

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

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August 2021 – Volume 6 – Edition 11

Wildflower bombing

You must have noticed the beautiful wildflower patches that have made a surprise but welcome appearance in the last few weeks.

The flowers were planted secretly in an attempt to brighten up our lives during these dark times. I think they have done exactly that. A particularly spectacular show is pictured here, next to the so-called 'selfie bench' on Celynog crossroads.



The bench has become a favourite place for walkers to stop and take a picture of themselves and post it on their social media account.

We can now reveal that the wildflower bomber is none other than Councillor Merfyn Parry and his little elves, and we should say a massive thank you Merfyn!

Llandyrnog Virtual Show 2021

Remember that the deadline for submitting photographs for the show is 1 September. Schedules available at the Post Office and Daniel Jones, Family Butchers, and on-line www.llandyrnogcommunitycouncil.co.uk. Get clicking!

Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition and to those who have given generous financial contributions for the upkeep of your magazine – it's greatly appreciated

Around the village

Best wishes to ...

John Hugh Roberts, Hyfrydle, and **Haydn Roberts**, The Anchorage, who have both been in Glan Clwyd Hospital.

Happy Birthday to ...

David Plumb, and thank you for your hard work in keeping the village tidy.

Congratulations to ...

Ifan Dafydd, Bryn Ffolt, on graduating with honours in Politics and International Relations from Hope University, Liverpool.

Condolences to ...

Kevin, Celynog and **Denise**, Fron Haul and their families in the sad loss of Garry recently. Although Garry had lived in Denbigh for many years he was brought up in Fron Haul and was one of Llandyrnog's top soccer players in his younger days.

Thanks ...

I would like to thank everyone who has sent greetings, cards, gifts and messages wishing me well. I'm now on the road to recovery, thank you all. **Julie Wilson**.

Congratulations to ...

Rod and Margaret, Rhiwbebyll Isa, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 17 July.



New playground equipment

It is wonderful to see the playground at Cae Nant renovated and being enjoyed by everyone. Thanks must go to the Community Council for finding the money and choosing the new equipment. The work was carried out by Wicksteed, who have done an excellent job. The Community Council intended having a grand opening ceremony but COVID-19 restrictions prevented that.



Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

Here are the children who attend Little Acorns, during the school trip to Chester Zoo. We went just before the summer holiday.



Pictured here are the older children during the school leavers party 'Ellafest'. There were bouncy castles, games, face painting, pedal cars and an ice cream van! All the best to you all.



A big thank you to Llandyrnog Community Council, who have made a generous donation to support the school in purchasing a new trim trail for the school playground, which will be arriving in time for the start of the new school year.







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Bus Travel

Bus travel in North Wales is about to become a lot easier.

From Saturday, 17 July, one ticket will be valid on buses all across North Wales.

Once passengers have bought their 1bws ticket from the bus driver on their first journey of the day, the ticket will then be valid for travel on buses across North Wales.

An adult ticket will cost £5.70, a child (or young person with a My Travel Pass) will pay £3.70 and holders of English or Scottish concessionary bus passes will also pay £3.70. A family ticket is available for just £12.

One of the reasons non-bus users are reluctant to give the bus a try is confusion about which ticket to buy. How much does it cost? When can it be used? Who operates the buses? Will my ticket be valid? All these questions put people off using the bus.

With 1bws it couldn't be easier. One ticket for all day, valid on North Wales buses in Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Anglesey, Wrexham – and on buses from North Wales to Chester, Whitchurch and Machynlleth. There are buses covering most of the region and it's possible to explore the North Wales Coast, Snowdonia, the Clwydian Range and the Dee Valley.

Cllr Brian Jones, Denbighshire County Council's Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment, said, 'I am very pleased we are supporting this initiative, which will help to encourage local people and visitors alike to use our extensive bus network. The initiative is a great way to get people back on buses and open up the North Wales countryside for the summer in a way that protects the environment.

'It's an excellent example of the benefits of partnership working between local authorities, bus operators and Transport for Wales.

