

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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March 2021 – Volume 6 – Edition 6

Arla Update

The latest update from Arla was received in mid-February confirming that the removal of the final pieces of equipment from the site will soon be completed. A team will then continue to work on site until the middle of March to finish all related activity. After that they will scale back to a care and maintenance regime. The marketing of the site for sale continues.



The road in front of the site was closed from 23 to 25 February so that a crane could be brought in to dismantle the silos.



**Happy St David's Day to all our readers.
Thank you for your continued support.**



Around the village

We were sorry to hear that **Ted Rawsthorne**, Maes Tyrnog, is in hospital and we wish him well.

Congratulations to **Rona Aldrich** on her appointment to the Welsh Language Commissioner's Advisory Panel. Rona takes up this position in April 2021, having impressed the Commissioner with her expertise across several areas relating to the Welsh language.

Best wishes to **Helen Jukes-Hughes**, who has retired after nursing for 31 years. She has had a very successful and influential career, and was most recently ophthalmology matron at the Stanley Eye Unit, Abergele Hospital. Helen was also key in supporting the unit's link with Hawassa University Eye Department in Ethiopia, delivering teaching programmes and other support activities.

Our sympathy goes to the family of **Elisabeth Morris**, who was laid to rest following a private funeral on Saturday, 20 February at Capel y Dyffryn. Elisabeth was much loved around the village.

Panic set in as it became clear that our local parcel delivery man, **Gavin**, had mysteriously disappeared. Gavin is a regular (sometimes daily) visitor to many households around Llandyrnog and there was speculation that he had been taken ill. However, it turns out that he had just taken a well-earned break. So Gavin, we know it was only a short holiday, but be advised that you were missed! Thumbs up through the front window from us all. You are very much appreciated!

Congratulations to **Morgan Moorcroft and Dylan** on the birth of your daughter, Ruby Jane Ford; **John and Caroline**, Coed y Ffynnon, a baby girl, Torvi Morgan, a sister for Ivor; and to **Shane and Jess**, Fron Gelyn, a baby boy, Kit Maverick, brother to Archie and Roscoe.

Happy birthday to **Helga Norbury**, formerly of this community, but still remembered with affection.



PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR CAE NANT

The Community Council has agreed to upgrade and improve the play equipment for smaller children at Cae Nant and has displayed posters in the Post Office and on the gates of the playing field to illustrate the proposals. A company called Wicksteed won the bidding process (they have successfully improved other community play areas, including Hope near Wrexham). A site visit will take place at Cae Nant early in March to discuss the final layout and agree the programme of work. It is hoped to have the area completed by the end of April 2021.

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

From the Rector

The anniversary of the first lockdown is almost upon us. We have been through very challenging times but as more and more people are vaccinated things are beginning to improve. We hope it will be safe for the current lockdown to be lifted before too long.

In the church we are currently in the season of Lent – a time well known for people to give something up or even take something on. For Christians it is a time to share in Christ's 40 days in the wilderness and to draw closer to God.

The fourth Sunday of Lent is always Mothering Sunday or Refreshment Sunday – a day of respite from the disciplines of Lent. It is a day for celebrating all mothers and giving thanks for their love. Mothering Sunday has been around for a very long time. Hundreds of years ago it was a day for honouring the Mother Church and people went to a special service at the Mother Church, which for our diocese is St Asaph Cathedral, or they returned to the church where they had been baptised.

The idea of giving flowers on Mothering Sunday comes from the tradition of bringing flowers to decorate the Mother Church. Those returning to their church on this day would gather the flowers on the way. The flowers would be displayed in the church, blessed, then distributed amongst the congregation. In later times, Mothering Sunday became a day for young people who were away from home working as servants to have a day off and go home to visit their mother, often taking a gift of simnel cake.

The tradition of Mothering Sunday was revived in 1913 and since then it is more commonly known as Mother's Day. Sometimes in our Western world it can seem to be just another commercialised affair – cards for every relative, not just Mum, but maybe that takes us back to the original

concept of the family of God coming together; giving thanks that wherever we fit into the family, we are all to be celebrated.

To love and nurture our children is a great gift. Anyone who has welcomed a tiny baby into the family – a child, grandchild, niece or nephew – will know the joy that they bring. All babies are a beautiful witness to God's creating love, but in the midst of it all there is still the hard work, the worry, the sacrifices, yet so willingly given for love of a child. There is a quote that says, 'The joy of Motherhood is when all the children are finally asleep in bed.'

