

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

✉ llandyrnognews@gmail.com

£1

May 2026 – Volume 11 – Issue 8

Generosity

Ar gyfer pob
siwrnai Parkinson's

For every
Parkinson's journey



Dei and Elen are extremely grateful to all who supported the coffee morning. Special thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work, and for the donations of cakes and raffle prizes. An amazing £1200 was raised for Parkinson Cymru/South Denbighshire Parkinson's Support Group.



Iona and Gareth Pierce would like to thank everyone who supported them during their recent 50th Wedding Anniversary celebrations when £1350 was raised towards Parkinson's Disease.



Around the village

Condolences to Bethan Jones and family on the loss of her sister Carys Roberts, Denbigh; also to Jackie and Phil, Argoed – Jackie has lost her father, Bernard, who lived in Llandyrnog for years, but now resided in Gellifor.

Congratulations to Dafydd and Tash Roberts, Gwynfryn on the birth of their daughter, Willow. Also to Penny and Tom Hughes, the White Horse, on the birth of their son, Paddy, brother to Thomas, Rhys, Lydia, Dylan, Darcie, Scarlett, Michael, Eddie and Holly.

Best wishes to Elwyn Ger y Llan on his 95th birthday on April 30th. Also to Peter, Maes Llan for a speedy recovery following treatments at Aberystwyth and Swansea Hospitals.

Thank you to the lady who picked up all the black plastic along the lane between Lletty and Bryn Egwallt.

Wedding bells: Nigel and Maria would like to congratulate their daughter Paige, and welcome Ruth into their family, following their marriage on the 14th of February. The ceremony was held at Thornton Manor, Wirral, in the presence of close friends and family. Following the service, guests enjoyed a reception at the venue.


Nigel and Maria said it was a lovely day and they wish Paige and Ruth (Mrs and Mrs Tynan) a long and happy future together. *(We also wish them every happiness - Ed)*

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Shop opening hours

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



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Post Office opening hours

Monday–Friday:	9am – 5.30pm
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.



Summer League

Fixtures in May

Tuesday 5th, 7pm Nantglyn away

Thursday 7th, 7pm Rhewl home

Monday 11th, 7.15pm Henllan home

Thursday 14th, 7.15pm Trefnant home

Monday 18th, 7.15 Llanrhaeadr away

Thursday 21st, 7.15, Llanfair home

Tuesday, 26th, 7.15pm, Clawddnewydd away

Thursday, 28th, 7.15 Cefn away

Cocoa Rooms events

Mon 4 th	Knitting group	10am
	Trefoil Guild	2pm
Tue 5 th	Friendship Group	7pm
Wed 6 th	Paint and <i>paned</i>	12–3pm
	<i>Llais</i> committee meeting	7pm
Thu 7 th	Senedd election	7am–10pm
Mon 11 th	Knitting group	10am
Wed 13 th	Mothers' Union	2pm
Mon 18 th	Knitting group	10am
Tue 19 th	Community Council	7pm
Wed 20 th	Tuesday Club	2pm
Mon 25 th	Knitting group	10am
Wed 27 th	Paint and <i>paned</i>	12–3pm

St Tyrnog's

Please note the change of times and that the services will now be at St Tyrnog's

Sun 3 rd	Eucharist	9.30am
Sun 10 th	Eucharist	9.30am
	Messy Church at the Village Hall	3.30pm
Sun 17 th	Eucharist	9.30am
Sun 24 th	Morning prayer	9.30am
Sun 31 st	Mission Area service: Tremeirchion	10.30am

Dyffryn Chapel

03/05	11.00	Mr Bob Morris
10/05	10.00	Christian Aid
17/05	9.45	Rev. Andras Iago
24/05	10.00	Circuit Service – Llanrhaeadr
31/05	11.00	Miss Llinos Mary Jones

Village Hall Events

Sat 2 nd	Craft group	10am–4pm
Wed 6 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Sat 9 th	Coffee morning – CampfireCymru	10–11.30am
Sun 10 th	Messy Church	3.30–5pm
Mon 11 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 11 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 12 th	Garden Club	7–9pm
Wed 13 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
	Flower Show committee	7–8pm
Sat 16 th	Coffee morning – Garden Club	10am–11.30
Mon 18 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 18 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed 20 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Tue 26 th	Astronomy Society	7–9pm
Sat 30 th	Coffee morning – Blood Bikes Wales	10am–11.30

Campfire Cymru is held in an outdoor environment for children with autism and their families to come together and support each other. As with everything these days they have difficulties accessing funds to run this invaluable programme and are in need of funds to help them run until September.

