

Llais Llandyrnog Voice



llandyrnognews@gmail.com

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January 2026 – Volume 11 – Issue 4



Happy New Year!



Happy New Year to all our supporters! Please keep the news and articles coming in so that we can celebrate another 10 years of our village magazine. We welcome any suggestions and contributions. Thank you everyone, wishing you good health and happiness in 2026.

The Llais team

A few highlights from 2025

May: Awards for local businesses



June: Urdd Eisteddfod medal-winners



July: Ysgol Bryn Clwyd raising a smile



September: The Flower and Produce Show



November: Well-deserved awards



Around the village

Condolences to Glyn Williams, Ty'n y Caeau on the loss his sister, Nerys Thomas of Caerwys.

Welcome to the village to Lois and Tim Kingsnorth, Parc Ty'n Llan, and to Mike Hughes and family back to Pen y Palmant. Also welcome back to the village to Buddug Foulkes in her new home in Nant Glyd.

Best wishes to Wyn Wilson for a speedy recovery following her recent fall.

Thanks to all who supported the coffee morning in aid of Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society. £414 was raised towards funding the society's projects.

Modern-day drovers: The residents of Llandyrnog recently saw an example of droving, 2025-style. The cattle of Pentrefelin Uchaf were run from Glan y Wern, along the main road, past the chapel and the Kinmel Arms, towards Pentrefelin cross roads. Fortunately, all went well, thanks to six local farms and residents working together.



Birthday greetings to Lyn Rose, Ffordd-ddŵr Cottage, and Margaret Roberts, The Anchorage – both recently celebrated a 'zero' birthday!

Congratulations and best wishes to Elwyn and Olga Evans on celebrating their 71st wedding anniversary.



Mrs Menna Davies, Cilgwyn, sends her regards from Cysgod y Gaer residential home, Corwen and wishes her friends and neighbours in Llandyrnog the very best for 2026.

Llandyrnog Shop

Shop opening hours

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Wednesday	8am – 5.30pm
Thursday	8am – 5.30pm
Friday	8am – 5.30pm
Saturday	8am – 4pm



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Saturday: 9am – 12.30pm

Parcels ordered on-line can be collected from the Post Office, for your convenience.

Also, post all your items at the counter, since an income is received from this.

Cocoa Rooms events

Mon 5 th	Carolyn Langford-Jones' craft group	10am
Tue 6 th	Friendship Group <i>Llais</i> committee meeting	2pm 7pm
Fri 9 th	Cath Boardman's quilt-along	1.30–3.30pm
Mon 12 th	Carolyn Langford-Jones' craft group	10am
Wed 14 th	Mothers' Union	2pm
Mon 19 th	Carolyn Langford-Jones' craft group	10am
Tue 20 th	Community Council	7pm
Wed 21 st	Tuesday Club	2pm
Mon 26 th	Carolyn Langford-Jones' craft group	10am

Village Hall Events

Mon 5 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 5 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed 7 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Sat 10 th	Craft group	10am–4pm
Mon 12 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 12 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 13 th	Pony Club meeting	7–9pm
Wed 14 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Mon 19 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 19 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed 21 st	History Society	7–9pm
Mon 26 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 26 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 27 th	Astronomy Club	7–9pm
Wed 28 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm

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To book the **Cocoa Rooms**, contact Emily Williams: emilylloyd1@tiscali.co.uk

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

St Cywfan's

Sun 4 th	Morning Prayer	11.15am
Sun 11 th	Eucharist	11.15am
Sun 18 th	Eucharist	11.15am
Sun 25 th	Eucharist	11.15am

Becky Gittins, MP for Clwyd East

becky.gittins.mp@parliament.co.uk

Constituency office: 01352 871130

Dyffryn Chapel



On December 14th the Children and Young People Christmas Service was held in the Chapel. It was a most wonderful service when the children presented the old, old story in their own natural way with readings, prayers and wonderful songs from the young people. Then the large congregation retired to the Vestry where they enjoyed a sumptuous supper, before Santa Claus appeared with plenty of presents for the children. Richard Davies thanked everyone.

