

# Llais Llandyrnog Voice

✉ [llandyrnognews@gmail.com](mailto:llandyrnognews@gmail.com)

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£1

## Medal-winners at the Urdd National Eisteddfod



A talented trio from Llandyrnog: Mason Powell and Tyler Chown, rear, members of the group, Ambrose, that came third in the Instrumental Ensemble competition under 19. Lloyd Powell, front, 2nd in the Percussion Solo, Years 7–9.



Mabon Evans, rt., who came 2nd in the Duet competition, Year 6 and younger, with his friend, Iestyn, of Ruthin.



Eisteddfod Dur a Môr,  
Parc Margam a'r Fro 2025



Nest Mars Lloyd, winner of the Cerdd Dant solo, years 7–9

Gwenan Mars Lloyd, who won medals in several competitions for those under 25 years of age:  
1st: Solo Recitation, 2il: Cerdd Dant Solo, 3rd: Folk Song Solo, and 2nd: Duet with Ynyr Rogers.



# Around the village



## Congratulations

Nigel and Maria Tynan would like to congratulate their daughter, Dr Paige Tynan who has completed her Doctor of

Philosophy – PhD in Forensic Taphonomy at the University of Chester. The graduation ceremony was presided over by Gyles Brandreth at Chester Cathedral on 14th of March. Paige is currently a lecturer of Biosciences at Wrexham Glyndwr University which she started after completing her Bachelor of Science Degree in Forensic Science in 2020. (*Hearty congratulations Paige – Ed*)

Congratulations also to Edith and Mark Owen on their recent wedding. We hope that the alpacas were able to join in the celebrations!

Also to Ron Davison, Fforddlas on running the London Marathon and raising over £1000 for St Kentigern's. He and his colleague, Dafydd Roberts, have also hiked up Mount Toubkal, North Africa's highest mountain, to raise money for the Hospice. To donate, visit [justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com) and search for Dafydd Roberts.

**The roundabout** A big thank you to members of the Community Council once again for planting flowers on the roundabout. The display is greatly appreciated by all, residents and visitors alike.

**Best wishes** to Buddug Rhydennen on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Also to Enid Jones of Ruthin, a faithful subscriber to *Llais Llandyrnog Voice*, following an injury.

**Flower and Produce Show** If you wish to sponsor a class in the show, please contact the show secretary, Roger Warner on 07879 771461 or [llandyrnogshow@gmail.com](mailto:llandyrnogshow@gmail.com) for further details. The show will be held on Monday, 25 August at the Village Hall.

**Coffee mornings** A very successful Coffee Morning was held in the Village Hall on May

17<sup>th</sup> for Christian Aid, raising £572. At the end, the Rev. Sam Quilty, Denbigh Mission Area Priest in charge of the churches of St Tynog and St Cwyfan, highlighted the importance of Christian Aid Week, and the work done in different countries. Thanks to everyone for the contributions and to all volunteers. Thanks also to all who attended the coffee morning the following Saturday in aid of Vale of Clwyd Mind and RABI, raising £560.

## Events at the community hub

19 June: 2pm, scrabble and other board games.

Fridays, 10am–noon: drop in session with Citizen's Advice.

## Llandyrnog Shop

### Shop opening hours

Monday	8am – 5.30pm
Tuesday	8am – 5.30pm
Wednesday	8am – 5.30pm
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Saturday	8am – 4pm



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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 Room Events

Mon	2nd	Craft group, 10am Trefoil Guild, 2pm
Tue	3rd	Friendship group, 7–9pm
Wed	4th	<i>Llais Llandyrnog</i> Voice committee meeting, 7pm
Fri	6th	Quilting group 1.30–3.30pm
Mon	9th	Craft Group, 10am
Tue	10th	Book Club, 10am Talk about fraud with PCSO, 7pm
Mon	16th	Craft group, 10am Craft workshop 6–9pm
Tue	17th	Community Council meeting, 7pm
Thu	19th	Craft workshop, 7–9pm
Sat	21st	Craft workshop, 10am–noon
Mon	23rd	Craft Group, 10am
Tue	24th	Book Club, 10am
Mon	30th	Craft Group, 10am

To book the **Cocoa Rooms**, contact Emily Williams: [emilylloyd1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:emilylloyd1@tiscali.co.uk)

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

# Services at St Tyrnog’s

1st	11.15	Morning Prayer
8th	11.15	Eucharist
	15.30	Messy Church at the Village Hall
15th	11.15	Eucharist
22nd	11.15	Eucharist
29th	10.30	Mission Area Service in Caerwys

# Dyffryn Chapel Services

01/06	10.00	Rev. Andras Iago (in Gellifor)
08/06	10.00	Circuit Service – Fron Chapel
15/06	10.00	Prayer Meeting
22/06	17.00	Rev. Carwyn Siddall
29/06	10.00	Rev. Andras Iago (in Gellifor)