At the coffee morning on May 9th a representative will be there to explain and answer questions on their invaluable work.

To book the **Cocoa Rooms**, contact Carolyn Langford-Jones: 01824 790122
 cocoaroomsbookings@gmail.com
 To book the **Village Hall**, contact Ivan Butler: 07799 570549 or by email
 ivanbutler897@btinternet.com

Royal Maundy Service

Imagine my surprise when in early February a letter postmarked 'Buckingham Palace' dropped through my letterbox! I was even more astonished when I read the letter, which informed me that I had been nominated to receive the Maundy Money from the King at the annual Maundy Thursday service, which, this year, was to be held in the Cathedral in St Asaph. This was only the second time that the service has been held in Wales and the first time in North Wales, so it was very special. Each year the monarch gives Maundy Money to people in recognition of their service to the church and the community and the number of recipients is the same as the monarch's age so this year there were 77 women and 77 men.



The distribution of alms and the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday are very ancient and the Royal Maundy (Y Cablyd Brenhinol) can be traced back to the 13th century. Each recipient

receives two purses, one white and one red. The purses are made from deer hides sourced from Windsor Great Park and Balmoral. The red purse this year contains a £5 coin commemorating 100 years since the birth of Queen Elizabeth II and a 50p coin commemorating the 50th anniversary of the King's Trust. The white purse contains uniquely minted silver Maundy Money in the form of one, two, three and four penny pieces, adding up to 77 pennies.

From the outset, all the correspondence which came was very reassuring. It stressed that the most important thing was that recipients should feel comfortable and enjoy their day and it was just the same

when we arrived at the Cathedral. We had to go through security before being allowed into the grounds but, although vigilant, everyone was very friendly. We were to arrive at about 9am and the doors would be closed at 10.15 although the service wasn't due to start until 11am. I thought it would seem like a long time but there was always something happening, from the assembling of the Yeomen of the Guard to simply people-watching!

Before the service the Lord High Almoner explained to us what would happen. Despite his grand title he was very down-to-earth and made everyone laugh. He advised us that when the King presented us with the money, it was enough to say thank you; we did not need to give him anything in return. Apparently one year a lady gave the Queen a rather sticky jar of marmalade!



The King came round and presented the purses to all the recipients and he said a few words of thanks to everyone. It was really relaxed and very personal and the King smiled and laughed a lot and genuinely seemed to be enjoying himself! The service was lovely and the music was especially beautiful and it was so good to see some local young musicians performing before and after the service. The King had requested that as much of the music as

Royal Maundy Service: ctd

possible should be by Welsh composers and one of the readings and one hymn were in Welsh. The whole service booklet was bilingual and so I learned a few new words which I hadn't come across before! For example: *Gwastrawd* is Equerry and then there's *Ceidwad y Closed* – the Keeper of the Closet! I wonder what his job entails!

All too soon the service was over and once the processions had left the cathedral it was time to go home, but not before I'd given a very brief interview to BBC Wales. Fame at last!

It was a wonderful occasion and very special to receive a personal gift from the King, but for me the real honour was in being nominated and it is a memory I shall always cherish.

Mary Steel

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Astronomy Society

In our March meeting, everyone enjoyed an informative discussion and demonstration from Gareth on the latest astrophotography. Gareth demonstrated his 120mm refractor type telescope called a Celestron Omni 130XLT. The camera takes pictures of the night sky and compares the patterns to a star map so you can centre the galaxy in the eyepiece.

There was quite a discussion about the forthcoming Artemis II moon mission. This is a flight test supporting subsequent Artemis missions, which are planned to return humans to the lunar surface in 2028 for the first time since Apollo 17. Its primary objective is to demonstrate key systems that would be needed for a crewed mission to land on the Moon. That included Artemis II's launch vehicle, the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, and its crew capsule, Orion.

Later on Wednesday evening/Thursday morning we all enjoyed the fabulous and spectacular launch from Kennedy Space Centre, sending four astronauts on a historic ten-day crewed flyby around the Moon.

Since our meeting the Artemis II crew safely landed back on Earth on 10th April splashing down in the Pacific Ocean.

May's night sky in the UK features the peak of the *Eta Aquarid* meteor shower (early May), a 'Flower Moon' (May 1–12), and the bright evening appearance of Venus in the north west. Key highlights include the Moon passing Mars and Venus around May 22, and the spring triangle visible in the south.

