
Llais Llandyrnog Voice

 llandyrnognews@gmail.com  [@LlaisLlandyrnog](https://twitter.com/LlaisLlandyrnog)

September 2020 – Volume 5 – Edition 12

Digital flower and produce show

The August Bank Holiday was very quiet this year, without the usual hustle and bustle around the village hall. The annual event is a great opportunity for the residents of Llandyrnog and its environs to get together purely to socialise, as well as to admire the wonderful produce and crafts exhibited.

However, there has been an excellent response to an appeal for photographs in lieu of the show. This is a wonderful colourful version of the *Llais*, which is also available in print for the first time since March.

Wedding bells

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Gwyn and Valerie were married at St Mary's Church, Denbigh 27th August 1960, and the reception was held at the Crown Hotel. They have lived in Llandyrnog all their married life. Gwyn 'Dŵr' retired from the Waterboard many years ago and Valerie retired from the Infirmary.

We would all like to wish you a very happy anniversary and hope you have a wonderful day. Love from all the family.

Golden wedding celebration:

Congratulations to Aeron and Menna Ellis, Gader Goch, on celebrating their golden wedding anniversary on 19 September. On to the diamond wedding now! Love from Alun, Rhys, Iola and all the family.

Also to John Hugh and Veronica who were also married on the same date. Hearty congratulations to you too, and best wishes for many more years together.

Useful telephone numbers

Denbighshire CC Customer Service Centre
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Out of hours: 03001 233068

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Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

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

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

Around the Village

Condolences: Bryn Bellis, Erw Frân, has passed away following a long illness. We send our sincerest sympathy to Carol and all the family. Our condolences also to Sylvia and the family of the late Bill Evans, Fforddilas. We also send our regards to David and Margaret Jones, Hafan Dawel on the loss of David's sister, Eira Reece Jones.

Get well soon: to Les Ward after his stay at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.

The **Kinmel Arms** has reopened its doors since Wednesday 5th August. Obviously things feel a little different and there has been hard work to put safety measures in place along with a few 'rules'. They are all fairly straightforward rules and everyone visiting the pub is requested to adhere and respect them in order to ensure a relaxed and friendly atmosphere that can be enjoyed by all in the knowledge that everyone is observing these simple rules and staying safe! Open:

Monday–Thursday 3pm - 10pm

Friday 3pm –11pm

Saturday 1pm – 11pm

Sunday 1pm - 8pm.

Well done to Elen McCoolle for raising £287 For Tŷ Gobaith by cycling 100 miles during August and selling cakes. £112 of this was raised in the village. Elen and family thank everyone who contributed.

Congratulations to Paige Tynan on graduating from Glyndwr University, Wrexham, with a first-class honours degree in forensic science. She is also on the shortlist of the Welsh STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) awards in the 'Rising star of the year' category. The results will be announced in November.

For sale: If you have a cool £2.5 million to spend, why not buy the Arla site?! See www.nabarromcallister.co.uk/dt_properties/arla-llandyrnog/ for details.

Support Joe's petition

Last year, Joe Hinchcliffe's best friend, Olivia Alkir, was killed as a result of dangerous driving. Please help him make sure that a similar accident never happens again. Sign and share the petition linked to demand change from the government: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/333041>: All new drivers must have a black box and be limited to carrying one passenger.

Ruthin FC Awards

Congratulations to Tomos Roberts who received the most improved player award in the Under-14s. This squad also collected their league runners-up medal at their event. His brother, Harri, won the players' player award and the Arnold Edwards cup. This is awarded for distinguished service to the squad for the full five seasons as a Youth FC player. Well done!

The Goldie to re-open

I'm sure you are all aware that the Golden Lion has been closed since 6th January. I put it up for sale hoping that someone would buy it to keep the tradition of the Golden Lion being the heart of Llandyrnog. I did have a potential sale on the place to some local people, however, due to the coronavirus, this made it virtually impossible for such a deal to go through.