# Village Hall Events

Mon	2nd	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon	2nd	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed	4th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Thu	5th	Village Hall AGM	7–8pm
Sat	7th	Craft Group	10am–4pm
Sun	8th	Messy Church	3.30–5pm
Mon	9th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon	9th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue	10th	Flower Show Committee	7–8pm
Tue	10th	Pony Club (main hall)	7–8.30pm
Wed	11th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Sat	14th	Coffee Morning: Capel y Dyffryn	10–11.15am
Mon	16th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon	16th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed	18th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Mon	23rd	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon	23rd	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed	25th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Sat	28th	Folk music workshop	9am–5pm
Mon	30th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon	30th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm



# Capel y Dyffryn Coffee Morning

Saturday 14 June  
10–11.15am  
in the Village Hall  
Usual stalls, raffle  
All welcome

# Football awards

Courtesy of Mark and Sam, a very successful event was held at the Golden Lion for the winter league football team presentation night – a good social event between players and supporters on the night.

The awards handed out were:



Clubman:  
John Jones



And a firm stalwart of the club, Ethan Morris, (left) with Nick Hailes, club chairman.



Supporters' player and Young player: Alex Williams



Players' player:  
Nathan Rose



Manager's player:  
Jamie Jones

We can't thank everyone enough who has helped the club throughout the season. We would also like to thank our board and match ball sponsors who help to keep the club going throughout the season.

Lastly, the biggest thank you has to go to our supporters for turning up week in, week out, after a very difficult season. We hope to see plenty of new and old faces next season cheering on the lads.

Sadly Alex Williams broke his tibia and fibula during a summer league game. Everyone at Llandyrnog Football Club wishes him well.



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# Gwen, the 'witch'

Did you know that a witch lived in the parish of Llandyrnog over 400 years ago? Her name was Gwen, daughter of Ellis, and she was born here in 1542.

Everyone seems to know the story of Ruth Ellis from Rhyl, and some might have seen the film about her – *Dance with a Stranger* (1985), or the series *Cruel Love* (2025). She was the last woman to be hanged in Britain in 1955. Her execution was instrumental in abolishing capital punishment, and introducing the 'diminished responsibility plea' in 1957.

The story of our Llandyrnog 'Ellis', Gwen Ferch Ellis, goes back in time and is not so well documented, although her sad demise by execution in 1594 was the first in Wales under the modified '*Witchcraft Act*' of 1562! There were only ever five witches executed under this Act in Wales – four women and one man! The Case Records of her trial are the oldest on record in Wales dealing with Witchcraft and Execution.

There isn't much information about her life other than being the daughter of an 'Ellis' and the sister of Elizabeth. No one knows exactly where she lived in Llandyrnog, but she was sent to live with her uncle Harri ap Roger, Yale till she was married. She lost her first husband, and married Lewis Gethin, and moved to live with him in Llanellian-yn-Rhos in 1588 for 18 years, before he also died. In 1592 she married John ap Morrice and settled in Betws yn Rhos. She earned her living by spinning wool and flax fibre.

She also had the rare gift of healing people and animals and was in great demand. She would make different ointments, and medicines for different ailments in the community, and was sometimes called a '*white witch*'. She would also leave written 'charms' to help the healing process. Her 'pay' would usually be a variety of gifts and foodstuff, such as butter and corn.



But by 1594, things had turned sour for Gwen. She was cross-examined by the Bishop of St. Asaph, William Hughes, on suspicion of leaving a 'charm' in the home of Thomas Mostyn, Gloddaeth – one of the most important landed gentry in North Wales. And, even worse,

the charm had been written backwards – a sure sign that the 'charm' was intended to harm rather than heal! Gwen had started rubbing shoulders with the higher social order and counted Lady Jane Conway of Marl as one of her friends. According to local gossip, Jane ordered Gwen to leave the charm after she had been dumped unceremoniously by Thomas!

When Gwen was convicted, everyone turned against her – she had no hope against the 'landed gentry', the church and the courts. Witnesses appeared from nowhere, and accused her of killing their ailing relations or making matters worse. She defended herself bravely, but was eventually accused of '*witchcraft*' and given the worse outcome – capital punishment by hanging! It is difficult to imagine such a gruesome sight on the Square in Denbigh in 1594!

The drama company '*Mewn Cymeriad*' (*In Character*) decided to stage the first performance of '*Gwen y Witch*' in Denbigh, May 1<sup>st</sup> before their tour throughout Wales, in Gwen's memory. The performance serves to remind us all that, although it doesn't feel that way sometimes, we **are** living in a more civilized age!

AJE

## 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



# Adventures at the Pan Celtic Festival

A chance encounter, two spare tickets and a last minute decision meant that on the 22nd April we found ourselves, Teri and I, boarding a coach in St Asaph bound for Carlow and the PanCeltic festival.

It's a festival which has been held in Ireland every year since 1971. Its goal is to promote and strengthen the languages and cultures of the six Celtic nations through music, dance and the sharing of our unique traditions.