Y Gymdeithas

On Monday evening 1st December, an evening of nostalgia on film was prepared by Rod and Iestyn. Old videos and pictures

were shown of the Musical Shows 'Nosweithiau Llawen' that were produced during the 1980 and 1990s era. Former members and friends were also welcomed to the meeting – an evening that brought back many wonderful memories of the exciting Gymdeithas activities during that period.

January services

- Sun 4th Circuit service – Trefnant ,10am
- Sun 11th Prayer Meeting – Y Gymdeithas, 2pm
- Sun 18th Rev. Andras Iago ,11am
- Sun 25th Rev. Morris Puw Morris, 5pm

If in doubt, flat out

When asked about his rally driving style Colin McRae's answer in his distinct Scottish accent and a smile – 'if in doubt, flat out'.

McRae was born in 1968 and in 1995, only 27 years of age, he was the youngest-ever world champion, a record that stood until 2022. McRae's performances were legendary and enabled the Subaru team to win the World Rally Champions Manufacturers' title three times in succession – 1995, 1996 and 1997. He subsequently moved to drive for Ford. However it was whilst driving his Subaru that he gained notoriety for being fast and fearless.

Sadly he was killed in a helicopter accident near his home in 2007 and the cross that his family has had to bear for life is that his young son was with him at the time, and one of his young son's best friends. Although a competent helicopter pilot, he was attempting a very sharp turn in a narrow valley and lost control but this sums up his appetite for risk. He was again taking the machine to its absolute limit: his 'Let's see what happens' attitude.

I am not a huge rally fan to be honest. Yes I've stood in a few forests being pelted with stones and mud day and night, but I am a particular fan of classic rallies and can hear a Mini Cooper coming a mile off – it has a very distinctive tone.

Anyway, I was given the opportunity to drive a fully rally-prepared Subaru – similar to McRae's car, and obviously grabbed the opportunity.

A full rally-prepared engine will set you back best part of £30K. In order to be as light as possible, these cars have been stripped out completely – anything not required is turfed out, so there's no ashtray, radio, fluffy dice, soundproofing – nothing.

In their place you will find bottom-hugging rock-hard bucket seats, a roll cage, full harnesses, loads of wires and two headphones and small sprinkler heads – if the car goes on fire or rolls, the system will activate on impact.



The dashboard has been re-configured so that the dials are at eye level, with the rev counter being most prominent, to ensure that you reach the red line but not to exceed it.

What intrigued me was the gear lever – not in the usual low position but about 3 ft off the floor so that the driver could slip off the gear lever back onto the wheel horizontally and very quickly.

It was raining cats and dogs, but since this car is in permanent four-wheel drive, grip was no problem. Wherever you pointed, the car went – so there was no room for error! Driving on the safety of tarmac, it was quite easy to imagine how the permanent 4 x 4 dominated the muddy forest sections, with the correct tyres, of course. The gears are incredibly close and precise and unlike these Supercars you do get a sense of proper driving! I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

It was a 300hp car – very fast with extremely precise handling and yes, could be used as a road car – very handy round here for hedge-hopping and quick getaways. But the distinct growl of 300hp would be bit of a giveaway!

Bryn Davies

An interesting fact that links McRae slightly with the Vale of Clwyd: in 1991, McRae was signed by Prodrive boss David Richards to his Subaru team in the British Rally Championship. David Richards was brought up on a farm near Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd.



The Wright Life



Are you all recovering from the festive activities? January can see us slump, as we still have the dark nights, cold weather and, for me, nothing much is happening in the garden. However, spare a thought for our indoor gardens and the multitude of house plant varieties that you can grow and enjoy.

