

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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September 2023 – Volume 8 – Issue 12

Llandyrnog Flower and Produce Show



Another flower and produce show is sadly behind us and what a good show it was. I was having favourable comments all day about the quality of the exhibits and how lovely the show was.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my grateful thanks to everyone who made this year's show such a success: to our President Mrs Ruth Griffith, D.L., for carrying out her duties with such decorum; to members of the committee, especially Roger our secretary; to the exhibitors, judges, stewards, Winnie and Margaret, Alison and Amy Weyman for arranging the dog show and face-painting, Anwen and Ifan for working out the results, and to the members of the W.I. for the wonderful refreshments; not forgetting the sponsors of the classes and the advertisers who contribute greatly towards the cost of printing the schedule. Finally a big thank you to all who attended and contributed financially to make the show such a big success.

John Rowlands, Chairman



Around the village

Sincere condolences to Gwilym Evans, Glennydd, on the death of his wife, Glenys. Members of the Tuesday Club are very grateful for the 16 years she spent organising it with Gwilym, and she was also a valued member of Dyffryn Chapel. Her funeral will be at the chapel, Monday 11 September at 11am. Our condolences also to Catrin Jones and family, Llys Aled on the death of her grandmother, Delyth Jones of Bontuchel.

Congratulations to Rich and Iona, Hafod y Bryn, on the birth of their first grandson – Mabon Llywelyn, son of Non and Medyr, who live in Cardiff.

Thanks: Tudor, Julia, and the family of the late Clwyd Hughes, Llangwyfan Farm, wish to express their thanks for all the condolences received following their recent bereavement. Thank you also for the generous donations in memory of Clwyd towards the upkeep of St Cwyfan's churchyard.

LLANDYRNOG HUB

It was lovely to see so many visitors enjoying a cuppa and cake at the Cae Nant Pavilion Hub this month. Some even came back again later in the day which was much appreciated. Our next Hub is planned for Wednesday 20th September, 11am – 5pm and you are most welcome any time. Watch out for the posters and Facebook notifications for confirmation.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Coffee morning

Saturday 30th September

10am at the Village Hall

**Contributions to home produce
stall gratefully received**

All welcome!

Cocoa Rooms Events

Monday	4 th	Trefoil Guild, 2pm Llais Llandyrnog Voice committee meeting, 7pm
Tuesday	5 th	Book club 10–11am WI 7pm
Wednesday	6 th	Church meeting, 7pm
Wednesday	13 th	Mothers' Union, 2pm
Tuesday	19 th	Book club 10–11am Community Council, 7pm
Wednesday	20 th	Tuesday Club 2–3pm
Monday	25 th	Block of the Month, 7pm

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

Village Hall Events

Sat 2 nd	Craft Group	10am–4pm
Mon 4 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Sat 9 th	Coffee Morning – Samaritans	10am
Sun 10 th	Messy Church	3.30–5pm
Mon 11 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed 13 th	Reflexology	5.30–10pm
Mon 18 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Mon 25 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Sat 30 th	Coffee Morning – Macmillan	10am

To book the Village Hall, e-mail Ivan Butler: ivanbutler897@btinternet.com, or contact him on 07799 570549.

September 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	Holy Communion

New speed limit

On 17th September 2023 the default speed limit for any road in Wales presently designated as 30 miles per hour will reduce to 20 mph. Wherever you see a run of three or more streetlights, you should assume it is 20mph unless otherwise advised by road signs. There will be exceptions and each local authority is considering which, if any, of their roads to exempt. For example, I understand that the 30 mph limit on the outskirts of Ruthin, past Aldi, is one of them. However judging by the fact that a fresh patch of tarmac is ready at either end of Llandyrnog to display a prominent 20, it looks as if our village will not be exempt. I know there has been much debate as to the merit of the scheme but the high speed of traffic through the village has also been complained about in the past.

Wales is not alone – areas of Europe already have 30kmph limits (18.5 mph) and some have 20kmph (which is 12 mph!) in urban areas. London introduced 20 is Plenty in March 2020 and has reported a 25% reduction in road traffic collisions and a 63% reduction in vehicle crashes involving pedestrians.