'This is the first time that we have been able to provide and promote a single one-day ticket available on all services and it is thanks to operators large and small for their commitment to improving access by bus.'

Timetable information for all buses in North Wales is available online at: <http://bustimes.org> or www.traveline.cymru or by phone on 0800 464 00 00.

1bws is valid on all local bus services operating in North Wales (the counties of Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Anglesey and Wrexham) with the exception of service 28 between Mold and Flint.

It's also not valid on tourist services operated by open top buses, on National Express coach services and park and ride services.

The logo for hgweb designs features the letters 'hg' in a stylized red font, followed by 'web' in a smaller white font, and 'designs' in a larger, elegant white script font.

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Hardship grant for private tenants in Denbighshire

Private tenants who have fallen behind on their rent are being urged to apply for a hardship grant.

Denbighshire County Council is administering the Welsh Government’s Tenancy Hardship Grant for private tenants who have fallen behind on their rent by more than eight weeks between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant, which is paid directly to landlords, coincides with COVID-19 measures being eased, which includes enabling landlords to evict tenants from 30 June.

Cllr Bobby Feeley, the Council’s Lead Member for Well-being and Independence, said, ‘The grant is intended to prevent people from becoming homeless or being evicted as a result of income loss caused by the pandemic. The pandemic has had an impact on all parts of our society and I would urge all those eligible private tenants to apply for this grant.’

The grant will be open to renters not receiving housing-related benefits and could include tenants who have been on furlough, have seen a reduction in their work, or have only been able to claim statutory sick pay while ill with COVID-19.

Applicants will need to provide documents and a statement from the landlord, which will be reviewed before payment is made directly to the landlord.

Anyone wishing to apply for the grant can visit www.denbighshire.gov.uk/tenancy-hardship-grant.

James Davies, MP for Vale of Clwyd

james.davies.mp@parliament.uk

Constituency office: 01745 888920

Westminster office: 0207 2194606

Photo of the month



Those of you who are on Facebook and are members of the Llandyrnog Community group will be familiar with the photography of local resident Phil O’Loughlin. His photographs vary from wildlife and scenery to tractors to football teams. Here is a spectacular photo of goldfinches squabbling at his bird feeder recently.

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

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From the Rector

One of the things many people have missed during the 18 months of lockdown is sport. Sport is good not only for our physical health but also our mental health. Even though I don't particularly follow sport, I appreciate the work and dedication that goes into being a sportsperson at all levels and in many different sports.

This year, we've already had the euphoria of the Euros, Wimbledon and the Open, and now we're once again in the midst of the Olympics. With COVID restrictions, they're being held under very different conditions, but for the athletes it's the culmination of many years of training and preparation for this one big event.

You may have watched the BBC television programme *Gold Rush, Our race to Olympic Glory*. It charts the change in focus following the 1996 Olympics and Britain's race to restore its sporting reputation and bring home more medals. It culminates with the amazing events of London 2012 and the joy it brought to the nation.

We may have basked in the glory of Super Saturday and the quest for gold, but wonderful though London 2012 was, there's little doubt it came at a cost for many of our top sporting stars.

To reach such heights necessitated the athletes making great sacrifices. Getting up at the crack of dawn to train before the rest

of the world has woken up, the pain of injury and disappointment, being willing to travel far away from home, to keep going when you long to give up, but for most the prize far outweighed the sacrifice and for those who won an Olympic medal it was all worthwhile.

The Apostle Paul often drew on sporting images in his letters to the early Christians to underline the determination and dedication required in order to follow the Christian life. He compared the athletes' quest for the crown of glory with the Christian quest for the crown of eternal life. St Paul wrote, 'Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.'

All Olympic athletes need talent and determination to succeed, but behind them is a team of people who have worked together to ensure they have the necessary preparation to enable them to perform at their very best. Sport brings together people from all walks of life; it makes us proud to be part of our village, our nation. Our sporting heroes are an example to our young people and encourage future sports stars to follow in their footsteps.