Whether you are a mother, grandmother, godmother or someone who shares in the care of children, you are doing a great job. Keep going!

A prayer for Mothering Sunday:

Loving God, your son Jesus was born into the earthly family of Mary and Joseph: bless all parents and all who care for children. Help us to show your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and truth. Amen

With Every Blessing

Val Rowlands

James Davies, MP for Vale of Clwyd

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Notes from Plas Ashpool

Thank goodness that dreadful icy blast of weather has passed. Let's hope that from now on the days will only get better. Driving along the Mold Road during that particular week I noticed something I haven't seen for many years: icicles hanging from house gutters and sparkling shards springing out from the edge of the many streams that run alongside the old mill by the Cherry Pie.

It brought back happy memories of childhood days, breaking icicles off buildings on the farm and sucking them like ice lollies. It also reminded me of the days when many of the dew ponds in the fields (now long gone due to intensive drainage systems), were frozen solid, and two pairs of old leather, laced skates were dusted down, one brown, one white pair and shared amongst us, regardless of whether they fitted properly or not! Many a tumble was taken but by the end of the day we were glowing with pride at our amateur attempts at spins and twirls.

The cold snap didn't pass without taking its toll here at Plas Ashpool. Dear old Lord Lavender, my remaining Lavender Pekin cockerel, who at the age of 9 or 10 was certainly my oldest feathered friend, sadly took one last breath of Siberian snow-filled air, turned his toes up (literally) and lay frozen solid by his feeding dish. I can only hope that he enjoyed his final meal.

One colony of bees has also succumbed to the intense cold. Possibly due to lack of enough stores (my feeding of sugar syrup may have come too late), coupled with the fact that they were only a small colony, may have led to their demise. Bees cluster together in the winter months within the centre of the hive to maintain a steady temperature necessary for survival. Alas, I think the icy blasts proved too much.

New resolution for 2021: pay more attention to my bee husbandry and replace my pekin bantam flock.

It has been too wet and cold to attempt any big jobs in and around the garden but taking a stroll through it the other afternoon I was delighted by the joys of the early spring colour. In the old orchard, where now only one ancient pear remains, the snowdrops are clumping up well. I split and move some every year, in the hope that some time in the future there will be a carpet of white. A little bulb, which is tough as old boots, is the tiny Iris reticulata; I have a few dotted around, and the intense blue stands out so well at this time of year.

We have been busy planting more native hedging again over the last week or so and have been delighted to see that the hedges that were 'laid' last February are looking promising. It shouldn't be long now before we witness the early buds of that revitalising green of the hawthorns. Until then, I shall enjoy the beauty of the emerging garden and the joyful birdsong. I hope that you will too. Happy gardening.

Fiona Bell



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Information on schools reopening in Denbighshire

The following press release was issued in February by Denbighshire County Council. We understand from the Headteacher of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd that they hope to have more information before any planned reopening and will be in touch with all involved as soon as possible. We wish everyone well and look forward to seeing school return to normal.

Face-to-face learning will resume for foundation phase pupils in Denbighshire from Wednesday, 24 February at the earliest. This follows the recent announcement by the Welsh Government that pupils aged between 3 and 7 will return to face-to-face learning.

The Council is reassuring parents and carers that any school reopening will be subject to all necessary safety measures being in place, supported by Welsh Government, and in line with their operational guidance.

Schools in the county closed on 16 December and have remained open for online learning as well as face-to-face learning for the children of critical workers and for vulnerable learners. This provision continues for all who are eligible.

Free school meals and school transport will be available for all eligible pupils from 24 February, as soon as schools reopen.

Cllr Huw Hilditch-Roberts, the Council's Lead Member for Education, Children's Services and Public Engagement, said:

'The Welsh Government has announced that due to lower community transmission rates of COVID-19, that schools can reopen to foundation phase pupils. Following this announcement we have spoken with all primary schools and agreed that face-to-face education will resume across the county for eligible pupils. This has been a difficult period for pupils, parents and staff and we want to reassure parents and carers that schools will

continue to implement rigorous hygiene measures as well as ensuring that all regulations and guidance on pupils' safety is followed. I would again like to thank pupils, parents and staff for their support during what has been a hugely challenging time, and the communities they support and work in.'

Denbighshire will work closely with Public Health Wales and NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect to review case levels prior to schools reopening.

Parents and carers are being reminded to adhere to social distancing measures when dropping off or collecting your child from school.

For more information please contact your child's school.