“20 feels so slow” ... I know, but speed is deceptive. I remember attending a motorcycle rally organised by the Greater Manchester Police in the 1980s. Before we set off on a group ride across the moors, they put us through a series of exercises just for fun, (theirs or ours I wasn’t sure!). For one test we had to ride at the side of a police officer at walking pace (which wasn’t easy as he would speed up and slow down at will) but then for the next exercise we had to cover our



speedometers and travel at *exactly* 30 towards an officer with a speed gun. Every one of us was too slow – thinking we were going faster than we were.

At the other extreme, think how slow it feels after coming off the motorway and having to reduce speed to 60. Speed can be deceptive, so just because it feels slow doesn’t mean it is.

Whatever we think of the new speed limit it will be the law. And if it saves one life it will be worth it.

Gwen Butler

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.***

Coffee morning

**Saturday 9th September,
10am at the Village Hall
Proceeds to The Samaritans**

**Contributions to home produce
stall gratefully received**

All welcome!

Post Office Opening Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9am–12pm, 2pm–5pm
Wednesday & Saturday 9am–12.30pm
01824 790310

Llandyrnog Flower and Produce Show

Fruit and vegetables: Best exhibit and most points – Richard Davies

Flowers: Best exhibit and most points – Olwen Rowlands

Floral art: Best exhibit and most points – Wendy Grey-Lloyd

Cookery: Best exhibit – Gwenda Marshall; most points – Roger Warner

Young persons: Best exhibit and most points – Theo Martin-Downing

Craft: Best exhibit – Edith Hughes; most points – Gwenda Marshall

Photography: Best exhibit — Amy Weyman

Adults' section: Most points – Gwenda Marshall; President's favourite exhibit – Livia Jones;
Secretary's favourite exhibit – Hazel Wright

Show president: Ruth Griffith, DL; Glanrafon

As a committee we can arrange, plan and prepare the event but it is up to the exhibitors to make the show such a success – without them we don't have a show. But we were disappointed in the amount of young people's entries we had this year. Although we did have over 40 entries from Ysgol Bryn Clwyd, sadly there were 10 classes in this section with **no entries at all!**

Looking forward to next year, let us make a special effort to encourage children to exhibit at our show. After all, they are the show's future.

Last year's President kindly gave the show a donation with a wish that it would be used for the benefit of the children. With this in mind we bought wildflower seeds to give to all the children that exhibited, along with face-painting material. We will be going to the school to present the children with their prize money and their seeds, which will give us an ideal opportunity to promote the show.

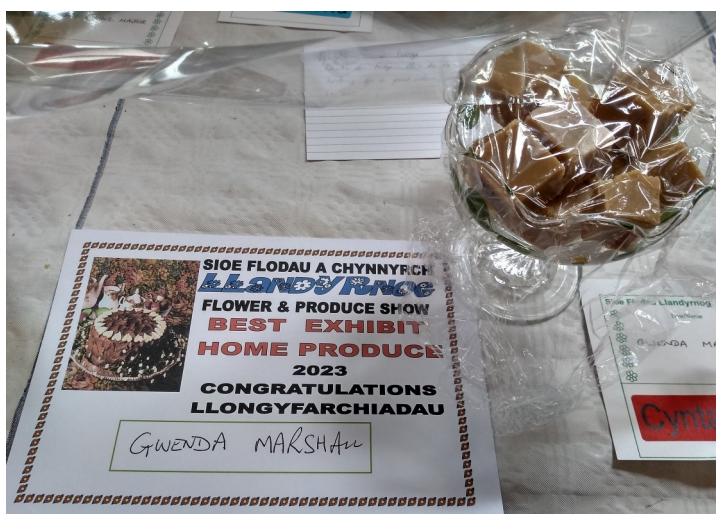


Richard Davies



Wendy Grey-Lloyd

More photos of entries are in the Welsh version



Gwenda Marshall

James Davies, MP for Vale of Clwyd

james.davies.mp@parliament.uk

Constituency office: 01745 888920

Westminster office: 0207 2194606



Olwen Rowlands



Edith Hughes

Dog show results



Best small breed and best trick
1st: Constance – Wendy Charles Warner



Best large breed
1st: Holly – Mason Powell



Best dressed dog
1st: Bob – Heather Powell



Judges' favourite
1st: Enid – Heather Powell

The winner of the competition for the waggiest tail was Betty, owned by Vicky Owen.