We left early in the morning, picking up people on the way to the ferry at Holyhead. We were delighted to see such talented musicians as Gwenan Gibbard, Ieuan Ap Sion, Dylan Cernyw and Gwilym Bowen Rhys joining us on the coach. We knew then that we were in for a good time! After a calm ferry crossing we travelled to Carlow and settled into our comfortable hotel.

It would be impossible to list all of the events on offer in the town – from music sessions, concerts, Celtic language taster classes, the parade, storytelling, street entertainment to the main competitions. One of my favourite events was the Irish/Indian duo Anna Tanvir and Maninder Singh. They performed in a local church singing and playing their unique blend of music with harp and guitar – it was so beautiful we were both moved to tears.

More tears ensued but this time tears of laughter with Irish comedian Aine Gallagher with her quirky bilingual delivery of stories about her journey learning the Irish Language and all the mistakes she made along the way. Confidently wearing her proficient learner's badge she met Michael D Higgins, the Irish President – and promptly panicked and couldn't say a word!

Walking around the town we passed so many pubs where Celtic music and dance was being performed and we had no option but to sample the Guinness while listening to the groups! We stumbled upon what looked like an old shed full of local people and visitors taking turns to sing ballads, read poetry, tell


stories and play tunes. It was an Irish 'Rambling House' – they meet every week to entertain each other. The Baglin family from Mostyn were there and told a story about the Denbigh dragon – a tall tale about how the town got its name. I can't believe that at our age we were flapping our wings pretending to be the dragon!

Each nation hosted a social evening in the hotel ballroom where we watched super talented artists and engaged in Welsh, Scottish, Manx and Breton dancing. It was at this point that I accepted the fact that I had two left feet.

With over 200 activities taking place during the festival everything was so intense that we had to take time out for a swim and sauna most mornings in the hotel. Teri also took part in the 5k park run but very slowly! We found a wonderful Italian restaurant which served the most delicious desserts as well as excellent Italian food. We both vowed to diet when we got back, maybe, as always, we'll start tomorrow!

## *J & G*

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## The Pan Celtic Festival: ctd

Wales has consistently played a pivotal role in the festival history, boasting the highest number of wins in the international Pan Celtic Song competition with no fewer than 18 victories. This year the prize went to the group Dros Dro from Wales – a lively young band that had the packed concert hall bouncing! Wales also came first in 11 other categories. Local dance group Dawnsywyr Delyn from Mold performed a spectacular dance based on a country fair, complete with the arrival of the Mari Lwyd – the traditional decorated horse – to the delight of the packed dance hall.

It was a real pleasure to meet so many people from other Celtic nations, to hear their music and to witness their diverse dance performances. There was a strong sense of unity and shared enthusiasm throughout the festival. We are looking forward to Pan Celtic 2026 which will be in Carlow again!

If you're interested in attending next year please contact Arwel Roberts, e-mail [arwelroberts@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:arwelroberts@tiscali.co.uk)

*Julia Duffy*

## Messy Church



In our May session we learned about growing things to eat. We planted strawberry plants to take home, so we could watch them grow and then eat our strawberries! We also made ladybird houses so that we can help the wildlife in our gardens and we decorated trowels which we can use to dig in the garden. We also heard about how difficult it can be to grow crops in countries where it is very hot with little rain and how Christian Aid is helping farmers to adapt their crops to the conditions. Our story reminded us how important it is to share what we have with others.

Our next session will be on Sunday 8th June at 3.30pm and all are welcome.

## Mothers' Union

In our May meeting we had a fascinating talk from Alan Tiltman, entitled 'My Radio Reminiscences.' Alan was born in 1948 and as his family did not have a television until 1958, the radio was really important to the family. Alan talked about the programmes he remembers and played us the theme music to each of them. So, as we were sitting comfortably, we began with Listen with Mother, moving on to Children's Hour when we all sang along to The Teddy Bears' Picnic and then on to Housewives' Choice, Workers' Playtime and various others finishing with the Archers. It truly was a trip down memory lane!

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# The Camino

‘All roads lead to Rome’ they say, and an estimated 35 million pilgrims will have walked parts of the long and laborious Pilgrim routes by the end of 2025. The most famous Pilgrim Way is the Via Franciscana or Francigena which goes from Canterbury Cathedral, through France and Switzerland to Rome itself. Has anyone walked parts of the route?

Why do people feel the need to go on a pilgrimage? Christians believe that it deepens their faith and commitment to God – a laborious trek is a physical and spiritual effort, which reveals your weaknesses and strengths. In an increasingly polarised and fragmented society, pilgrimage literally provides common ground, walking alongside each other, either as a lone pilgrim meeting strangers, or walking with companions, with a common purpose and destination, across social divides, bringing together diverse groups and promoting intercultural understanding and dialogue.