Our next meeting will be in the lower room of the village hall at 7pm on Tuesday 26th May. There is lots to look forward to in the night sky so 'Keep looking up' everyone.

Thanks to all who have contributed articles to this month's edition

On the trail of the Bryan Brothers

How on earth did a family from Llanarmon come to create one of the most international Welsh business networks of the 19th and 20th centuries? It's a question worth answering. Many of the answers come from Siân Wyn Jones's fascinating book *O Gamddwr i Gairo*, which summarises the background of the Davies Bryan Brothers — from their upbringing in a deeply Christian household to the development of a vast business in a Muslim country, Egypt.

I must reveal our own family connection, which is rather distant, but they were cousins of Margaret's great-grandmother. Her mother, Elsie Jones of Pant y Gynnuau, Bryn Saith Marchog, remembered meeting the youngest brother — Joseph — when she was very young.

So, who were the Bryan brothers? John (1856–1888), Robert (1858–1920), Edward (1861–1929) and Joseph (1864–1935) were the sons of Captain Edward Bryan and his wife Eleanor. Edward was a miner — first in the Black Mountain in the Camddwr area, before being appointed Captain of the Park Mine in Minera. Originally from a very religious community, the Bryan family grew up in a culture where faith was the foundation of life, and these values travelled with them as they expanded their horizons far beyond Llanarmon.

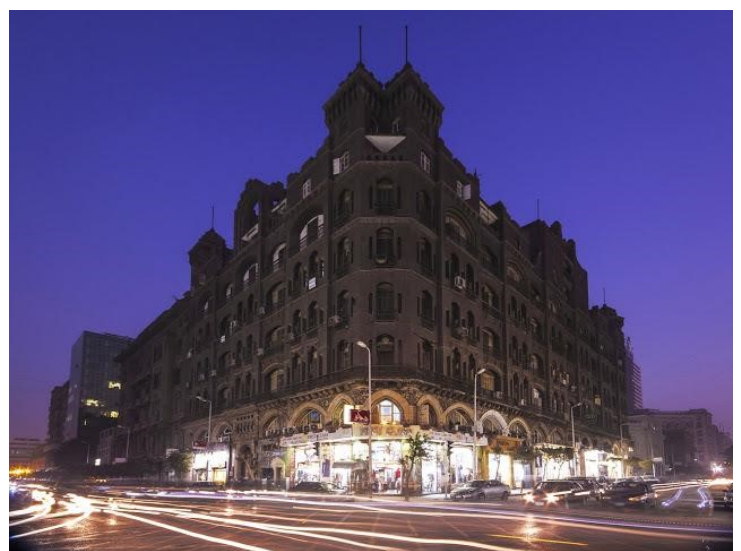
Edward and Eleanor felt that mining was a path to hardship, not to a successful future. Therefore, an apprenticeship in a clothing shop was seen as stable work and an opportunity to learn trade skills, and from a very young age the brothers worked in clothing shops in Mostyn, Birkenhead and Liverpool. By 1880, the eldest, John, had saved enough to start his own business at 12 Bridge Street, Caernarfon, despite his fragile health.

At this time, their cousin Samuel Evans held a very responsible position in the

Egyptian civil service. He wrote a letter to John and persuaded him to spend the winter of 1886–87 in Egypt, as many wealthy Europeans did. (By the way, in his spare time Samuel dealt in camels, and so became familiar with Egypt very quickly!)

Although John's health continued to decline, he set about trying to establish a very small shop in a room at the New Hotel Cairo. Very sadly, John died in Cairo in 1888 at only 33 years of age. He was the founder of the business and it was he who had the vision. But after his passing, Edward, Joseph and Robert became involved in the company, and the business was so successful that four more shops were opened – in Alexandria, Khartoum, Port Said and Syria.

By the 1900s, Joseph and his family were living in their home, *Hafod*, in Port Said, and were employing several maids. According to the story, one of Joseph and Jane's daughters, Dilys, was unwell one day and was placed in the pram in the garden in Alexandria. Jane was terrified when she saw that a pelican had landed on the pram with the baby's head in its huge beak. But the pelican incident did the baby no harm — Dilys lived to the ripe old age of 97!



By 1909, the Davies Bryan Brothers' business was one of the largest in Egypt, and they went on to build the St David's

On the trail of the Bryan Brothers: ctd

Building in the centre of Cairo — a six-storey building stretching across three streets, the largest commercial building in the country at that time. By 1914, Egypt was a British protectorate and had become a military centre. This opened the door to profitable contracts – Lawrence of Arabia was a regular customer !