Theo Martin-Downing

Plas Ashpool

Quite a while has passed since I last wrote to you and since then several people have been asking about progress on the barn, so I thought I would fill you in on a few details.

But first of all we need to wind the clock back 50 years almost to the day, as it was then that I was celebrating my 18th birthday party. We had been living at Plas Ashpool for a few years by this time, as my mother and father had purchased the house and outbuildings from Mr Glazebrook's estate. At that time, the outbuildings were not derelict as today but had not been used for their original purpose for many years.

Our sheepdog lived in one and the sheep were gathered safely in there ready for shearing. Apart from that, they stood quietly, observing the gentle changes that were taking place with the rest of the surroundings. Mostly, Mum busying herself creating a garden, and the odd parking of tractors, lawn mower and the old Land Rover.

I was no great party-goer at all, but for some reason I longed for a party with a difference to celebrate my leaving school and moving on to the world of college and beyond. I remember pleading with Dad for quite some time, before, (like most loving and obedient Dads) he gave in and agreed to 'sorting' out the barn for the big occasion. Invitations were sent out, a disco booked, food planned and some alcohol allowed. This was just the beginning. He then went on to install a new upper floor, the existing one deemed not fit to receive 50 pairs of dancing feet! A rickety flight of stairs was replaced, sacking wrapped around all head height hazards and the whole barn bedecked in strings of lights and jungle paintings, created by my more artistic friends.

The day arrived and all went well, great fun was had by all and no mishaps occurred. Certainly, a night to remember. It probably took my parents weeks to recover from all the worry of being responsible for so many teenagers.



Roll forward 30-odd years and you will now find me responsible for the care and maintenance of these same lovely buildings. Only this time they resemble old ruins. The roof gone, the floors rotten, windows missing and half the walls collapsed after storms, snowfalls, and lack of maintenance.

For many years, unbeknownst to me, the planning department had been chasing my father, demanding that he repair the buildings. He, in his very old and decrepit state, had pushed every single letter to the back of his desk drawers. Therefore, when we took possession, we realised that something had to be done. Anyone who has ever had the good fortune and at the same time misfortune to own listed buildings will understand the colossal burden this can be.

Having limited funds at that time and with four children all living at home, we managed to persuade the planners that by removing the remaining slates and shoring up both buildings, they would, at least for the time being, be rendered safe from collapsing into the road. There they remained for quite a few years until at last, we were in a better financial position to cope with the problem of what to do with them. Several ideas went through our head until we finally decided we could make a return on the huge outlay of restoring one of the barns with the intention of running a wedding venue.

Luckily for us Covid came along and those

Plas Ashpool: ctd

plans were halted. I say luckily, because we now feel that at our age this might have been one project too big for us to run. Instead, holiday accommodation was our next choice and the work began.

Looking at it now in its finished state it is sometimes difficult to remember what it looked like at the start of the mission. However, glance across the courtyard and look at the ancient, as yet untouched, cruck barn and you will have a good idea.

Oak trusses were rebuilt by hand, thousands of bricks were used to replace fallen walls, hundreds of slates ordered to replace the old ones that had slid and slipped to their demise over the years, oak floors replaced and so on and on and on it went. All thanks to my wonderful husband who masterminded it all.

Now, with a smaller amount of input from me and our family, the project is complete and the barn stands proudly once more. Of course, no longer the building it was 100, 200, 300, years ago but at least, a building that stands proudly, a building which has a purpose and a building in which (we hope) our visitors will enjoy their stay at Plas Ashpool and be enthralled by all that our beautiful Vale and surroundings has to offer.

