely, someone has re-carved the letter P in Poona – what's that about?

It's time to return to the car now. Walk downhill until you reach the crossroads – Croesffordd Cyffion. There are stocks here today, although these are replicas of the originals where the parishioners would come to be punished – named and shamed, as they say today.

Before you head up the road to the Golden Lion, head a hundred yards down the road towards Hendrerwydd and in a small paddock you will see the remains of Plas Iago. This is another example of a timber cruck-framed building. Apparently the remains of a hallway that was central to the building are still visible inside but the top crucks have disappeared – firewood for someone, sometime, I suppose. Unfortunately there is no public access to this field.

According to the census over the years, a cobbler and a blacksmith have lived at these crossroads. It's easy to imagine that somehow this small intersection was very busy in medieval times and I presume that there would have been a ford here at that time. These culverts that cause so much trouble during floods are quite new – people in ancient times knew better!

Well, go back for the car now and if you make the trip on a weekend afternoon, the Goldie may well be open and you'll be greeted with a warm welcome and a cuppa before heading home – hopefully to do some more research!

Bryn Davies

Horse show

It was good to be back on the Kinmel Fields for the first time since 2011. The weather was kind to us and the support from riders, car booters, stall holders, dog owners and the general public was fantastic. Over £700 was raised to be shared between St Kentigern's, the Air Ambulance and Riding for the Disabled charities.

It was good to see lots of prizes going to local contestants.

There were 9 contestants in the Fancy Dress competition and it was difficult to choose a winner. 1st prize went to Lucy Wayte from Cymau with 'under the sea'.

Marcus Rosser of Llandyrnog won the Heulwen Griffiths Trophy for Lead Rein Show Jumping and also the Lead Rein Handy Pony Class

Catherine Smith Edwards of Llandyrnog won the Best Ridden 14.2 and under class and also the Open Handy Pony.

Megan Evans of Llandyrnog won the Ridden Championship.

Lorraine Roberts from Ruthin won the In Hand 4 year old and over class.

We had lots of entries for the Fun Dog Show, judged by Gwen from Gwen's Choice Dog Feed.

Iona Griffiths Pierce



(Photo: Phil O'Loughlin)

Llangwyfan Forest



As mentioned last month, infected larch trees with *Phytophthora ramorum*, or larch disease will be treated and felled over the next 12 months. Drop-in sessions were held at the main car park of Llangwyfan Forest on 3 and 4 August and some residents of the area had the opportunity to put questions to Natural Resources Wales staff.

A request from farmers and landowners

Please could people using the local footpaths to stick to them, please, and keep their dogs on them as well. It is not acceptable to let dogs run anywhere on the fields next to the path. Thank you

Also a polite reminder to those who ride their horses on the pavement between Clynog crossroads and Llangwyfan crossroads – Rule 54 of the Highway Code is: You MUST NOT take a horse onto a footpath or pavement.

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry



Contact details

Mobile: 07836 208446

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

Or leave a message on Facebook

Notes from Plas Ashpool

Does it seem to you that this summer has flown by? One minute we were enjoying the beauty of the fresh spring growth and now, after this lovely quiet, warm spell of weather we are already beginning to witness all the signs of autumn.

We have been lucky enough to have a few trips down to the seaside these last few weeks and the display of wild thyme and now the heather on the headlands has been spectacular. Just walking along the coastal paths is an absolute joy. There is something so energising about the sea air, so intoxicating.

At home, in the garden, there are many signs of change too. Although the vegetable garden is still providing a feast of produce, the flower borders are gradually starting to go to seed and ready themselves for the shorter days ahead. People often ask me whether I cut back all the herbaceous growth. I am in the camp of 'leave it alone'. I think that, although it may look scruffy, the dried and dead foliage gives some protection to the plants during the colder months. However, if you like a tidy garden, then just cut it all back and mulch the beds well.

I'm feeling excited today as our son in America has just phoned to say that after having had to cancel their summer visit to Wales due to them contracting COVID, they are now able to make it over in October. They tell me that they are all looking forward to colder weather and rain! Seems hard to understand, but when they talk of the latest wild fire raging through an area of over one hundred thousand acres close to them and skies grey, not with rain, but with smoke and ash, and air quality of over 300 on the pollution index, I can quite see why they are looking forward to our British weather.

Today has been a good day for vegetable-harvesting and mushroom-hunting, but can anyone recommend some tasty recipes for making good use of this abundance of produce? I have tried several, soups, pates and chutneys but am slowly running out of fresh ideas. Please share them with us if you do!

I hope that you have been able to enjoy the summer and that we can all find something to look forward to in the months ahead. I, for one, will be writing yet another list of all the gardening jobs and projects that still await, but isn't that just joy of gardening?

Until next time, happy gardening.

Fiona Bell

North Wales Community Alert

This is a community messaging service brought to you by North Wales Police and partners, to give you up to date information about crime, engagement events, appeals, prevention advice and general policing activity in your local area.

Registration is completely free, quick and simple. North Wales Community Alert also gives you an opportunity to provide feedback to your local neighbourhood police team on the issues that matter most to you, helping us to work together to make North Wales the safest place in the UK.

North Wales Community Alert messages are sent within the secure Neighbourhood Alert system and are clearly branded as being from North Wales Police. Alerts are not confidential and we welcome the sharing of information.

This is not replacing any Neighbourhood Watch scheme. North Wales Community Alert is linked to the national Neighbourhood Watch 'Our Watch' system and will improve the way in which police and Watch schemes are able to communicate with and support each other.

A boost of confidence to restart community activities

Concerned about reopening the village hall? Worried about resuming choir practice? Will the local show be ready to re-open its doors next year? And what about the clubs and festivals that are an integral part of our local communities?

You are not alone. Recommendations following a report by the Welsh Government suggest a call to reconnect with groups which are 'unlikely to resume activities after the pandemic, to ascertain what support is needed to help them resume action.'

Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych, with the support of the Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC), is offering guidance to community groups on how to get back into activities and re-open centres as safely as possible following the Covid-19 safety guidance.

In a special awareness session through Zoom, tailored to our local communities, event health and safety expert, Alan Gwynant, will offer guidance and a boost of confidence as volunteers and community groups prepare to run events.

At 7pm Wednesday, 8 September, a session will be held through the medium of Welsh, and a session will be held in English on Monday 20 September, again at 7pm.

'It's been a worrying time for many, with guidance on running events constantly changing,' explains Ruth Williams of Menter Iaith. 'The purpose of these sessions is to give voluntary organisations clear guidance and support, so that they have the appropriate tools to open their doors to hold events again. There will be guidance on risk reduction, forward planning, communicating with the public and dealing with cases of Covid-19, and more. It is hoped that after the 90-minute session everyone will be clearer when preparing activities in their communities over the coming months, and that we can look forward to seeing more community events.'

To register call 01745 812822 or e-mail menter@misirddinbych.cymru

Recipe

Cheesy ham rolls

- 4 slices ham
- 4 hard-boiled eggs
- 4 oz diced mushrooms
- 4 oz finely diced onions
- 4 oz porridge oats (optional)
- Salt and pepper
- Small amount of oil or butter for frying
- Cheese sauce
- Grated cheddar cheese
- ¼ tsp mustard

Lightly fry onions and mushrooms.
Mix in bowl with eggs/oats/salt and pepper.
Spread on ham and roll ham.
Place ham rolls in oven-proof dish, cover with the cheese sauce (including the mustard) and sprinkle with cheese on top.
Bake at 180 °C for 20 minutes.



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