Houseplants improve air quality by releasing oxygen and filtering toxins and can boost your mental well-being through stress reduction and mood enhancement. They add an aesthetic appeal with their beauty and dramatic presence and give us a sense of nature in our indoor spaces, but they can be quite expensive. My advice, keep an eye out in Lidl or Home Bargains as sometimes you can pick them up quite cheaply and growers tend to put three plants in one pot, in case one or two die. These can be repotted into separate pots and you end up with three wonderful plants.

I have a Yucca which my brother gave me

around 30 years ago which has grown into a large specimen. It likes the direct sun from the south facing patio window and I do tend to forget to water it and it thrives on this infrequent



watering. I may take some cuttings. Never done that before but apparently you can cut several 3-7-inch pieces of the mature woody stem, strip the leaves, let it dry/

callous over and plant into well drained soil, making sure it's the right way up of course.

How many of you were given a poinsettia this year for it now to be looking very sad, with its leaves drooping and bare branches appearing. Don't blame yourself. These plants originate from the subtropical forests of Mexico and Central America where they grow as shrubs and are used to warm humid conditions and they certainly dislike draughts. Retailers tend to put these plants at the entrance to their stores, and so the poor plants suffer constant cold air before you have even placed them in your trolley. Some retailers are putting these plants inside the stores now and last year I bought my usual poinsettia (or Christmas Eve star) and put it in the only room with no draughts – the upstairs bathroom. This room was renovated only a few years ago and I put in a new double-glazed window. Well, this plant is still with me a year later, and I have

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noticed some white bracts appearing. These are modified leaves and surround the tiny yellow flowers. There are red, white and even pink ones, which change colour due to a process called Photoperiodism. The plant needs a long period of darkness for the bracts to give their festive hue. Where I live there are no streetlights so it's trying its best to grow the white bracts, but if you want these colourful bracts by the end of the year, here are some care suggestions:

- * Prune in spring and cut the stems back to about 10–15 cm
- * Repot in May into fresh, peat free multi-purpose compost
- * Through the summer keep it in a bright spot out of direct sunlight and feed monthly
- * From early September give the plant 12–14 hours of total darkness every night (i.e., in a cupboard) for 8–10 weeks keeping it warm at 18 degrees centigrade. Then bring it out and enjoy.

Let's see how many of us can keep our Christmas Poinsettias going into 2026.

May I wish you all a Happy New Year,

Hazel

In spite of it being one of the windiest nights of the year, thanks to storm Bram, we had a very interesting fourth meeting of the club. It was not a night to leave your firesides, really, but it was lovely to see eleven members turning up.

Graham Pickles of Green Fingers Garden Centre entertained us with a quiz, but it was much more than a quiz. He brought along many items for us to identify including plants, shrubs and vegetables with a very interesting description and history of most of them. Even the humble potatoes and carrots were a great topic of interest.

Do you know what the parsnip rule* is or where the potato originated from and how many different varieties there are? We now do! The meeting was a light-hearted and very informative evening with everyone feeling they had learnt a great deal – thank you, Graham, for going to so much effort.

The winners of the quiz were Richard, Hywel and Gwenan. We are grateful to Huw and Veronica for supplying the raffle prize which was won by Ceri Pickles. The evening ended with refreshments, mince pies, and of course a chat.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 13 January in the lower room of the Village Hall at 7pm – everyone is welcome. John Rowlands will be showing a PowerPoint on the history, growing and showing of sweet peas. On 10 February, Allan Evans will talk about growing and showing dahlias.

**PARSNIPS might just be the most ridiculous acronym ever but it stands for politics, alcohol, religion, sex, narcotics, -isms, and pork. These refer to the so-called taboo topics in the classroom. Many teachers feel these may cause offence or discomfort to students, because of personal or cultural sensitivities.*

Recipe

Chocolate Chip Cookies

115 grams butter softened

90 grams brown sugar

50 grams white sugar

1 egg

½ teaspoon vanilla extract

150 grams flour

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

180 grams chopped chocolate

Mix the butter and sugars, then add the egg and vanilla. Once mixed well, add the dry ingredients. Lastly add the chocolate.