Our family may not be custodians in another few hundred years, but I hope that the barn will withstand a few more centuries of purposeful life and add a hundred more tales to its soul.

Fiona Bell



Recipe

Have you run out of ideas what to make with your courgettes? Try this easy recipe.

COURGETTE RELISH

- 8 cups of finely chopped courgette
- 2 cups finely chopped onions
- 1 cup finely chopped red pepper
- ½ cup finely chopped green pepper
- ¼ cup salt
- ½ tsp turmeric
- 2½ cup granulated sugar
- 1½ cup white wine vinegar
- 1½ tsp dry mustard
- 1 tsp mustard seeds
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 2 tsp cornflour
- 1 tbsp water

Combine the vegetables, sprinkle with salt and leave to stand for 30 minutes.
Drain and rinse, pressing out any excess liquid.
Boil the sugar, vinegar and spices in a saucepan.
Add the vegetables and stir well.
Cook until the vegetables are tender and the liquid has thickened.
Mix cornflour with the water. Add into the relish and cook until clear.
Bottle into already sterilised jars.
Enjoy with cold meats, add to toasted sandwiches, burgers or any meal you chose.

Nia Williams

Dyffryn Chapel

Congratulations to Gwenan Lloyd, Pen y Bryn, on her success at the National Eisteddfod – 3rd in the solo recitation competition, and 3rd, with Ynyr Rogers, in the cerdd dant duet competition.

September services:

03/09	9.45	Rev Andras Iago (Communion)
10/09	11.00	Rev Megan Williams
17/09	9.45	Rev Nesta Davies
24/09	11.00	Rev Andras Iago

On the buses

I had never thought much about it, really – but have buses played an important part in your life?

It's only when I cast my mind back did I realise how they played an important part in my childhood. Now remember, we lived in a very rural area, as happy as sandboys and my parents ensured – through sacrificing a lot themselves – that we wanted for nothing.

But we only had one car and my dad took that to work. My mother did not drive anyway, so for any days out as a treat during school holidays, the mode of transport was a bus. A single decker to Denbigh, then a double decker to our final destination – Rhyl most of the time. If we were lucky we would have the front seats on the top deck, a panoramic view of the Vale and the excitement of going over the railway bridge into Rhyl and actually seeing the sea – until someone decided to build a monstrosity of a 'children's village' across it. However, that is another story.

From the age of four until seventeen (apart from school holidays) I was on a bus every day. From the age of four, I walked to Waen Crossroads to catch a bus to Ysgol Gymraeg Dinbych which then became Ysgol Twm o'r Nant in Denbigh. After the Twm o'r Nant days, I caught a bus from Llandyrnog to Denbigh and on to St Asaph. Ok, we are going back to when there was very little traffic. However, how many parents today would cheerfully wave goodbye to their boys, satchel-clad, aged four and six, as they wander down a country lane to catch a bus!

From memory, the early buses were similar to the photo in the next column, with the driver who was also the conductor in a single cab. We were a mixed bunch – some very streetwise Llandyrnog kids, others not quite so. Well, I had never lived on a street, had I? And never had to fend or protect myself from my one and only playmate – my brother. Inevitably we sat in the front, probably because generally there was a riot going on in the back and a fag or two being

smoked, – and we did not want to be found guilty by association with any misdemeanours. But they were good days.



It was on those early buses that I read the sign 'Do Not Place Accumulators on Seats'. Being that English was, and still is my second language, I understood most of the sentence but had no idea what an accumulator was until fairly recently. My mother told me the story about her grandfather taking 'the accumulators' to Abergele to be charged every Saturday afternoon and would return with a freshly charged one – that's when the penny dropped. They were the glass-cased batteries used to power the radio and full of acid. I realise now the damage spilt acid would cause to the seat cover, let alone the discomfort if one was unfortunate to sit on the damp patch in between it being spilt and actually eating the seat cover.