May we run the race of life and believe every step is a step of hope for the future.

Jeremiah 29:11

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

With Every Blessing

Val Rowlands

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry



Contact details

Mobile: 07836 208446

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

Or leave a message on **Facebook**

Post Office Opening Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9am–12pm, 2pm–5pm

Wednesday & Saturday 9am–12.30pm

01824 790310

Notes from Plas Ashpool

'I am fascinated by watching and listening to keen gardeners going round other people's gardens. Something strange seems to seize otherwise normal folk and although they have probably travelled miles for their treat, they show themselves to be only really interested in what they have left at home. People who haven't got gardens of their own can stand back and delight in the big picture of someone else's work, but the real gardener fastens on some small plant, pleased if it doesn't look too well and triumphant if it is dead. They relate the plants to their own. "Oh we've got that but ours is much bigger. I think this one is planted on the wrong wall, it can't stand east, well wouldn't you think they'd know that?"

When the boot is on the other foot and you are taken by the owner on a two-hour tour in foul weather, it can be difficult to keep a continuous flow of admiration. Sometimes, before setting out, you are sized up by the hostess to see if you are worth it, and it is rather wonderful when she decides you aren't. That is why it is such a luxury to be able to go round so many gardens in your own time by paying at the door. You can dwell over what you love and hurry by the kidney-shaped beds with raised concrete edges full of orange rhododendrons!

The Dowager Duchess of Devonshire


I found myself having feelings similar to the delightfully expressed views of the late Duchess as I shuffled around a meltingly hot showground of Tatton show yesterday. As red in the face as any of the beautiful roses on display and sporting a ridiculously enormous sun hat, I fluctuated between admiring some of the simple, understated, natural show gardens to loathing the brash, vulgar, strangely planted (by that I mean cramming the whole display with every colour under the sun using plants that are

not even flowering naturally at this time of year), throwing in a bit of glitz and glamour for good measure and then topping off the whole thing with acres of shimmering metal.

I expect it was as a result of the extreme heat that I found myself being so judgemental. After all, a huge amount of time, energy and, of course, money had gone into the making of these gardens, and for every grumpy old gardener like me there were plenty of people who simply loved them. Most of all, I felt so sorry for all the stall holders who, despite the sweltering temperature, managed to keep smiling and enticed new customers to buy their wares. The whole show is a delight, offering so many ideas for future projects. Always worth a visit, only please, next year, not with temperatures in the 90s!

Happy gardening.

Fiona Bell

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Wildflower meadow

Steve and Ali Mason from Penrhyn Cottage ploughed one of their fields in April, and rather than reseed the whole field, they decided to set aside a large circular area around the remains of an oak tree and planted a mix of wildflower and poppy seeds. These are now in flower with some spectacularly colourful results.

Ali spent days on her hands and knees pulling out the dreaded fat hen weed to give the new seedlings a chance of survival, but her perseverance has paid off. The massive circular feature is a feast to the eye and also a haven for wildlife, with bees and butterflies galore.



Although an attempt was made at an aerial photograph using a drone, it did not do justice, so their neighbour Martin took these eye-level photographs.

Well done Steve and Ali.

Ruth Thomas Exhibition

Ruth Thomas of Bryn Egwalt is staging an exhibition of her crafted fine art in Ruthin Craft Centre until 7 August 2021. The series – On the Wall – features several North Wales artists.

Ruth's exhibition includes leaves, letters and landscape; feathers and flowers; snake skin, snail shells and spiders; paper clips and penguins; an angel, an ammonite, cats ... and birds, lots of birds!

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.

Lis Morris memorial stage project at Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

Jason Jones writes:

‘Lis was a shining light in our community. She gave so much of her time to helping the children of our school (and many others) prepare for performances of all kinds, from the Llandyrnog Eisteddfod, to the Urdd and our own school plays. She really believed in building children’s confidence and giving them a chance to shine through performance.

‘Lis’s family have kindly given us permission to build and name an outdoor stage at the school in her honour.