Put heaping tablespoon size portions on cookie tray spaced apart (8-12 at a time) and bake on middle rack of oven for about 10-12 minutes at 180 degrees.

Jaymie Davidson

Thanks for the recipe to Jaymie, who has been recently employed by the shop to provide light meals at lunchtime. As she is an American, she has chosen a recipe which is a favourite in her home country.



Big Garden Birdwatch

23-25 January 2026

Big Garden Birdwatch

Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. Go to <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch> to register for a pack.

Friendship Group

The Friendship Group's December meeting was a Christmas lunch at The Cherry Pie restaurant where everyone enjoyed a lovely meal and good company.

Margaret Roberts was wished a happy 70th birthday for December 28th which she will celebrate visiting her family in the Bahamas.

The next meeting will be held on January 6th at 2 pm in the afternoon. Please note there will be no evening meetings until later in the year.

Trefoil Guild

The Trefoil Guild enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Griffin, Llanbedr DC. The members donated £5 each to NEWCIS, instead of having a Secret Santa – this charity looks after the interests of Carers. The next meeting will be in February at a county meeting in Mold to mark 100 years of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, which supports Girl Guiding projects worldwide.

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Astronomy Society

We had a clear night for our November meeting; with members setting up their telescopes and enjoying fabulous views of the moon before it was lost behind a bank of clouds. Observations were made of the Summer Triangle, Cygnus, Jupiter with its moons and members were able to capture deep space objects photographed by astrocams. There followed a talk with a hot cuppa and members could browse publications.

We had an excellent astro drop-in session at the village shop on Saturday, 13 December. These drop-ins will be a regular event where all generations of star gazers can call in to check out telescopes, discuss aurora, eclipse and all sorts of astro themes. There was a warm welcome with hot drinks and a bacon bap so a massive thank you to Emma for welcoming us all. Keep an eye out on our socials for more information as we plan to have another drop in next month.

Our next meeting is in Llandyrnog Village Hall lower room on Tuesday January 27th at 7 pm where we hope to have clear skies for

some observations followed by refreshments whilst we learn more about Dorothea Klumpke Roberts – the first women to earn an advanced degree in

astronomy – a feat she accomplished in 1893 at the University of Paris with a dissertation about the rings of Saturn.

There is lots to look forward to in 2026 so ‘Keep looking up’ everyone.



Congratulations

Congratulations to David Davies of Denbigh on his début in the PDC World Darts Championship. Dai was the former league and cup winning reserve team captain.



From lt: Jimmy McNally, Gareth O'Loughlin, Dai Davies. Thanks to Llandyrnog United FC for the photo



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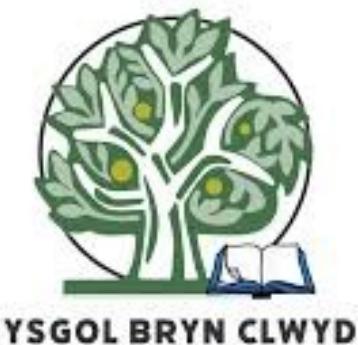
Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

December has given us the chance to spend time with lots of community members. Mrs Tynan cooked another lovely Cinio Nadolig for the children and the 40 community members who joined us. They also had a sneak peek at some of the songs for our candlelight Christmas concert.

Some of Dosbarth Hedfan visited the Dolwen residential care home to sing some carols.



Dosbarth Tyfu are busy caring for our growing acorn seedlings. You may know our school logo is an oak tree and this autumn we harvested some acorns from the school field and planted them. We hope to share them with the community when they are grown.



Protecting nature

The Community Council is currently writing a statutory section 6 report detailing what we have done to develop biodiversity in the village.