My great-grandfather (my mother's grandfather), who was tasked with this job, died early 1958/1959 and I have a newspaper cutting, found in my mother's belongings, 'Passing of Britain's Oldest Organist'. He played the organ at Sinan Church in Marli until he was in his 100th year – so Anwen has another fifty years to go!

The photo on the page opposite is the only one I have of my great-grandfather. According to my late mother (he lived with them as an extended family), the only time the pipe was

On the buses: ctd



out of his mouth when it was time to go to bed. Maybe at that time they had not discovered that smoking was supposedly bad for you. However he did manage to survive into his 100th year.

My late mother, bless her, used buses on a very regular basis. If she was on Mastermind, her specialist subject would have been the bus timetables. Since she had a bus pass, she would catch the bus to Wrexham, and get a wiggle on to get to Marks and Spencers – because it was the only place she could buy King Edward potatoes to make Sunday lunch. Then she would catch the same bus back to Ruthin – she had about a twenty minute window. The driver would not go unless Mother and her tatties were back on board

Mother had her ‘bus friends’ and they went to Wrexham fairly regularly, taking in the scenic Graigfechan route – because it was free and of course to have a good old natter on the bus. It passed the time of day – living on a state pension is challenging enough for the older generation and time out on the buses for free was a treat for them. I will take the ‘twenty is plenty’ on the chin, but if Drakeford even mentions taking away free passes from those who qualify – I will lead the riot for you. It will make the riot of the Tolpuddle Martyrs look like a walk in

the park.

Do you realise there is a bus every hour to Chester from Ruthin? Apparently it’s the T8. I am not encouraging anyone to spend their money over the border, but Chester has such a lot to offer in terms of historic buildings and the walls etc – and you can have a beer or two without having to worry about driving home. I have no idea when the last bus is from Ruthin, however if mother was still with us, she would know – sounds like a good day out to me!

Come to think of it, from the age of about 25, I was in a choir for over twenty years and we travelled extensively – throughout Wales, over the border and parts of Europe. Inevitably that involved not a bus, but a proper coach. For all our local forays we used Rogers of Graigfechan – and without fail Eric, or ‘Coach’, would be the driver.



The journeys to concerts or competitions would be a fairly sombre and respectable affair – but on the return journey, there was an inevitable pub stop, then singing all the way home. Eric indeed was a saint putting up with all this, but we made sure he always had a good tip. ‘What goes on tour, stays on tour’, as they say – happy days.

Anyway where is this all leading? I’ve rambled on too much – my word counter has exceeded my allowance so it will have to wait until next month.

Bryn Davies



The Wright life

Isn't it amazing how quickly the countryside greens up after the hot and dry weather? The Clwydians start to put on their purple hat with the heather in full bloom, a sure sign Autumn is on its way. The colours of the landscape change as the light gets lower and the leaves begin their transformation from a bright crisp green to the ambers and browns. I notice the hazel nuts in the hedgerows and the blackberries ripening as we move into another season. However, the vegetable garden is at its most productive as it's 'harvest time'.

I've lifted my onions, luckily, just before the heavy rain and they are drying in the greenhouse before I string them up to hang in my cool, dark 'bakehouse'. This building may have been used to make bread for the local community and contains a copper boiler with a fire beneath to heat the water. I have tried to research its history but have found nothing – an article for another *Llais* maybe?

Storing vegetables keeps the harvest going for much longer and this year 'Bob the Cob' was still enjoying my Bramley apples into the spring! Years ago, people only ate seasonal vegetables; it was unheard of to have strawberries at Christmas. We have acres of hothouses now with improved freight so we can all enjoy these fruits all year round, but at what cost? And the taste isn't the same. For me, they haven't quite managed to replace that first crunch of a crisp runner bean straight off the plant in July or the sweetness of a warm tomato picked on a hot August afternoon. Traditionally people made jams, pickles and chutneys which provided flavour in the winter months.

I've grown lovely red chillies in my greenhouse; I think the hot weather helped, but I was uncertain how to preserve them. I have tried pickling them for the first time to add to soups and stews for that extra kick. I've

pickled onions in the past, but that's as far as my expertise goes, so with the help of 'Google' I found a recipe and have given it a go.