Portugués or *Camino Santiago* is from the small Church of Santiago in Lisbon itself, on to Porto (more than half way) and then to Santiago de Compostela Cathedral in Galicia, Spain. The journey takes you through small, colourful, ancient villages, and takes about 25 days to complete, depending on fitness!

One Pilgrim was adamant that walking on the *Camino* (9thC) gave him a feeling of relief from one of today’s life pressures, social media. He felt an inner peace and an urge to be cut off from everything – he wanted to ‘disconnect to reconnect’. When we visited Porto last month, we walked along miniscule parts of the *Camino* – in Porto, and in Braga and Guimarães. Every now and again there were scallop shapes carved into the path floor, to guide pilgrims. At Santiago or Lisbon, or more than halfway through the journey at Porto, there were scallop badges, or pendants available as testimony that you had completed your feat. The fan-like lines on the scallop shell represents the different routes to Santiago de Compostela. In the Middle Ages, shells were used as bowls to hold food and drink during the pilgrimage, at churches and other establishments that used to feed the pilgrims. They would be given one scallop shell full as a measure, highlighting how the scallop shell was important both symbolically and practically. Our short journey made us realize that the tradition of Pilgrimage is still very much alive, for a multitude of reasons.

AJE



Although the Rome pilgrimages are the most popular, thousands of pilgrims also achieve their dream of walking on the second most popular pilgrimage – the Way to Santiago de Compostela. The main route of the *Camino*





# The Friendship Group

The group met in the Cocoa Rooms at 7pm on the first Tuesday in May.

Mrs Anwen Davies was the speaker on the subject of probability and coincidence. Anwen entertained us with funny and interesting stories, then the group was invited to relate their stories concerning probability and coincidence. We all took part with much laughter and amazement.

A date was set for some of the group to fill hanging baskets to brighten the village and a date was set for a trip to Rhos on Sea.

There will be a speaker every month, the meetings will be held at the Cocoa Rooms on the first Tuesday of each month.

We would welcome new members. Please call to see us for a 'paned' and a chat. The aim of the group is to meet once a month and arrange days out to local places of interest. We look forward to seeing you.

*Carolyn Langford-Jones*



## Conservatories



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# Recipe

## **Summer Sausage Rolls**

2 large skinless chicken breasts  
1 garlic clove, ground  
3 thin slices of streaky bacon, thinly sliced  
4 sundried tomatoes, chopped  
Handful of basil leaves, chopped  
375g/13 oz pack of ready-rolled puff pastry  
Flour, for dusting the surface  
1 egg yolk, beaten  
25g sesame seeds

## **Method**

### **Step 1**

Place the chicken and garlic in a food processor and mince the mixture. Add the bacon, the sun-dried tomatoes and basil. Pulse for 5 seconds to mix. Add salt and pepper to taste.

### **Step 2**

Roll the pastry lightly on a lightly floured surface, cut in half lengthwise. Spread half the chicken mixture along the middle of one of the pastry strips, pinching the ends to seal. Using a sharp knife, cut into pieces 2.5cm long. Repeat with the remaining pastry strips. They can be frozen, uncooked, for up to one month.

### **Step 3**

Heat the oven to 200 °C/180 °C with a fan, gas number 6. Place the rolls on a large baking sheet. Brush with the egg yolk, and sprinkle the sesame seeds on top. Bake for 20 minutes until golden brown.

*Siwan Hulme*

## Trefoil Guild

We played bingo at our last meeting in place of the listed speaker. We enjoyed Welsh cakes and shortbread, and the raffle was won by Elspeth Brierley. As it was the AGM, the Chair Ruth Griffith retired after 10 years, and Beth Taylor was elected as the new Chair. A secretary and treasurer were also elected. Our next meeting will be with the Fiona McPherson, who makes wonderful cakes under the trade name of *For the love of cake*.

# Community Garden Event

Thank you everyone who came along to the Community Garden Event on Saturday 10th May. The sun was beaming as a stream of neighbours from across the village called by to find out more about the garden, get involved with a spot of weeding and enjoy a *paned* together. The Community Garden is located behind the bus stop opposite Maes Llan. Although owned by Denbighshire County Council’s Housing Department, the community garden is an informal communal space available to anyone in the village as a place to grow veg, fruit or flowers, free of charge. If you’d like to get involved, just pop by and have a chat with one of the regular gardeners on the plot!