As you know there are bulbs planted in the verges and at Cae Nant, wildflowers around the selfie bench and colourful planters on the roundabout. In partnership with the former WI, the village had summer hanging baskets and plants and the long established bee-friendly bed is still going well at Cae Nant.

Our work on litter picking and no littering signage also helps wildlife, as do the herb species planted at the allotment area.

We aim to put in more native species and develop more habitats for wildlife with bat and swift boxes as well as some native hedge shrubs. We will be developing a few more wild edges to help the minibeasts – look out for log piles and hedgehog doors too!!!

We were able to get a last-minute bulb package through One Voice Wales which the school eco council helped plant at Parc Ty'n Llan under the guidance of Sam the North Wales area biodiversity officer. Despite the weather they did a great job! Hopefully in the Spring – which thinks it's here already – we'll see wild daffodils, lilies of the valley, Tenby daffodils, fritillaries, wood anemones, snowdrops and bluebells popping up round the edges of the grassy area which will look beautiful and encourage wildlife.

We will share ideas with you all about how to make your own gardens more biodiverse with native species, tiny water areas and continue to work with all the community groups to carry out the actions in our new biodiversity plan. More news to follow in Spring.

The Community Council – protecting nature

The History Society

The Society's next meeting will be Wednesday evening, 21 January at 7 pm. Dr Chris Madoc Jones will give a talk on 'Cocoa rooms – chocolate castles of the temperance war.' Light refreshments available to finish. Cost of membership – £8 for the yearly programme of 4 meetings. Non-members – £3 per meeting. For further details, e-mail llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com.



Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry

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The Tuesday Club

The members of the Tuesday Club had a delicious Christmas lunch at the Drovers Arms, Rhewl. Sion and Sam and staff were thanked for their warm welcome and the excellent food.

In the next meeting will be learning about Stand North Wales, a not for profit community Interest company that represents those with additional needs and disabilities. You're welcome to join us at the Cocoa Rooms, 2 pm Wednesday, 21 January.



Looking back to 1977

This photograph was featured in the Looking back... feature of the *Denbighshire Free Press* on social media. It features the Llandyrnog St John's Ambulance Cadets receiving a cheque from Mrs Brenda Williams. With the help of Facebook friends and Gwilym Evans, all in the photo have been named. Thanks to Claire Pierce and the *Denbighshire Free Press* for permission to use the photo.



Front, from left: Anthony Evans, Kelvin Evans, Pete Mazurek, Stephen Jones, Alan Vaughan, Paul Evans, Alun Rogers

Middle: Wyn Morris, Pete Evans, Ian Wilson, Nigel Tynan, Carl Jones, Ian Jones, Paul Mazurek, Gareth Cooke

Back: Clive Jones, Willie Plumb, Brenda Williams, Hughie Plumb, T.H. Evans, Gwilym Evans

Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

Ruth Griffith (chair), Ivan Butler (treasurer and compositor), Anwen Davies (compositor and translator), Gwen Butler, Bryn Davies, Ann and Iestyn Jones-Evans, Rhian Jones, Rod and Margaret Williams

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**Thanks to all who have contributed to this month's edition –
all articles are gratefully appreciated.**