‘A Go-Fund-Me page will be set up to correspond with the first fundraiser. If you would like to make a donation without using the internet this can be done by dropping a labelled envelope into school. Keep an eye on Facebook for further fundraising events by staff, pupils and the community throughout the year.’



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

Llangwyfan Forest – note from National Resources Wales

Unfortunately there has been a substantial outbreak of larch disease in Llangwyfan forest and 5.5ha will need to be cleared – an area equal to five rugby pitches.

The process will start with the affected trees receiving a chemical stem injection at the end of August 2021, meaning they will not flush in spring 2022. They will then be felled and cleared from the site during 2022/23.

The whole area will be replanted with native broadleaf species, which eventually will restore ancient woodland features to the area and help local biodiversity to flourish.

NRW is keen to work with the community on this plan and three drop-in sessions have been arranged at the main car park at the top of Llangwyfan forest as follows:

Tuesday, 3 August – 10am

Wednesday, 4 August – 2pm

Wednesday, 4 August – 4pm

Anyone with any particular concerns is invited to these drop-in sessions, or alternatively contact NRW via:

ForestOperationsNE@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Bryn's Ariel experience

As the saying goes, growing old is inevitable but growing up is an option, and I still feel the need for speed, as they say. Apparently, unless there's an engine involved, I find it difficult to engage in any useful dialogue. According to Anwen, I don't have a heart, I have a piston!

But speed is for the track and not for the main road, which is why I absolutely adore track events and was over the moon when Lisa gave me a little red box at Christmas. My face lit up. Despite the pending doom of another lockdown, this represented light at the end of a very dark pandemic tunnel. I had a ticket to ride.

When you have butterflies in your stomach, they tell me you're about to do something stupid or illegal, and this is the exact feeling I had when I set off early one June morning towards Wigan for yet another adrenalin-filled day, knowing that waiting for me would be three very fast cars – cars that I could never afford or maybe particularly want to own – and I would drive them to my limit. Note, my limit not theirs by any means!

My first car of choice was little pocket rocket – an Ariel Atom. It weighs about the same as a wheelbarrow and has an open frame made up of what looked like bent alloy scaffolding poles welded together like a horizontal Zimmer frame and about the same size really. The latest version, the Atom 8 (mine was not the latest version), is officially the third-fastest street-legal car. The power you get for your money is absolutely phenomenal.

Even the one I drove is capable of 0–60 in a little over three seconds. What does that mean, I hear you say. Well, if you started by the village hall and put your foot down, you would be doing 120 past the creamery, and if you even made it round the roundabout without demolishing Mr Law's wall, then you should be on a podium with Lewis Hamilton on your right. You with me now?



My faithful old Land Rover would take about fifteen minutes, and even then you're not sure what speed you're doing – somewhere between 40 and 70. It's more of a guessometer than a speedometer.

Anyway, into the pits to see my drives for the day and a young lady strapped me safely into the Ariel with a double harness and shoved padding here and there to ensure everything was tucked away safely in the right places. Then I was told by the instructor to push the red button and just flip the throttle.

Wow! I suddenly remembered why I really wanted to do this and just hoped the chap who welded the frame knew what he was doing. The sensation of vibration through every limb must be felt to be believed and the Honda engine revving away like a sewing machine on steroids just behind my ears was just a bit much, to be honest. It was frightening and I knew that this beast demanded my respect.

Bryn's Ariel experience ... contd

I think they do this on purpose so that anyone who felt intimidated or fearful of what was ahead could walk away, but I was going nowhere other out on to that track!

Out of the pits, check the mirrors and away. The acceleration is indeed phenomenal. Your whole body is sucked into the seat, and the headrest is used simply to hold one's head in the right place and ensure it's not sucked into the engine. The six gears are very precise and easy to find, take my word for it. Over a certain speed, your vision is reversed and the corners are thrown at you.

The instructor communicated by hand signals. Right hand forward – more throttle. Right hand back – off throttle. Left hand forward – brake. Left hand back – off brake. We soon got to understand and trust each other.