I would like to announce that Mark Roberts and I have come to an agreement to open the Golden Lion very soon. There is no sale or tenancy in place – I felt that Llandyrnog needs the Goldie open and we both are going to give it a go again and see how it all works out. There are lots of things to sort out with such a small pub regarding regulations to comply with the COVID-19 conditions in a hospitality venue, but I'm sure we can overcome these with the help of our customers. I will update you all, as and when we know more.

Merfyn Parry

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Contact Oli Williams

Mob: 07501022017

Email: ohwilliams75@gmail.com


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Matters discussed in the July meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

All members were present at the virtual meeting held in July – we are unable to meet conventionally but are managing really well with Zoom meetings.

Cae Nant has been closed since March 23rd, however it will open 20th July. All equipment has been sanitised and cleaned professionally by Godfrey Group and all surfaces power-washed and fogged. Signs have been erected to remind users to respect social distancing.

The Cocoa Rooms: Due to Covid-19 restrictions no events are planned for the Cocoa Rooms for the foreseeable future and it was decided to make use of the time to re-decorate and install a new carpet.

The Community Council as Trustees of the Cocoa Rooms, which is a registered Charity, applied for £10,000 from the Denbighshire Covid compensation fund and was successful.

Planning: There was one application to place two glamping pods on land by Bryn Celyn, Llangwyfan and the Council had no particular concerns about the application. Members were aware of the sensitivity because it was within the AONB but were confident that the planners would offer guidance on screening etc to reduce any possible impact.

Arla site: There were concerns about the condition of the site and it was decided to contact Arla who had promised to look after the site to ensure it was kept in good condition. The work has subsequently been done.

Footpath 36 from Penisa'r Waen to Tŷ Gwyn had been cleared following a request to DCC.

Littering: There were concerns that PPE equipment was being irresponsibly disposed of although it would be difficult to track down those responsible. However, discreet enquiries would be made before the next meeting

Butterfly/wildflower garden kit: The Council has been successful in its bid for a butterfly/wildlife garden and it would be arriving over the next few weeks. It was decided to discuss with Mr Weyman as to the best location for

the raised bed in Cae Nant.

Bench: The Council has submitted a request to Denbighshire CC to have a bench placed on the Celynog crossroads. Although the Council has submitted the £185 application fee and maps, it has had no response. It may well be down to the Council being in lockdown; however, we will keep persevering.

Winter salt: Denbighshire CC is considering replacing salt piles with salt bins in strategic locations. However, it has assured the community council that it would be consulted before proceeding. It was felt that on the narrow, steeper roads around Llangwyfan/ London Bridge/Glyn Arthur areas a number of smaller bins would be required as opposed to one large bin at the bottom of these hills. These become notoriously dangerous in winter and residents tend to grit the roads themselves.

Footpath 29: It was reported that the stile by Pentrefelin which is on path 29 is in a dangerous condition. The Footpaths Officer has already discussed the matter with the land-owner and hopefully the matter will be dealt with soon.

Donations: This was the first meeting since the lockdown and therefore there was a need to discuss request for financial assistance. It was decided to donate as follows:

| | |
|---|------|
| Waen Chapel Day Care | £150 |
| Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society | £150 |
| Tuesday Club | £100 |
| Churchyard Maintenance Fund | £200 |

Are your apple trees laden with fruit? The community project, SUDD AFAL (apple juice) will be collection spare apples and making juice from them. This will be sold to fund other community projects. Contact Heledd on 07712 641447 for further information.

Llandyrnog United and the new season



We will be plying our trade in the new-look and highly competitive tier 4 this coming season. The management team: Jimmy McNally (Manager), Steve Crompton (Assistant Manager), Tudur Morris (1st team coach) are looking forward to welcoming you all to Cae Nant.

The club is proud to announce that Crompton Farriers will be our new kit sponsors. Thanks to them – we look forward to unveiling our new home and away kits soon.