A work colleague gave me some Kilner-style jars which contained posh pâté and after removing the labels and sterilising them, they were perfect for the chopped chillies. I heated cider vinegar with a few bay leaves, coriander and mustard seeds and brought to the boil and poured over the chillies. I haven't used this type of jar before and the lid contraption was a mystery as to how it went together to seal the jars. A quick search on YouTube and a very nice man called 'Dilip' had a video with instructions.



From my Dutch ancestry, I know the word 'pickle' comes from 'pekel'. It means salt or brine, two components essential to pickling. My mother, who was half Dutch, always had a bowl containing sliced cucumber in vinegar with freshly milled black pepper in the fridge; it was added to cold meats or cheese dishes and I do the same. I have never heard or met anyone else who does this and my brother jokes that 'I am weird', so I am assuming it has been passed down from my Dutch grandmother's side. Perhaps someone can enlighten me?

It does seem that you either adore pickles or you detest them – it's a Marmite thing, but with all the lovely spices we have access to today, why not give them a try? They certainly do enhance a dish.

Hazel

Football in Llandyrnog

With the summer over now, we can't let it go without mentioning the two last competitions of the Llandyrnog Summer League. Two teams entered the under 11 competition at Llanfair DC. Team A was very unfortunate to lose on penalties in the semi-finals, and Team B unfortunate to go out at the group stage.

The final competition of the Summer League was the under 16 tournament. Team A (below) made it to the final, losing out narrowly to Clawddnewydd 1–0. This was the only goal conceded all day! Jimmy would also like to thank all the players who put in a great effort.



The home kit (above) and the away kit (right)

Best wishes to Sion Morris and the team for the oncoming season.



A massive well done to all who took part and as always to Jimmy McNally and Ethan Plumb for organising and coaching.

The 2023–24 season is now underway for Llandyrnog United FC, with Sion Morris, the new manager of first team. Sion took over from now chairman, Jimmy McNally towards the back end of last season, and was the obvious choice to succeed him this year on a permanent basis. Other members of the management team are James Sweetman, coach and Jack Cooledge, fitness coach and physio.

The team's new kit was unveiled last month – the home kit sponsored by Cooke Milking Equipment, and the away kit sponsored by MHC. The club thanks Mike McCoole for his designs, and Top Mark Teamwear for producing the shirts.

Llandyrnog W.I.



Members of Llandyrnog WI enjoyed a lovely afternoon at the 50's Museum in Denbigh, reminiscing about childhood and items used when we were growing up. This was followed by tea at the Lodge to celebrate Betty's birthday.

Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society

History society annual summer visit to Garthewin Hall



42 members and friends of Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society were pleased to visit Garthewin Hall, theatre, chapel, and grounds/gardens (Llanfair Talhaearn, Conwy), on Saturday 22nd July by kind permission of the owner Michael Grime who purchased the estate in 1995 from the Wynne family.

The group was delighted to have a guided tour of the interior of the house, which is also his private home, from Michael himself. He explained the history of the house which was probably originally a long house which was remodelled and extended over the years and he pointed out many key features including some of the fireplaces, panelling, and row of servants' bells.

When he purchased the estate, it was unfortunately in rather a sorry state and empty of any furniture or fittings. He has had to invest much time and money to restore the large white mansion, grounds, and other buildings, as close to their former glory as possible.

The origins of Garthewin can be traced back to at least the 17th century, when a Robert Wynne of Melai, Llanfair Talhaearn, married the heiress to the estate Margred Pryse. He was a Royalist commander in the Civil War, but could trace his ancestry back to the 9th century leader Marchudd ap Cynon, who founded the eighth of the Noble Tribes of Wales. It remained in the Wynne family until it was sold, for economic reasons in 1995.

The running of any estate requires various ways to make it pay and to provide sufficient

money to invest in its upkeep. Latter members of the Wynne family may have inherited the estate but no money to go with it.