*From left: Fran Williams, Community Resilience Team Leader, Denbighshire County Council; Beccy, local resident; Luisa Citra, Community Development Co-ordinator – Environment, Community Resilience Team Denbighshire CC; Carolyn, local resident; John MacGuire, Llandyrnog Community Council.*

**Becky Gittins, MP for Clwyd East**

becky.gittins.mp@parliament.co.uk  
Constituency office: 01352 871130

# Summer League Matches

**Monday 2 June ko 7.15pm**  
Clawddnewydd v Llandyrnog

**Thursday 5 June ko 7.15pm**  
Nantglyn v Llandyrnog

**Monday 9 June ko 7.15pm**  
Llandyrnog v Llangynhafal

**Thursday 12 June ko 7.15pm**  
Cefn v Llandyrnog

**Monday 16 June**  
Llandyrnog bye

**Thursday 19 June ko 7.15pm**  
Llandyrnog v Henllan

**Monday 23 June ko 7.15pm**  
Caerwys v Llandyrnog

**Thursday 26 June ko 7.15pm**  
Llandyrnog v Llanfair

**Bridson & Evans Memorial Shield**  
Preliminary round Monday, 30 June, ko 7pm  
Llandyrnog v Nantglyn

## Summer League Tournaments

**22 June: Ladies’ tournament.**  
For players living in the parish of Llandyrnog/ Llangwyfan or with connections to the parish.

**29 June: Primary Schools (aged 6–11)**  
For children living in the parish of Llandyrnog/ Llangwyfan, or attending Ysgol Bryn Clwyd, boys and girls welcome.

**6 July: Secondary Schools (yrs 7–11)**  
Again, just for players within the Llandyrnog/ Llangwyfan parish, boys and girls welcome.

**Training sessions**  
Tuesday 3 June, 6–7pm: Primary and secondary school players, on Cae Nant field.

Wednesday 4 June, 6–7pm: Ladies team, on Llandyrnog Astro.

More sessions will follow. Please get in touch ASAP, via Jimmy McNally’s Facebook page.





# The Wright Life



The proverb 'One swallow doesn't make a summer' came from ancient Greece and is attributed to Aristotle and means one positive event doesn't guarantee continued success or happiness. However, this year I feel that it could be said about our returning wildlife and especially, for me, the swallows.

Swallows arrive in the UK from Africa in April and depart by late September. They are our summer visitors and use the UK to breed and raise their young. But over recent years I have seen a gradual decline in their numbers at Lodge Farm. As a child I can remember the skies full of their twitter-warble and these swooping acrobatic birds busy building and repairing their nests in the stable/barn. Last year magpies caused devastation by tearing down the carefully constructed nests to get at the chicks. It left the rafters and beams in the stables stripped bare with nothing for the new arrivals to repair.



We have also had a very dry spring and there haven't been any muddy puddles that the birds use to create their mud structures. They gather mud in their beaks, mixing it with puddle water to incorporate them into a tough cup shaped structure, using plant and feathers or in my case, horsehair to line the

nests. Sadly, my swallows arrived but haven't stayed. Another factor is the ever-present magpies and crows which could have put them off. Sadly, throughout the UK we are seeing a decline in swallow populations. A combination of factors from climate change to habitat loss.

Every year I take part in the Big Garden Bird Watch for the RSPB; this year the results show a decline in tits and an increase in woodpigeons and magpies. Another bird in decline is the house sparrow; they are much rarer than they used to be and the RSPB says that 'since 1970, almost 30 million of these birds have vanished from the UK.' That is tragic, as house sparrows have lived alongside humans for centuries. There used to be flocks of them nesting under the eaves of the stable, eating the spilt feed and corn. I do still have one colony that nest under the porch roof. When I feed the hens their supper of mixed corn, I make sure I leave some in the hen run after the girls have gone to bed. The little sparrows wait for me in the beech hedge and then squeeze under the door into the run to get the corn. The local corvid population, although highly intelligent, are just too big and they get quite frustrated strutting up and down the fence trying to work out how to get in.

Another essential is to provide water, as it's vital for hydration and preening. One simple way to do this is to place an old bin lid or plastic tray in the garden, or you can invest in a bird bath but always try and remember to keep it full of water as birds get used to the best places to feed/water. Let us all try and invite wildlife into the garden, it helps biodiversity, supports our local ecosystems and helps us connect with nature, which is beneficial for our mental health, especially after a busy day in work.

*Hazel*

# Local History Society

Members and guests of Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society had a fascinating talk at their May meeting from the Ven. E. Bernard Thomas, who was the Rector in Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan for nearly 15 years.

Bernard, who was born in Pontardawe, the Swansea Valley, attended Pontardawe Grammar School and Swansea University where he read Chemistry. He then studied for a post-graduate degree in Theology at Cardiff and was ordained in 1971 at Llandaff Cathedral.

He served in the Curacies in Aberdare and Barry, and then was Rector of Dowlais and Vicar of Maesteg. In 1999, he moved to the Diocese of St Asaph as Archdeacon and was also Rector of Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan, retiring in 2014.

The meeting was held in the church in Llandyrnog and Bernard took everyone back to the start of what is probably the oldest building in the community and through the journey of any restoration activity to modern times and numerous features and items in the building.

He explained about the church link to St Tyrnog and how a carved stone head rumoured to be that of Tyrnog was dug up many years ago in the churchyard. It is now housed inside the church in a cabinet made by Elwyn Evans, Ger y Llan. The earliest written record of the church is 1254 in the Norwich Taxatio.