Welcome to the following to the club:

Sam Crompton: a no-nonsense defender, whose playing days include stints at Ruthin Town, Shrewsbury Town and Bala Town Reserves.

Dylan Jones: former Corwen and Ruthin Town keeper. Stopper Dylan is no stranger to Cymru Alliance football and with that experience is a huge addition to the club.

Tom Sharples: He has represented the club previously and is certainly a useful addition to the side, going forward this season with his ability to play through the spine of the team.

Kev Evans: from Ruthin Town. He is a huge addition to the club and certainly bolsters our squad greatly. Kev represented the club previously in the John James era.

Garmon Hafal: from Ruthin Town. Garmon brings a wealth of Cymru Alliance experience with him and has represented our club previously.

Adam Harvey: from Ruthin Town. Adam is a left-back with Cymru Alliance experience and he'll be a huge addition for the forthcoming campaign.

Elystan Hughes: another no-nonsense defender. Stan brings a wealth of experience to the club which could prove vital in the coming season.

Jak Newell: Massive thanks to Ruthin Town FC for the assistance with the move.

Sean James: He has represented the club previously and will be a great addition to the squad for the season ahead.

David Lawson Cooke: We are pleased to announce the signing of this talented free agent. David has pledged himself to the club for the forthcoming season, We look forward to seeing Dave plying his trade at Cae Nant.

Derry Morris: 'Let's give it another go'. Derry Morris has announced he has another season in him for Dyrny. The evergreen club legend has pledged himself to another campaign for the club, at the age of 53.

Cai Davies: We're pleased to announce the return of Cai Davies to the football club from Ruthin Town. Cai started his senior playing days here at Cae Nant under Jimmy during his time as reserve manager, and is a huge addition to the club.

The club is currently looking for a 1st team physio. Contact the club via DM to its Twitter account: @LlandyrnogFC or via its Facebook page, Llandyrnog United FC.



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Spotlight on... Russ Jones

What are your early memories?

Having lived in Llandyrnog all my life, my memories all revolve around the village. My earliest memory is being taken for walks with my brothers 'around the Speddyd' by my Grandad (Frank Wilson). We used to pass what he would call the magic sweet tree. This was a tree by one of the field gates with a big hollow in the trunk. We would look inside and there would be nothing there. He would knock it to alert the sweet fairies and sweets would drop down for us to share. To this day, I still don't know how he did it. Other memories that come back are being sent by Mam and Dad to Tyn Llan for milk and going with either Mr or Mrs Evans or 'Aunty' Maggie to the huge fridge for a pint of milk. The village shows and fetes were always memorable. My Gran (Agnes Wilson) would make the most amazing fancy dress costumes for me. She could put her hand to anything and could make pretty much anything with a needle and cotton.

What about school and college?

I went to the village primary school where strong friendships were made with the other kids of Llandyrnog – friendships which are still strong to this day. Then onto Brynhyfryd and a business and finance course at Llysfas college.

Did you head straight into work?

Whilst doing my business and finance course I got some bank work once I turned 18 at Highfield Park. This was the first time I knew that care was my calling, not business! On completion of the course I went to work at Highfield Park full-time. I worked there for 8 years, gaining qualifications in care and becoming a senior support worker. Whilst there I met my now wife Lowri. I then decided I needed to further my career. I was successful in my application for Bangor University and followed my mother, Majorie Jones and Uncle Pete and Aunti Wyn into a career in nursing, choosing to specialise in Mental Health.

My first post was as a band 5 staff nurse on

the Ablett Unit. This was great grounding for a newly-qualified nurse learning the trade from experienced nurses. After 5 years I joined the home treatment team which is based at the Ablett unit. Its role is to treat acutely unwell people at home as an alternative to hospital admission. I stayed in HTT for 5 years before deciding to change direction slightly and move to work in the community mental health team (CMHT) in Rhyl where I was care co-ordinator for people with serious mental illness. Here I would support the person, maintain their stability and recovery in the community and manage crisis. Last year the team manager retired and she advised me to go for the position which I did. I have been the manager for just over a year which is obviously much different and brings its own challenges which can be rewarding.