There are tall colourful cones strategically placed along what the instructor called the racing line to allow you to make the most of your experience. Flat out in between the cones and when the left hand is up, brake. At times I thought my instructor had either forgotten or was praying; however, at the very last minute he would signal and then pull the steering so that my hands were not three o'clock but nine o'clock, then back again. If he thought you were a bit hesitant, he would assist with a sharp shove of the steering. These guys know exactly how much the car can take and ensure it's still a tarmac experience and not grass track experience.

Going flat out in a straight line is the easy bit – it's the corners that are tricky. Then I remembered why the instructor had told me to keep my thumbs on the outside of the steering and never feed it through your hands. Leave your thumbs inside the rim and those spokes will get you!

But in all fairness, the Ariel is so low that it sticks to the tarmac like a limpet, especially if the tyres are hot. It's a beast. You have to be very assertive and show who's boss and the car will thank you by obeying your every command – you've managed to tame it! It's a brilliant little car, and for every petrolhead out there, go make memories.


One day I'll be placing my Zimmer frame on the floor of the home that my children will have chosen for me, and matron will put a cushion under my bum and back. I'll improvise a steering wheel and I'll be back in Three Sisters on that glorious June day, but no one will understand the hand signals will they?

My experience with the other two cars will have to wait. All experiences, but different.

Bryn Davies

J & G

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Matters discussed in the July meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council (CC)

PO Customer Services confirmed that the village PO has reduced hours but hope to resume normal working hours soon. It is not a permanent arrangement.

‘Operation London Bridge’: This is a plan from central government detailing how the nation would mark the passing of our monarch. The CC will consider commemorating the event at the appropriate time, following the guidance.

The CC requested lighting in Maes Llan car park/Hwylfa area but DCC said it is not possible due to no electricity supply. It was suggested that there may be an underground supply. The Clerk will reply accordingly.

A request has been made to erect warning signs for horses on the road between Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan. DCC said signs can only legally be erected where people regularly expect to come across horses. It was suggested that DCC consider putting up such signs on the B5429 where there are three liveries with direct access to the road.

COVID-19 grants: Details have been received of a hardship grant (paid directly to landlord) for private tenants who have fallen behind with rent. Also received details of further assistance available to businesses that have suffered. The funds are administered by DCC on behalf of Welsh Government.

www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/coronavirus/erf

Community Ownership Fund: Details are available from central government should individuals wish to propose a community-based initiative.

Brenig Wind Farm community fund: Details of how to apply for fifth-round payment have been received. Members will consider any schemes that may attract grant funding.

Notice had been received from DCC that repairs would be carried out to the road

between Llangwyfan and London Bridge. It was disappointing to report that a severe downpour following the work has washed away the repairs. DCC intends to undertake another repair as soon as possible.

The CC contacted PCSO Lucy Green about inconsiderate driving in the area, inviting the police to witness it first hand. PCSO Green replied that she was not available due to maternity leave but she passed the request on to a colleague covering her absence.

Inconsiderate parking along Oliver’s Row: PCSO Green dealt with this matter; however, complaints have been received about a fresh batch of cars parking on the pavement. The CC will pass on details to the PCSO covering.

Wicksteed has completed the installation of new equipment at Cae Nant but it was decided not to officially mark the event due to present COVID-19 restrictions.

Open Reach will install equipment in the Cocoa Rooms on 3 August, which will be suitable for superfast broadband.

Consideration could be given to make more use of the rooms – home workers, accompanied children wishing to access information for homework, etc. This will be discussed in more detail.

There are concerns about the overgrown condition of grass verges along unclassified lanes. There is uncertainty about the current cutting policy. The CC will seek clarification.

Planning matters:

Groes Fawr: Proposed agricultural building. No objections raised.

Coach House, Plas Bennett: Amendment to siting of artist studio. This was submitted to DCC as a non-material amendment, so consultation with the CC was at the discretion of the DCC officers.