The talk also covered the shape of churchyards, types of church buildings, funding of restorations and the architects involved, renting of pews, paintings, porches, church wardens, church records, the church exterior, the church gallery, doors, bells, floors and tiles, memorials, the pulpit and lectern, the font, poor box, the organ, rectors, church silverware, the numerous stained glass windows (which are the church's finest treasure) and much, much more.



The seven sacraments window is the pièce de résistance in the church and it is included in the 2022 book *A History of Christianity in Wales*, published by the University of Wales press.

The church is open daily for visitors and has a booklet of the church history for sale – do visit and support this wonderful church.

The History Society annual trip will be on Saturday, 12th July (to start at 1.45pm) at Crogen, a medieval mansion in Llandderfel near Bala, the family home of the Robertsons who previously owned the nearby Palè Hall. The cost will be £10 including a hot drink and cake and the Society is now taking bookings. The October meeting will be a talk from Fiona Gale on Denbigh and Ruthin Castles – History and Challenges.

All are welcome to society meetings with members paying only £8 for the yearly programme of 4 meetings and visitors £3 per meeting. Light refreshments are served for all at the end of every meeting.

For additional details or queries or to join the Society, or volunteer to be part of the projects, please e-mail the Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol Llandyrnog & Llangwyfan Local History Society on [llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com](mailto:llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com).



## Tuesday Club

At the May meeting, the members received very interesting information from the representative of the Olio company in the area, Nia Williams. Olio is a global company, whose main aim is to save waste of all kinds.



The Olio scheme has been operating in the Vale of Clwyd for over 4 years, saving food left over in supermarkets at the end of the day. A number of volunteers in the vicinity distribute food for free. To order the food you would like, you must download the Olio app to your phone or tablet.

Nia gave a very lively and entertaining account of the work of collecting and distributing the goods and she was thanked for the interesting talk. Everyone had a cup of tea, and the raffle was drawn.

Margaret and Anwen collected orders and payments for the club's summer lunch, which will be at the Cherry Pie, Melin y Wern.

### 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

*Send all news contributions and articles to [llandyrnognews@gmail.com](mailto:llandyrnognews@gmail.com).*

The Society for the Traditional Instruments of Wales




### Old and new Welsh folk tunes workshop

**28 June, 10am–4pm  
at the Village Hall**

**£5 for Clera members  
£10 for non-members**

**TUTORS:  
SUE JONES  
AND  
DAVE BALL**

Teri: 07896 848929

 [teri.sesiwn@gmail.com](mailto:teri.sesiwn@gmail.com)

## VE Day

VE day on 8 May celebrated 80 years since the end of the last war in Europe. A service was held around the War Memorial in Denbigh, with the Mayor in attendance. The names of all those lost were read out, a wreath laid by the British Legion, and the last post played.

In the evening, a concert was held in St Mary's Church Denbigh, introduced by the Rev. Dan Morgan and Clwyd Wynne was the compère. Calon Lân was sung by the congregation. Poems and readings related to 1945 were read out in Welsh and English. The soloist was Kathryn Nash and pupils of Middleton College, Middleton College Band, and Fron Goch pupils also took part. The event was followed by refreshments in the Church.

*'We will remember them'.*

## TY CEFFYL BACH

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# My glider experience

I am sure that you like me have many times heard the little tug pilot pulling a glider up, looked up and wondered what it would feel like being up there.

Like many people, I am not too comfortable in a confined space and the thought of that canopy coming down sort of put me off really. I did say to Anwen jokingly once that I would chance an open-top one – one where I could put my arm over the side. And we left it there.

However walls in our house have ears and what an absolutely amazing Christmas present from Anwen who keeps buying me these death defying experiences – a glider flying lesson – right on my doorstep. Well this is it!

I had to do some research – how dangerous are they ?

Although the gliders are seen regularly over Bryn Ffolt, I've never seen or heard of any one actually fall out of the sky – have you? Apparently, on average there are 51 gliding accidents every year – one a week resulting from minor injuries to... I'll let you finish the sentence.

But there you go, five people a day are killed on our roads so they say and they don't even make the headlines. I hear you say there are more cars on the road than gliders in the sky – but we can't go through life doing risk assessments can we? We may as well stay in bed.

And as I heard the little tug pilot coming over, it was a sure sign that the gliding season was open and I had something to really look forward to.

Llewenni is a very well-respected club and the facilities and staff are second to none. It is very highly rated and people travel there from afar to experience breathtaking views. The conditions there required to fly a glider are apparently second to none.



My instructor was Carl and the first job was to explain the components and roughly what they do – terms like the aileron, vertical stabiliser, air brake, rudder pedals etc. It's easier to say that gliding must be a bit like sailing – there are levers inside the cockpit that control these components and every now and then you have to trim this and that to make sure that you maintain height, direction and speed.