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Llandyrnog's connection with Everest

There has been an interesting debate on our local social media regarding a vague recollection of a visit to the area by George Mallory (who ultimately perished on Mount Everest in 1924). He was from Cheshire, so had he come to the hills of North Wales to practise for the ascent? It turns out that the parents of his climbing partner, Sandy Irvine, were living at the time in Ffordd Ddwr Cottage and there is little doubt that Mallory visited his climbing buddy here before they set off for the Himalayas, never to return.

There has been considerable research attempting to establish whether the pair actually got to the summit before they both died. If this was the case, that would be many years ahead of Hillary and Tenzing, who are credited with being first to achieve this feat. Sadly, this has never been proved, and although Mallory's frozen body was discovered on the north face of Everest in 1999, Irvine has never been found.

Irvine's parents were at Ffordd Ddwr Cottage when they received the telegram from the Everest Committee: 'Committee deeply regret received bad news Everest Expedition today ... your son and Mallory killed ... President and Committee offer heartfelt sympathy.' They had last been seen at 11 a.m. on 8 June at a height of 28,000 feet going strong for the summit.

Irvine was just 22 years of age. It is sobering to think of the parents receiving this telegram and looking out on the meadows and hills that we know so well, mourning the loss of their youngest son.

The vicar of Llandyrnog wrote in the parish magazine at the time: 'The death of Mr A.C. Irvine of Ffordd Ddwr Cottage has brought grief to us all.' A memorial stained-glass window can be seen in Chester Cathedral.



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Three places ... Gwen Butler

Llangwyfan is right up there, of course. It is where my mum and dad met and the place I feel safe in these trying times, surrounded by birdsong and natural beauty.

But ... that would be cheating! So here are some memories from three other favourite places.

LONDON

I was born (and lived my first eight years), in Southend-on-Sea in Essex, so going to London on the train was a regular outing. I became quite good at getting around on the Tube and navigating the streets. One of my earliest memories was seeing the big Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square.

Since then, I have visited many parts of the city and love the fact that it is still just small villages joined together. Marylebone, for example, is just behind the big department stores of Oxford Street but has a thriving selection of small shops and cafés.

Kensington has a (not so) secret roof garden. Holborn has quiet courtyards where the Inns of Court and barristers' chambers have not changed since Dickens's time. Chelsea still has its Physic Garden, established in 1673 for growing medicinal herbs. Primrose Hill is another 'village within the city' and is one of the few places I will admit to getting lost – trying to find Bryn Williams's restaurant Odette's. We did eventually find it and the meal was outstanding!

Talking of not getting lost ... I remember finding myself in the middle of Downing Street once, having gone through a little gate, thinking I was taking a handy shortcut from Horse Guards to Whitehall. Anyway, I was kept moving along by the nice policeman guarding No. 10 ... but this was before the high security measures they have these days, so thankfully I didn't get arrested.



I have been inside the Houses of Parliament twice (once to meet my MP and saw areas not usually open to the public, including the terrace overlooking the Thames).

A London 'highlight' was a trip to the Olympics in 2012 when we saw Mo Farah and Usain Bolt win gold.

But perhaps the most poignant memory was the sight and perfume of hundreds of flowers outside Kensington Palace following the death of Princess Diana in 1997. Even now if I smell the heady scent of lilies it takes me right back there.

ITALY

I can't really choose an area or town. We've been to Rome, Florence, the lakes, Sicily (where we climbed Mount Etna to see the sunset), Verona, Venice, Capri, Sorrento, Pompeii (and we climbed Vesuvius to see what destroyed it) – but it's the people I admire. They seem to have a fiery attitude to everything, shouting at each other, waving their hands in angry gestures and then immediately being best buddies.

Three places ... contd

I enjoy the tantalising glimpse of a palazzo through an open doorway (just being nosy!). The warm evenings sitting outside watching the world go by. The sea. The volcanos. The food. The wine. The ice cream ...



Overlooking Florence

NEW YORK

Another fascinating city and somewhere I had always wanted to go. We had our honeymoon there in 1996 and did all the touristy things: a trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, to Central Park and to the top of both the Empire State Building and the World Trade Centre.

The final evening of our honeymoon was celebrated with a meal at the Rainbow Room. This is a restaurant and dance club dating back to the 1920s and is situated right at the top of the Rockefeller Centre.

It was still gloriously art deco inside, all silver and shiny black. The view from there is fabulous – you can see for miles – but once the sun goes down and all the other skyscrapers are lit up (including my favourite Chrysler Building, which is quite close by) it is quite breathtaking.