Artists and thinkers were brought to Garthewin and a theatre was created in the large barn behind the house which was originally a tithe barn. Two of well-known Welsh playwright Saunders Lewis's original plays had their first performances in that theatre and the origins of the National Theatre for Wales can be traced to this barn theatre also. When all attempts failed, the Wynnes were forced to sell off parcels of land and cottages and eventually, Garthewin House itself together with the grounds and accompanying properties.

Garthewin was once an estate of 15,000 acres including the village of Llanfair Talhaiarn. Not much is known about the very first dwelling to occupy the site near Abergele. There are written records referring to the house in the 14th century with an Elizabethan house which replaced it knocked down, as well as the Jacobean house which was built after it. It is an ancient place.

Records show that in 1710 Dr Robert Wynne, Chancellor of St Asaph, rebuilt the 17th century house, then another Robert Wynne, High Sheriff of Denbighshire, altered this early 18th century building.

The house today at Garthewin dates to 1767 and was designed by architect Joseph Turner of Chester. A tower was added in 1870 to make space for a ballroom, and in the 1930s, architect Clough Williams-Ellis of Portmeirion fame, remodelled the house further, adding a garden terrace to the south front.

There are several historic listed buildings on the site with The Garthewin house itself listed Grade II*, the chapel is Grade II listed and there is a Book Room house on the main drive to Garthewin which is also listed Grade II and there are also other buildings and structures that are listed.

The drive up to the main house is at least a mile and a half and both the house and garden



are open to groups by appointment and the garden is often opened for the National Garden Scheme. There are now two ponds with the current owner having restored one which had been filled in following a storm when a dam broke before the first world war. There is still evidence of pipework from a hydro-electric scheme by one of the ponds – the Wynnes were a very forward-thinking family!!

There are still a few of a line of seven Scots pine trees in the grounds which were planted to support the Catholic monarch and were known as “Charlie’s pines”. This planting formation indicated that the Wynne’s were a catholic nobility family.

The group heard about some of the varied and interesting characters in the Wynne family (who over the generations had occupied Garthwin for over 1,000 years).

When Colonel Wynne was serving in Arabia, he climbed into a harem for a bet, risking a penalty of castration. Unfortunately, he was caught and this created inheritance problems for the Wynne’s in the 19th century!

There was Brownlow Wynn Wynne, originally a cousin twice removed of Robert Wynne, with the surname Cummings who had to change it to Wynne and adopt the coat of arms of the Wynne family in order to inherit the estate. His wife had a boating accident in the ornamental lake and unfortunately had a miscarriage. From then on, she locked herself away in her bedroom, refusing to speak to her husband and dedicated herself to breeding white mice.

Then there was Catherine, who was brought up with Queen Elizabeth 1. She is said to have killed one of her four husbands by pouring molten lead into his ear while he was asleep.

There was also, Maria Stella, Lady Newborough, who should have been a French princess!

Following the visit, the group enjoyed an excellent meal in The Holland Arms restaurant and pub, Trofath, near Abergele and were warmly welcomed by the owners Lynnette and Darren. (www.thehollandarms.co.uk)

The next History society meeting will be on Wednesday, 18 October at 7pm for the AGM, followed by the speaker, Mr Berwyn Evans, who will talk about the Dyffryn Aled prisoner of war camp.



The family’s coat of arms: ‘May your door be open, more still your heart’

A message from our priest

Another academic year begins as we come into the month of September. Many teachers, students and a range of staff prepare to go to schools and universities – some to new ones and others to places they have been to before, with the changes on the way that come with each new academic year. Many people pray in the churches across Denbigh Mission Area regularly for all the people in our wonderful communities and ask for God's grace and goodness to be with you in the variety of life itself.

Daily prayer is a privilege and knowing God is a joy as we continue to grow within the love of God. Why do so many people pray to Jesus? What's it all about?

Well, relationships are exciting and a relationship with Jesus is a relationship with God who brought all things into being. Each time we pray, we enter into union with God who patiently and lovingly meets us where we are. We need God, because a relationship with God is not only natural, it makes us whole and complete. A relationship with God helps us to grow and be fully who we are, equipped and encouraged by the people around us who want this for us actively and genuinely.