Your team won an award for its work a few years ago – what was it and how did you accomplish it?

2 years ago we gained the Accreditation for Community Mental Health Services (ACOMHS) by the Royal College of Psychiatrists. To accomplish this we had to provide evidence and proof that we were working within the high standards set out by the Royal College and were assessed by peer reviewers. At the time we were the first in Wales to gain this and only one of a few in the UK. I then trained to become a peer reviewer myself and have taken part in several reviews of CMHTs around the country.

How has Covid-19 affected everything?

COVID has been a massive challenge especially in the first months of lock down. Guidance and practice were changing regularly. We initially went to engaging patients via phone when possible. Face to face contacts were only absolutely necessary such as crisis work. We also had to adapt our clinics where patients attend for medications etc to ensure that the number of patients in the

Spotlight on... Russ Jones: ctd

CMHT was minimum. This obviously was alongside ensuring that adequate PPE was in place.

What are your interests outside work?

Most of my interests revolve around spending time with my lovely family. I also organise (pre-covid) the weekly 'fatty and unfitties' 6-a-side football group on the MUGA. During lockdown I've enjoyed walking and cycling. I am also a season ticket holder with the children for Wrexham AFC; I love music and attending gigs, and going to the cinema and the theatre.

What makes you angry?

Currently it is the lack of compassion I see on social media for the refugees trying to better themselves by fleeing war and horrendous awfulness in their own countries. I'm sure everyone would do the same for their family in that situation. Poverty and the parity of wealth between the wealthy and the poor. Not indicating at roundabouts drives me insane, also!

Who would you like to invite to dinner?

Of people still living: Liam Gallagher, Diego Maradona, Julie Walters (Lowri would kill me if I didn't), Tom Hanks, Harrison Ford, Bob Mortimer, Carrie Fisher, Billy Bragg, David Lammy and Derek the Weather. From those no longer with us, obviously past family and friends, The Boss – Nye Bevan, Tony Benn, John Lennon, Elvis, Mohamed Ali and Aretha Franklin. Bryn the Chef can cook.

What are your hopes for the future?

I just wish to continue to do my best for my family and continue to do my best at work and for health and happiness for my family and friends. Oh, and promotion for Wrexham!

Thanks, Russ, for sharing your story with us!

Wanted: Old wriggly/corrugated tin. Hoping to make outdoor cabin! Can be rusty. Contact Fiona on 07813 087797

The butterfly garden

In March, Keep Wales Tidy launched a butterfly and wild garden initiative and invited Community Councils to bid for a kit to build their own. This initiative was funded by the Welsh Government.

Llandyrnog Community Council decided to apply for a butterfly garden and the bid was successful. Over a period of six weeks, umpteen boxes arrived – first there was a bug hotel, followed by a flatpack raised bed, ten bags of soil, two separate boxes containing squirrel-proof bird feeders and 10kg of bird seed. Instead of a simple packet of seeds – three huge boxes of live plants arrived.

We are extremely indebted to David and Sherri who have taken a keen interest in the project and gave up their Saturday morning to place the bed, fill it and plant it. The plants include kidney vetch, wild daisies, musk mallow, wild carrots, wild honeysuckle, broom, hawthorn and catsear – and just as Sherri was finishing the planting, a butterfly fluttered by!

The bug hotel and bird feeders are also up and if you're in Cae Nant, feel free to fill the feeder and see what birds they attract!

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A night on the Orient Express: Part 2

We ended part 1 of Gwen's story about her night on the Orient Express with the sumptuous meal to celebrate her birthday.

Our next move was to the cocktail lounge. It was all very relaxing, with a grand piano being played in the corner (how did they get it in?) and everyone was dressed up to the nines. I was wearing a black flapper-style dress with fringes – but others went to almost fancy-dress extremes with sequins, twenties headdresses, the lot. We sat and enjoyed people-watching over a glass of wine before heading for bed.