Back at ground level the streets and buildings of Manhattan are reminiscent of a film set. Everywhere you go, you end up looking upwards in wonder at the scale of it all.

We returned just after Christmas 2001 (the year of 9/11) when the festive lights and decorated store windows were beautiful. The famous ice rinks were a 'must see'. But I have never been as cold. The wind whipping between the buildings cut right through me, so much so that I had to go shopping (for thermal underwear!). This was also a sobering visit considering we had previously been to the top of the World Trade Centre, which was now a pile of rubble called Ground Zero. Even then, three months after the attack, the area was still covered in dust.

The next item on the bucket list was to celebrate New Year's Eve in Times Square. Security was tight in 2001 as you can imagine and we had to be in place for hours before midnight. My feet were so cold I took to standing on a couple of polystyrene cups. At 7 p.m. I realised that, being five hours ahead, the UK would already be seeing in the New Year. But we stuck it out and it was a pleasure to witness the end of an awful year for New York City.



Sheepdog auction

Rhys Davies, who lives in Dre Goch Isaf, Bodfari, is to be congratulated on being innovative in the field of auctioneering.

Rhys is the Chief Executive Officer of Farmers' Marts, Dolgellau. He looked at the current situation regarding restricted public access to the auction and saw it as a challenge rather than a threat – an adapt and adopt situation.

In the early days of lockdown he set up on-line auctions for Welsh Black cattle. Farmers were able to visit their intended purchases pre-sale, then go home and bid on-line. The agricultural industry adapted very well to the current situation.

Rhys admitted that trying to get some of his farmer clients on-line was a challenge initially. The only line some had heard of was the washing line, but they were surprisingly quick to learn with the proper support and encouragement.

Following on from the success of the Welsh Black cattle auctions, Rhys decided to try a similar venture for the sale of sheepdogs. There were links to videos of the dogs in the catalogue and on the day of the on-line auction on 3 February there was an absolutely stunning result – a pup named Kim was sold for a world record-breaking price of £27,000! (Plus buyer's premium of course.)

Kim, a border collie from Ceredigion, was bought by Eamonn Vaughan, from Newcastle. Dewi Jenkins, who had owned and trained Kim, said she was extremely intelligent, performing tasks solo after just a single demonstration. She had already gathered entire herds of sheep while out of her owner's sight at his family farm in Tal y Bont. She is now going on to control Texel sheep with her new owner at his farm in Newcastle.



In total there were 126 dogs for sale in the auction and 80 per cent were sold at an average price of £3,745. Their names ranged from the grand 'Elan Valley Queen' to plain old 'Spot'.

The next auction is 5 May. Why not have a look? You can scratch your ear ... just don't press the 'bid' button!

P.S. Kim will now be going into the Guinness Book of Records!

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The missing skeletons

The Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society members enjoyed a captivating talk via Zoom at their latest meeting in February, which took them on the trail of some missing skeletons via the history, mystery and findings from six hillforts that are not too far away from the villages. Dr Erin Lloyd Jones discussed discoveries that she came across whilst researching her PhD, focusing in particular on the lost excavations of Moel Hiraddug, Dyserth in her talk.

Erin, who now lives in Bodfari, grew up in the Ceiriog Valley. She volunteered at Chirk Castle as a teenager and completed her first degree in archaeology and history from Chester College of the University of Liverpool. She is Senior Digital and Publications Manager for Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, but is currently on maternity leave, having had a baby girl in May 2020 – during the first lockdown!



Erin enjoys regular work with the media, having made numerous TV and radio appearances, including Radio 4's *Making History*, Discovery Channel's *Mysteries of the Missing*, ITV's *Coast & Country* and *Wonders of the Coast Path*, and is a regular guest presenter on BBC Wales's *Weatherman Walking*.

One of Erin's major career milestones was the 'Hillfort Glow' experiment, working with over 200 volunteers on ten hillforts across Wales and England. This helped raise awareness of the monuments on a local scale and gathering international interest, exploring how the monuments sit within the landscape and how the hillforts may have connected with one another long before Twitter and Facebook!

Erin's PhD research at Bangor University dug deeper into this concept, exploring structural and dating evidence of the 100-plus hillforts in North Wales and the borders and investigating whether view was important during site selection. She started to piece together the mysterious hillfort jigsaw, discovering more about why there are so many in this area of Britain and how they are all connected. Erin discussed the problems associated with trying to research hillforts, including:

- There was no written word then.
- The winners in any battles or times tell the story from their point of view, which is not a full reflection of the times.
- There was no pottery in this region in the Iron Age, which is always a key find to help archaeologists interpret the history.
- There were no coins in this area.
- The acidic ground associated with the areas of hillforts means that any metal and bone corrode and human remains are very rare in Iron Age Britain.