I had a control column between my legs and thankfully so did Carl – it was dual control – and he assured me that although I had my hand on the column, he was in charge, until I was told otherwise. Communication is key.

Carl briefly explained the simple instruments and pointed towards a massive yellow toggle – 'Don't touch, Bryn – that's the cable release hook.'

I had to wear a very basic slimline parachute – it was only the size of a large hot water bottle on my back. Carl assured me that basically it was to ensure that my back was vertical to enjoy the experience. 'In the unlikely event of having to use it, then open the canopy, roll out – or drop out, depending on your predicament, pull the massive lever and you'll be ok,' he said confidently – what else could he say?

Carl explained that we would be towed up to about 1500 feet, released and hopefully would soar up to about 3500 feet and where would I like to go? Well Llandyrnog, of course!

The canopy was closed and I had been taught to check that it was locked – that was my responsibility . And that was it – we were tearing down the runway and up, up and away!

As soon as the cable had been released – silence, glorious silence – just the sound of the wind rushing over the canopy. Within a few minutes, having gained height, we were over Llandyrnog and I was told to enjoy the view,



## My glider experience: ctd

take photos, and not to worry about anything . I was in my element!

I was asked whether I would like to take control. Well of course I would! Carl told me to look for a landmark and keep the nose of the glider on it. I found what I think was a field oil seed rape – bright yellow. ‘Good choice, Bryn’. Then, ‘Carl, I’ve lost it’. ‘Don’t worry, bring the glider down a bit, using the control column.’ I pushed it forward and found my bright yellow field again.

Every now and then my bum and my seat parted company – turbulence apparently.

Having mooched around the Vale (incidentally I was surprised at how parched it was) the wings were trimmed and we headed over Denbigh – the hospital site, the castle, the quarry and Colomendy industrial estate – fascinating!

Time to head back to Llewenni and Carl explained that the landing would not be as forgiving as the take-off – we would be coming in at quite an angle and quite fast. He told me take my feet off the rudder controls and put my hands on the parachute straps. He just wanted to make sure that he was in charge, that’s all – it sounded a lot worse than it actually was.

Thank you Anwen for a wonderful experience!

*Bryn Davies*



Call in for advice on welfare benefits, debts, household energy, family law and housing. Most advice will be available in Welsh and English.

**Every Friday from 10am until noon  
at the Llandyrnog Community Shop**

For further information  
Contact Eleri Jones on 01824 719623 or e-mail: [advice@dcab.co.uk](mailto:advice@dcab.co.uk)

## Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

Although it has only been a 4-week half term we are taking full advantage of the joys of spring. In forest school, the juniors have been working on earning their fire-lighting badges and keeping an eye on our growing garden as well as planting mint and sunflowers to take home.

In their sessions, the infants have been making tiny fairy gardens.



The infants are also really enjoying their weekly gymnastics lessons with Miss Tammy and are getting close to being ready to create their own artwork inspired by Welsh artist Rhiannon Roberts.

Meanwhile, the juniors are loving their new topic 'The Scented Garden'. They have just completed a mini topic on perfume making. Diolch to Llandyrnog Shop for having our five favourite scents we created on sale there. If you do go into the shop and buy one we would love to hear what you think!



# The Community Shop and Hub

Whether it was the promise of a quiz on shop related topics or welcome refreshments from friendly volunteers or just curiosity about how the early months since reopening have gone, more than 30 people attended our latest event at Llandyrnog Village Hall on Thursday 1 May.

All sorts of news was shared. Statistics show that the number of customer visits to the Post Office counter is already higher than in any of the preceding five years, in an average month over 150 hours of volunteering keep the shop service warm and friendly, and the single supplier with whom we spend the most is (perhaps unsurprisingly) JH Jones Butchers (both the sausage and the lamb and mint rolls are extremely tasty!).

A report follows of the team receiving the Highly Commended Award from the Countryside Alliance in their annual Rural Oscars under the category of Best Village Shop and Post Office in Wales. Judges were impressed by the level of community support for the project and the difference it is already making to the lives of local people. If you would like to volunteer with the shop behind the counter or behind the scenes on the Board - please do get in touch: either speak to Emma in the shop or email Jackie on [companysecretary@llandyrnogshop.com](mailto:companysecretary@llandyrnogshop.com). We have come a long way since the inside of the shop looked like this a year ago!

*Jackie Le Fevre*



## The shop goes to Cardiff

It was such an honour for Llandyrnog's community shop to be nominated in the Countryside Alliance 'Rural Oscars', but an equally exciting treat to be invited to the award ceremony in the Senedd. We hadn't all been able to travel to Cardiff Bay together but met up in time to walk across to the Senedd building. Once inside, we were sent through airport-style security, eventually being allowed in after some of us had to remove metal items off clothing before being scanned again.