While we had been away our steward Enrico had been busy. The cabin was transformed. In place of the bench seat was a set of bunk beds complete with a ladder covered in the same material. However, getting changed for bed proved even more difficult as the train was now moving and there was a ladder in the way! Ivan had to take to the top bunk while I got ready, then he got down and took his turn at having a wash at the little corner sink. My lower bunk had a handy tiny hammock where I decided to store my handbag. But not for long, as it annoyed me swinging above my head.

The bunks were comfy, but it was disconcerting to have to hang on going round corners. I slept okay and we woke up early to find we were stationary somewhere in Switzerland. We knew Enrico was bringing breakfast at 8.30 so we got dressed while the train wasn't moving. Enrico knocked on the door at 8.20 and we stood in the corridor while he put the cabin back together. It was ingenious – the ladder had its own compartment next to the wall and the bunks folded down to become the bench seat. The bedding lived underneath the bench and the stool returned from somewhere.

Enrico then brought some pastries and fruit and a silver pot of coffee for breakfast. He told us we would soon be going through the Arlberg Pass and the Swiss Alps (which was why they parked up for a couple of hours, so we could be awake in time to enjoy the scenery). Unfortunately, Ivan wasn't feeling too

well, suffering motion sickness. He managed some coffee but while I tried to take photos of the train going through the mountains, he went back to the cabin for a lie down. We were booked in for the first lunch sitting (as we were getting off early in Verona) so we went for a drink in the cocktail lounge, thinking it would settle Ivan's stomach, then on to the restaurant car. But he really couldn't face the meal and insisted I carried on while he went back to the cabin. So, while the train continued, now going through the Brenner Pass, I had smoked salmon with salmon mousse, duck with half a roast peach and purple mashed potatoes (odd looking but tasty), then a mixed fruit jelly on a little cheesecake. The staff were most concerned about Ivan and let me take the little petit four chocolates back to the cabin for him (but not on the best china!).

When we arrived at the Italian border, we had to stop for our passports to be checked but this gave us the opportunity to get off the train for a while. It was a good chance to get some fresh air and have a proper look at the train. It was a long way down from the carriage to the platform and I had to have a helping hand from a genial steward.

Back on board for the final leg of the journey through Italy. We passed Milan and Monza then Enrico arrived with our big case from the guard's van and took all our luggage to the end of the corridor ready to get off.

The Orient Express dropped us off in Verona and we stood on the platform watching it leave for Venice. It certainly drew a crowd at the railway station, and we felt special alighting from such a beautiful and iconic mode of transport.

Gwen Butler

Notes from Plas Ashpool

Although there is a hint of autumn in the air already, this is still a very colourful time of year in the garden. The blousy show of the roses has been overtaken by the more subtle but equally glorious display of the hydrangeas. Thirty years ago I was not a fan of these sometimes larger than life flowers but now I delight in their giant heads of pinks, whites, blues and green-ish tinges. I have never managed to cultivate the really rich blues so often seen near seaside areas, but the pale blue and mauve blue of many at the top of the garden certainly keep the interest going. They will also make good dried flowers – an added bonus.

Elsewhere, the herbaceous borders are full of colour from the phlox and agapanthus, through to the salvias and bergamots, both of which are covered in bees and butterflies at this time of year, as too is the sedum, in its dusky coat of pink. The vegetable garden has completely run away with me, as usual, not before providing some delicious produce and gorgeous display of sweet peas, dahlias and gladioli.

Over the last few weeks, the pigs have been growing fast and have made an amazing job of turning over the soil in their paddock. So much so, that in several moments of madness I have been toying with the idea of creating an enclosed secondary vegetable area in their patch (once they are off to market!). It will certainly be good fertile soil with, hopefully, no bindweed. Of course, they must have read my mind because only a day or two ago did they make their escape and spent several happy hours in pastures new.