Llandyrnog Community Council

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE DECEMBER MEETING

- ⇒ It was disappointing that although North Wales Police had visited the village several times and witnessed some pretty inconsiderate parking, it was unable to assist with the matter any further and considered it to be a Local Authority Highway issue. The Community Council felt it had made every effort to highlight the issue.
- ⇒ The Council has now adopted a biodiversity plan which will be forwarded to One Voice Wales and published on the website in due course. The outcome is that biodiversity will be an instrumental consideration in any decision-making and will include practical matters – additional planting, bird boxes, etc. The school has already played a part – pupils planted spring bulbs in Parc Ty'n Llan and Jane was thanked for enabling the start of the project and securing the necessary funds via Keep Wales Tidy.
- ⇒ There were four recorded crime incidents in the interim period between meetings which included:
 - ⇒ Two incidents of antisocial behaviour between adults
 - ⇒ A missing vulnerable person who was located and no further action required
 - ⇒ Road safety concerns – words of advice given to those involved.
- ⇒ It was decided to approach Sgt Carrington of North Wales Police to see if any SmartWater kits are available for use in the community and possibly use the shop as a place for a demonstration or workshop. SmartWater, which is invisible to a thief, is used to mark personal items of value. If an item is suspected of being stolen or identified by the owners, it can easily be scanned. It is also used on more expensive items like quad bikes, bikes and e bikes.
- ⇒ The finance team has met in the interim and prepared a draft budget that was approved and the Council is to request a precept of £14,091 from DCC. This is comparable with neighbouring community councils – the sum would cover the day-to-day running costs of the council.
- ⇒ Two planning applications were considered:
 - ⇒ Two dormer windows to the rear and one dormer window to the front of Treborth – a vast improvement on the previous application and there were no objections
 - ⇒ Extension to the front of Fron Haul, Llangwyfan to replace two front porches. Unfortunately the Community Council had failed to respond within the 21-day period, and the application had been approved. However the Council was pleased to see that the application had been altered drastically in terms of the elevations to be more sympathetic and in keeping with the cottage and the AONB status of the area.
- ⇒ Our Cocoa Rooms booking clerk has decided not to continue with the task after many years of loyal and friendly service. It was decided to post see if anyone was interested for an honoraria.

The top room of the Cocoa Rooms has been cleared of all unwanted contents and a new water heater fitted in the kitchen.
- ⇒ There were concerns about the condition of the road surface between Celynog and the Kinmel Arms. It was thought that this had been included in

Llandyrnog Community Council: ctd

DCC's capital programme and that the road was being patched in the meantime – the matter to be checked.

- ⇒ It was reported that following a DCC meeting, rural communities may well be asked to allocate some of their funds to contribute towards running of facilities in the market towns – libraries, toilets. The matter to be discussed if and when a request is received.
- ⇒ A lottery grant of £19,999 towards sensory play equipment at Cae Nant has been received and banked. The council is now awaiting confirmation of the result of the Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm grant of £10,000 which will allow the scheme to proceed.

Following the meeting, the excellent news came that the Council has been successful in its application for a grant of £10,000 from the Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm Fund. This means that work on the £30,000 scheme will start in the Spring.



Llandyrnog Utd FC

January Fixtures

All 14.00 kick-off

3rd Home: Henllan

10th Away: Llysfaen

17th Home: Prestatyn Sports

24th Away: Crozzy

31st Home: Prestatyn Wanderers

Support your local team!



A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped to erect the Christmas tree. They were treated to refreshments at the shop by Emma and her staff – greatly appreciated!



New Year's traditions around the world



In Puerto Rico, they believe that dumping a bucket of water out the window drives away evil spirits. They also sprinkle sugar outside their houses to invite the good luck in.



In Greece, guests eat *vasilopita*, or a cake or sweet bread that has a coin baked into it. Whoever finds the coin will have good luck for the next year.



In Brazil it's believed that your luck increases if you get in the surf and jump over seven waves – one for each of the divine spirits of the Umbanda religion. Revellers also get one wish for each wave.



In Denmark, they stand on a chair and 'leap' into the new year as the clock strikes midnight. It's good luck if you do it – doubly so if you don't land on your face – and bad luck if you forget.



In Colombia, people take empty suitcases and run around the block as fast as they can, right foot first. It's supposed to guarantee a year filled with travel.



Christmas was forbidden in Soviet Russia, so the new year became the big gift-giving occasion during that time. Presents were delivered not by Santa but by Ded Moroz, or Father Frost, often aided by his granddaughter, Snegourotchka.



In the Philippines, it's customary to eat 12 round fruits, one for every month, to ensure a year of abundance. The fruits usually take centre stage at the table for the *media noche*, or the midnight meal.