The missing skeletons ... contd



A La Tene Shield from Moel Hiraddug

Hemp, W.J., 1928 Archaeologia Cambrensis

The five hillforts in the Clwydian Range were discussed – Moel y Gaer, Bodfari, Pen y Cloddiau, Moel Fenlli, Moel y Gaer, Llanbedr and Moel Arthur – before the focus turned to the sixth, Moel Hiraddug, in the Dyserth area. This extends over an area of about 12 hectares and is roughly 450 metres north-south by 200 metres. Seen today, the shape of this hillfort has been altered by quarrying activities, with a third of it lower than the original form with a large hole from the works. There is also a mast on its higher point. One major difference between this and the other hillforts is that its banks and ditches are massive limestone walls, which neutralises the Welsh soil, meaning that things are preserved.

Artefacts were found during the construction of a road for the quarry in 1872, including a rectangular plate with intricate design work (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has adopted the design in their logo).

A later excavation report noted the discovery of two human skeletons at one of the entrances. Apart from this sole mention in a Welsh archaeological journal, nothing else had ever been recorded, including what had happened to these human remains.

After searching the excavation archive in Flintshire Record Office, Erin discovered some letters that added more to the story. She read that during a break following summer excavation work, two local boys had noticed bones protruding from the ground. They removed them and took them to a local amateur archaeologist in the village. The local doctor confirmed they were human bones.

Apart from a small sketch in a notebook, nothing further could be found of the skeletons, but after tracking down the original excavator, J. L. Davies, Reader in Archaeology at Aberystwyth University, the skeletons were eventually traced to safe storage at the university. Unfortunately, funding and time have not been available to write up and publish the original discovery of these remains and these missing excavations.

Whilst researching, photos of the excavations were also discovered by a member of the public, stored in a shoebox, and for sale in a junk shop. They bought them and sent them to Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, and these are now safely stored and published in the Historic Environment Record.

Gateways at hillforts are very important, due to them being a hive of activity during use of the site. Features known as 'guardchambers' are a feature of hillforts in this area. The entrance excavated at Moel Hiraddug showed a sequence of development at the entrance over time, including twin C-shaped guardchambers with hearths. Also found at the site were slingstones, beads and items thought to be a gaming board with pieces.

The Society will be arranging further meetings before the summer via Zoom. To join in and to join the Society please email llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com

(Currently there are no membership fees to pay) All welcome!

Looking Forward

My great Aunt Mrs Darwin Davies dreams
Of holidays on five-star world cruises
Circling the oceans seeing the world like a
goldfish through a port hole
But now in 2020 earthbound she sits and
merely muses.

Her kitchen table groans with tempting
brochures
To float her away from hibernation on the sea
of expectation
Visiting exotic places yet unexplored
To coincide with her ninetieth birthday
celebration.

She notes the places that offer exciting
experiences
The decision made, vacation booked and
goodbye to solitary sitting
And dreary days when walks were limited and
conversation stilted.

Bring out the outfits for the Captain's table
and put away the constant knitting!

Amid bunting and brass bands, we watched
the ship slip its ropes
And to distant lands with strange sounding
names it sailed away.
Postcards soon arrived marked with log book
precision
Date, weather and location, each beginning
"Today".

Today we crossed the blustering Bay of Biscay
with
Churning sea and waves rough tongued
Few at dinner but I managed to enjoy two
portions of brandy flambe.

Today, I floated on the surface of The Dead
Sea
Saturating my skin with its healing properties
Does wonders for one's looks I can
guarantee.

Today we took a bumpy ride in a Tuk Tuk in
old Bangkok
Locked in for fear of swerving when
speeding
Just as well as from side to side we rolled
and rocked.

Today we visited Argentina where the
Gauchos are so bold
Where the Sarabande and the Fandango
left me cold.
But the Tango is the dance when you're
tangled in a hold.

Today in Peru I fell in love with llamas
Just stroking them the sensation is pure
karma
And even their wool makes warming
pyjamas.

Today the spiced aromas of food stalls in
Singapore
Led me straight to Raffles famous colonial
door
To imbibe a Singapore Sling and reminisce
on days of yore.

Today in Oman, oh man! I walked through a
grove of frankincense trees
Where the perfume of Christmas came
floating on a breeze.
By the way extending my trip, a case of
"carpe diem" – the day to seize.