Today, I write this letter from a newly re-furnished room at the very top of the house. This was a space, which for as long as I

can remember, that was an area of darkness, clutter, cobwebs and general hoarding mess. Not to mention the old tale hereabouts that it was haunted and contained the bloodstain of a poor murdered soul. Now, with a lick of paint, a new carpet, windows that can be opened and NO clutter, not even one whisker of ghostliness remains and it feels wonderful!

Once the coronavirus episode allows, our intention is to have a huge attic sale to facilitate the removal of the last remnants of several lifetimes of clutter. Very rewarding ☺

This week has seen the arrival of a friend, the first to stay here since March. A city-dweller, he has been delighted to enjoy the beauty of the countryside here, to breathe the fresh air (without his mask), to rest without the noise of endless traffic and only that of the gently lowing moos from the cattle as they call to their calves, and most of all to sleep looking out onto a star-filled sky. From this 'new' top room we now hear the call of the young buzzards and the re-assuring 'cronk' from the ravens, and look out onto the comforting lights of the television mast glowing so consistently on top of the Clwydians. He calls it 'The Beacon of Love'. What a beautiful way to describe it.

Let's hope that we can all find our own beacons of love and share them with others, so until next month, happy gardening.

Fiona Bell

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From the Rector

Someone said to me recently, ‘I suppose Harvest will be different this year?’ I knew what they meant – the Harvest Thanksgiving Service will look very different in these socially distanced Covid-19 days. We won’t be able to hold a Harvest Lunch, but thankfully the harvest of land and sea continues in spite of coronavirus.

We have noticed the changing of the seasons with a greater emphasis this year. Many of us haven’t moved far from home and sitting looking out of the window, we have watched the apple blossom change to abundant apples and the trees that were bare when we started lockdown are now in full leaf. Before too long the leaves will begin to fall as we look to the Autumn.

The usual events of the summer have been postponed and local produce shows and larger agricultural shows will have to wait for next year. We have had time to tend our gardens and try out new ideas and this edition of *Llais Llandyrnog Voice* holds some wonderful photos of all that has been achieved. Maybe this year we were meant to tend them just for our own enjoyment as we kept busy in the lockdown days.

The amazing storms we experienced in August have not been seen for many a long year and whilst the lightning is probably more akin to warmer climes, we gazed in wonder at the effect it had, especially in the night sky. The farmers face many challenges in the current climate, not just from the weather. The traditions of the past are still there but there is the need to look for new ways to support and sustain farming for the future.

At Harvest time, Harvest Thanksgiving reminds us that we are all part of creation, whether we are farmers or not, and it is our duty to care for God’s creation. Giving thanks to God for the Harvest remains the same and we are grateful to all who labour and toil to produce the food we eat.

There are many stories to do with Harvest Thanksgiving services but this is one of my

favourites: The Vicar at the Family Harvest Celebration asked the children to name some of the things they can see on display in the Church. ‘Carrots, peas, potatoes and cabbage’, the children reply. ‘Very good’ said the Vicar, ‘and now who can give me one word that covers all these things?’ ‘Gravy’, replied one small child without hesitation.

Every Blessing,
Val Rowlands

The Church in Llandyrnog has reopened for Sunday services at 11.15am. Safety measures are in place, we need to abide by the 2m rule and observe the limit on the number of people we can accommodate in the Church, max 30 people. The Church is open for private prayer every Wednesday from 2-4pm, time to sit quietly and enjoy the peace, arrive and leave at a time to suit you within the two hours. Llangwyfan Church remains closed at the present time.



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Notes from our County Councillor

I hope everyone is keeping as well as they can, mentally and physically, as we are still soldiering on in this pandemic. August seems to be flying by. 15th August was the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, marking both the surrender of Japan and the end of the Second World War. Some local lads suffered horrific conditions over there as prisoners of war. You might get to read about their stories in the next book that the Llandyrnog History Society is busy piecing together over the next few years.