The ceremony was to take place in the sun-filled atrium, and all the winners' plaques were on a table ready – it was tempting to peep at them to see whether the shop had won, but the names weren't readily visible. So, we had a wander round, finding ourselves under the wooden mushroom canopy we always see on the news. The main Senedd chamber is below that canopy but the area was already in process of being stripped out (and meetings moved to another building) to extend it for the increased number of Senedd members due after the next election.

By then the atrium was filling up as other nominees arrived, so we accepted a glass of wine and nibbles before taking our place to hear the results. We were joined by our Senedd member Gareth Davies, and Llŷr Griffiths, who had both been most supportive. Also in attendance were other members, such as Rhun ap Iorwerth and First Minister Eluned Morgan. The awards themselves were to be presented by Hannah Thomas – we recognised her off the telly – who is ITV Wales' Rural Affairs Correspondent.

There were several awards to be presented, and we were so pleased that Tŷ Ceffyl Bach was 'Highly Commended' in their category of Rural Enterprise. Unfortunately, Angie and Graham Hughes couldn't be there, but Viv Rosser picked up the certificate on their behalf. (*Photo opposite*)



# The Community Shop and Hub: ctd



The Community Shop award was the last to be announced. Each award was preceded by a description of the nominee, so we could tell who had got it even before the name was announced – Woosnam and Davies of Llanidloes were announced as ‘Highly Commended’, so we knew our shop had either won or were runners-up!

Then the compère started reading the story of Llandyrnog’s shop – runners-up! It was a great result, everyone was so pleased, especially considering the shop had only been open for a few months. It was an exceptional achievement.

We were told afterwards that it was a very close-run thing between our shop and the eventual winners (Rhoose Village Store). There is always the opportunity of being nominated again and, if that were to happen, Llandyrnog’s shop stood a very good chance of winning.

The team therefore went out for a bit of a celebration in the bay area, and hopefully we can return next year with a winner’s plaque.

*Ivan Butler*



# Capel y Dyffryn

## The Sunday School

Our theme this month was ‘*The Good Hands*’. We talked about the good things we can do with our hands, and went on to discuss our prayer, ‘*Iesu Tirion*’ and sang our children’s hymn ‘*Dwy Law yn Erfyn*’ by T Rowland Hughes, a hymn based on the painting *Praying Hands* by Albrecht Dürer.

The children enjoyed making outlines of their hands and hand prints on paper. All the colourful ‘hands’ are ready for display on the Capel y Dyffryn family tree. The children hope to have a similar activity with the rest of the chapel members to show that we are one big family.

We will meet next Sunday, 29 June at 1.30pm in the vestry – all welcome!



# Matters discussed in the May meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

The AGM of the council was held on the 2th May where Cllr Butler was re-elected as chair and Cllr Borthwick as vice chair.

The monthly meeting followed.

## ♦ **Community Policeman**

### ♦ Reported incidents included:

- ♦ Missing child from a care home.  
Concerns raised due to staff restraining child.
- ♦ Fraudulent activity involving bank and phone provider.
- ♦ Report of cars racing around country lanes late at night.
- ♦ Suspicious vehicle entering yard and generally spent time looking at what was there.
- ♦ Missing person – numerous enquiries
- ♦ The present arrangement with DCC providing free internet access is coming to an end and it was decided to seek an alternative provider – Jangala.
- ♦ Work was due to start on improving road drainage to deal with the excess surface water running down the unclassified road terminating at Cross Keys. However it was found that there was a high-pressure gas main at the exact spot where the work was to be carried out. Therefore an alternative temporary solution needs to be considered.
- ♦ There were concerns about electric scooters using an adopted highway and although this did not seem a regular occurrence or a regular pattern the matter will be relayed to the PCSO.
- ♦ The work to replace the damaged style at Cae Nant is in hand and will commence soon.
- ♦ The troughs from the roundabout have been removed to wash down and re-stain them, and have been replanted.
- ♦ The cherry tree in Cae Nant needs to be inspected and maybe removed. Trees to

be replanted to mitigate the loss.

- ♦ It is by now a statutory requirement to have a biodiversity plan and this will be considered.
- ♦ The community involvement questionnaire is work in progress and some good suggestions have been made.
- ♦ The matter of an extension to the gazebo and garden shed at Old Coach House was considered. The Community Council felt it would be better if the matter is dealt with by the planning committee and possibly a site meeting to judge the impact on the overall complex of buildings and neighbouring properties.
- ♦ It was reported that the only road included in the main re-surfacing programme for Denbighshire is the stretch of road between Celynog and the Kinmel Arms.
- ♦ A report was received from MHC confirming that there was 100% occupancy. This is excellent news, with MHC being a major employer in the area.
- ♦ Procter Johnson has provided defibrillator training to those living nearest to their site. It will soon be installed and will have 24/7 cover to the Waen area.
- ♦ A representative from STAND – Stronger Together For Additional Needs and Disabilities – has been to Cae Nant and will see if there is alternative sourcing of funding for more accessible equipment.

## Denbighshire County Council

### Merfyn Parry

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*Or leave a message on Facebook*