So to the Arctic with snow and ice and as
it's minus ten degrees
I'm off to be fitted for suitable skis. I'm sure
you'll agree
Best to try the sport when I can still bend
the knees!

Love to all. Don't worry about me.
Will write when I'm more free.

Wendy Grey-Lloyd©

Matters discussed at the meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council held on-line on 16 February 2021

An order for new play equipment has been placed, and a representative from Wicksteed will be attending Cae Nant on 11 March to discuss the programme.

The potholes by Maes Clwyd have been attended to, but not to a very good standard. Similarly, the potholes by the Kinmel Arms, although the Community Council has been assured that this particular stretch of road is down for resurfacing, hence the temporary fillings.

The work of white lining Llangwyfan crossroads is still outstanding.

It is evident that the DCC Road Safety Officer has been inundated with requests from rural villages for traffic calming measures and has a very limited budget and conflicting priorities.

Arla has kindly sent an update that works of relocating the equipment will be continuing for a while but they have committed to caretaking duties post-completion of the works and hopefully finding a suitable purchaser for the site. The road will be closed 23 to 25 Feb for removal of some of the silos.

Unfortunately, although the Clerk applied to DCC for a contribution from the Commuted Sums funds for assistance with the new play equipment, there was no money earmarked for Llandyrnog. However, this will not affect the plans for the imminent upgrade and new equipment.

The Community Police have confirmed that they will not be able to participate in any virtual meetings but that the crime figures are available to all on the North Wales Police website.

(<https://www.northwales.police.uk/>) They are more than happy to address any relevant issues raised by the community.

The PCSO has been to the village and the matter of pavement parking around the Oliver's Row area seems to have improved but will still need to be monitored.

MHC has confirmed that they will soon be holding a virtual meeting of the Residents Liaison Group.

No application has been made to the Clocaenog Wind Forest fund for the play area or any other project. The deadline has been extended, and this being an annual award, it is felt that more preparation work is required in readiness for a robust application.

Ruthin Hospital League of Friends – Cllr Butler reported that the AGM was held virtually for the first time but was well attended by committee members, local County Council representatives and Darren Millar MS. All officials were re-elected. Their Treasurer mentioned the lack of fundraising opportunity due to the Coronavirus pandemic but praised the committee for selling Christmas cards through local shops. He also mentioned donations soon to be received. The committee has continued to fund equipment for the hospital (such as an ECG machine) during the past year. The Matron commented on the COVID-19 situation and praised the staff, all of whom have now been vaccinated. The clinics, phlebotomy, outpatients and physio units are all continuing to provide a service at 60 per cent of their previous level, with strict appointment times to take account of COVID restrictions. The hospital building work is ongoing, with the new staff car park at the rear being well used. The physio unit has moved into the main building and the remaining construction phases should be

Community Council ... contd

completed by November 2021. The next stage of the reconfiguration of the main hospital building will include a revamped entrance area, a relatives' room, and a new tea bar and shop, which will be staffed by volunteers.

A request for financial assistance has been received by the Community Council from Llais Llandyrnog and it was agreed to discuss this at the March meeting along with the others received during the year.

The Financial Sub-group has held its first meeting and the group will be meeting quarterly to focus purely on the financial, risk management and audit issues to assist the Clerk with his duties as Responsible Financial Officer.

The Cocoa Rooms have effectively been mothballed and there are no plans to offer it for hire until clear guidance is received from Welsh Government and after all risks associated with reopening have been assessed.

There were no planning matters to discuss.

It was reported that the road gullies either side of the entrance to Maes y Wern are blocked and in need of clearing and jetting. A leaking gutter on a private dwelling in the village centre will be reported to the owners via the contractor responsible for the estate maintenance.

Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

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

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

Road safety campaign

Joe Hinchcliffe has been campaigning for the last 12 months for all new car drivers to have a black box monitoring device fitted to their vehicles following the tragic death of his best friend Olivia in a road accident.

Joe, together with Olivia's mother Jo Alkir, recently met with Darren Millar MS and representatives of the Association of British Insurers (ABI). Darren Millar said that the ABI was sympathetic and shared their proposals for a Graduated Driving Licence, with limits on new drivers for the first 12 months to help build up driving skills.

We wish Joe well with his campaign in memory of his dear friend and hope that Olivia's legacy will result in a reduction in road deaths.

Rangers on Pen-y-cloddiau

Last week the AONB Rangers were clearing gorse on Pen y Cloddiau as part of the ongoing management to prepare this part of the site for grazing livestock.