Hilary and I as you know have not opened the White Horse yet. We both went for a few days away to Dolgellau, Barmouth, Aberaeron and Porthmadog in our campervan. During our short tour we were also taking in how hospitality businesses were dealing with opening and complying to the social distancing and the 2m rules. Most that I talked to said they were finding it difficult having their seating numbers reduced to a third but having to maintain the staffing levels to make sure they were compliant. These are very difficult times. We will announce in September our intentions with the White Horse. You might have already read the news regarding the Golden Lion on page 5.

It's good to see that Cae Nant is open again and as far as I'm aware, most people are being sensible whilst using the facilities. I must thank the team from Weyman & Co and Sherri Davies for erecting and planting the wild flower and butterfly patch in Cae Nant. It should look lovely next year and for many more, reminding us of this strange period that hopefully might bring our community closer.

The County Council intends changing the way we have our roadside salt this winter by installing yellow salt boxes in strategic locations on our lanes heading up to the Clwydian Range.

Llandyrnog Community Council has been conducting its meetings via Zoom and a record of matters discussed in the July meeting

are in this edition. I would personally like to thank the residents of Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan for all the community work that is done without a thought: shopping and fetching medication for neighbours, looking after the flower beds and litter-picking around the parish – you know who you are. Thanks also to the team that keeps the churchyard in such good order during difficult times.

It looks like all the schools will attempt to get all the children back to full-time education in September. As one of the school governors, I hope it all works out well as I'm sure the children will also be pleased to be back with their friends.

It will be a big loss to the village social scene not having the annual Flower Show, however thanks to those who have sent the marvellous photos of your gardens to this edition of *Llais Llandyrnog Voice*.

As usual my contact details are below, please contact me if you have any issues you would like to discuss with me. I hope you enjoy the last of the summer – let's hope the sun comes back again for a while.

Merfyn Parry

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry



Contact details

Mobile: 07836 208446

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

Or leave a message on **Facebook**

James Davies, MP for Vale of Clwyd

james.davies.mp@parliament.uk

Constituency office: 01745 888920

Westminster office: 0207 2194606

Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society

On September 2nd 1945, World War 2 was officially ended with the signing of unconditional surrender by the Japanese. This brought to the end 6 years and 1 day of fighting in which almost every single country in the world participated, 300 million soldiers saw combat and, although estimates vary significantly, it is believed around 75 million people died.

The Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society intends to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of this terrible bloodshed by publishing a book which records the experiences of families of villagers during the war period. Here is a taste of what has already been received.

Excerpt from an account by Thomas Henry Evans written in Welsh.

1940 was to be an important and very busy year. The Sanatorium A.R.P.(Air Raid Precautions) squad was formed and we had to train to qualify to sit an exam, information about gas and what to do although nobody thought it would be necessary, still everyone was given a mask.

In 1940, the first bomb fell in the Vale of Clwyd 500 yards from Fron Yw in the field above the garden in September with the corn in the fields. Five bombs of about 28 pounds each were dropped. The house was full of smoke or black dust which smelt like brimstone and there was a lot of cleaning to do. A sheep, two rabbits were killed, a maple tree and much glass was shattered. This created a fear amongst everyone, the war had come to Llangwyfan.

Elspeth Brierley remembers an incendiary bomb going through the roof of her home in Green Farm and landing on the bed. Luckily no-one was there at the time. Her father was a member of the Home Guard and was quickly promoted to Lieutenant. Why? Because he was the only one who had a tow bar on his vehicle to move The Gun! The photo shows a

young Elspeth on her horse with Otto, the prisoner of war who helped on the farm.

Sue Vine has items belonging to her aunt from Wirral whose fiancé was an RAF pilot shot down and killed. The photos show young Natalie and romantic notes they exchanged during their courtship. Although she went on to have a happy marriage, she never forgot Robbie.

Are there stories like this in your family? If so we would love to hear about them. Contact llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com with your name and contact details in the first instance, or put your details in an envelope addressed to the History Society and leave at the butcher's shop.



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