The church of God has always been good at drawing people together because essentially, the God who gave us being cares for us and wants us to want to know God. We do know God who lived a life in Jesus and we are invited through that life, death and resurrection to welcome Jesus into our lives, Jesus who lives on. We then live together, learning from Jesus, encouraging each other to love God and to love *all* people. This is the healthy goodness of faith and the Spirit of God that grows in you, especially in that regular prayer. The Holy Spirit gives us the freedom to live the sort of lives that deep down we have always wanted to live.

The fruit of the Spirit, is 'Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.' (Galatians 5:22)

Growing in relationship with God brings about these great characteristics. If this speaks to you then tell a Christian in your immediate circles. Come along to one of our Churches. Have a read of the Bible. Give prayer a go, God is always more ready to meet us, so run into God's wide open arms where you are always welcome. Whatever you have on this September, whatever is happening now for you and those around you, may you know something of the Love of God. In the many churches across Denbigh Mission Area, you are being prayed for.

The Reverend Martin Pritchard.

Useful telephone numbers

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Out of hours: 03001 233068

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Spotlight on ... Nia Williams

Tell us a little about yourself, Nia.

I was born in Brecknockshire and brought up in Carmarthenshire. I studied at Wales' oldest university – Saint David's University College Lampeter, which was also the smallest university in the UK. I graduated from there first of all in French and then a Welsh degree. After graduation I worked for Wales YFC as their chief officer, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Clwyd County Council and the FUW in Denbigh. I moved with my family to Llandyrnog in 2001, though my father in law was born and brought up in Llandyrnog, after living in Llanbedr DC.

What three places have a particular significance for you?

Pumsaint, Carmarthenshire, where the only Roman Goldmine in Britain is located and my grandfather worked there in the 1930/s. Lampeter, where I spent almost six years

studying, apart from a year in France.

The Vale of Clwyd where some of my father's family came from – Llanynys.

What makes you happy and what makes you cross?

Happy: Lovely weather and everything apart from weeds growing in the garden.

Cross: People who moan but never volunteer.

Who would you invite to dinner, dead or alive?

I'd love to invite Captain Bennett* and ask him if the story about the chair is true and if by sitting on his chair, he managed to prevent the robbers from stealing his silver.

*A former occupier of Nia's home, "who when terrorised by highwaymen, saved his silver in a compartment under his seat. The thieves were caught, and according to legend, hung at Galltegfa." (From *Llandyrnog & Llangwyfan – A View of the Past*)



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Meet your Community Councillor



Hi, I am one of your Community Councillors.

I started as an army brat, born in Edinburgh and lived in various parts of the world until my parents settled in mum's hometown of Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside. Incidentally mum was a Thomas whose ancestors came from this area.

My work background includes 12 years as a Gunner in the British Army, 12 years as a civil servant and then, so far, 23 years in the Ambulance Service, firstly with Greater Manchester and then since 2007 with the Welsh Ambulance Service based initially in St Asaph, then Rhyl and for the last four years in Denbigh. I am an Ambulance Care Assistant and move non-emergency patients to, from, and between hospitals.

My wife and I moved to Llandyrnog in 2008 – we had looked at lots of places but the flowers on the roundabout convinced us that Llandyrnog was where we wanted to live.

My first experience with the Community Council was making a presentation about defibrillators and convincing them to move ahead and arrange the installation of one of the first in Denbighshire. We were an early implementor – you may have noticed ours is in a green cabinet that was the style back then. Shortly afterwards a vacancy on the Community Council occurred and I was co-opted as a member.

Other interests include:

- active Labour Party member – you may not be aware that we are now in a new Westminster constituency called Clwyd East;
- vegetable gardening – the freezer is full of broad beans and peas after our early summer and our runner beans are pretty prolific at the moment;
- our dogs keep us busy.

John McGuire

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry



Contact details

Mobile: 07836 208446

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