Although Egypt became independent in 1922, the company continued to thrive, but the tide was beginning to turn as the Egyptian government started to promote local businesses. The company accountant bought the business and ran it for several years under the name “Davies Bryan”. The last of the brothers, Joseph, died in 1935.

Throughout the years, the brothers’ generosity extended faithfully back to Wales, and they were very generous towards Welsh schools, chapels and societies. But perhaps the most striking example was the purchase of 70 acres of Penglais land for Aberystwyth University.

Our trip in February to Cairo was arranged by our sons, Caerwyn and Alun, and very fortunately, they had managed to find the Palestinian family who bought the business from the company about 80 years ago. We received a tremendous welcome from Salim and his family, who, of course, were eager to learn about the brothers’ history. Salim’s family were astonished when they were shown Siân Wyn Jones’s book *O Gamddwr i Gairo*. They were keen to know whether it might be possible to translate the book into Arabic!

Our visit to St David’s Building was a real eye-opener — how on earth had the brothers been able to finance such an enormous building, as well as smaller buildings in Alexandria, Port Said and Khartoum, after such a short period of trading? It must have been a combination of perfect timing, shrewd trading, and

undoubtedly their good reputation and strong connections with international banks. Salim arranged for us to meet the current owners of the site, a family from Syria. They were very pleased to give up their morning so that we could admire the building, which has been externally restored to its former glory. On the lower floor there were shops of every kind, and above the largest doorway leading from Mohammed Farid Street the Welsh words *Y Gwir yn erbyn y Byd* and the emblem of the *Gorsedd y Beirdd* can be clearly seen, along with the stamp of the brothers D B.

We were able to take the lift, built before the First World War, up to the five floors above, and it was a great disappointment to see that nothing had changed in the flats since that time. Stepping out of the old lift and turning our backs on the ‘D B’ monogram, it was obvious that this was not simply a visit to an old building but an encounter with a living piece of the Bryan Brothers’ history, preserved in stone and memory. We must also thank Salim for the tremendous welcome – our friendship will certainly continue.

Of course, for us, the main purpose of our journey was to trace the history of the Davies Bryan Building and to see the building itself on its original site. But naturally, while we were there, we took the opportunity to experience the wider wonders of Egypt. Standing before the pyramids was an unforgettable experience – seeing the enormous stones rising from the desert, the perfect shapes against the blue sky, and the profound feeling of facing something that has survived around four millennia of human history.

Walking into the large new museum on the outskirts of Cairo, the greatest surprise was seeing the name “*Yr Aifft*” greeting us in our own language so far from home. It was



wonderful to see the museum acknowledging languages from every corner of the world. It is a modern and spacious building – over sixty football fields in size – almost like a temple to the history of Egypt. The building was very bright and full of treasures – over one hundred thousand exhibits spanning seven thousand years – displayed in a sophisticated historical sequence.

Among all the items, the most striking for us was Tutankhamun's tomb itself – the intricate gold work, the delicate details, and the sense of standing before something that had been hidden for thousands of years. Seeing the stone sarcophagus and the associated artefacts was an experience that made us realise the scale of the culture and craftsmanship that underpinned Egyptian civilisation.

Cairo is a vast and vibrant city where historical grandeur coexists with social reality – a city where the world's treasures live side by side with everyday poverty.

Rod, Margaret and the family of Rhiwbebyll Isaf, Llandyrnog

Becky Gittins, MP for Clwyd East
becky.gittins.mp@parliament.co.uk
Constituency office: 01352 871130

Date and Walnut Cake (egg-, sugar- and butter-less)

Ingredients

170g (18–20) dates
1¼ (300ml) cup vegan milk (soya, coconut etc) or normal milk
1 (250ml) cup whole wheat or plain flour
½ (125ml) cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon baking powder
1 tablespoon walnuts

Method

Warm milk slightly, de-seed and soak the dates for 4–5 hours.

Dry roast the walnuts on a medium heat on stove top or in an oven until fragrant. Be careful not to burn them. Let them cool.

Once the dates are soaked, blend in to a smooth paste. Add oil and mix.

Sieve the flour, baking soda and baking powder.

Roughly chop the nuts and add to the dry flour and mix.

Slowly add the dry mixture to the wet mix and mix slowly. (*Add 4–5 tablespoons of sugar if you feel it is not sweet enough.*)

Place in a loaf tin. Bake in preheated oven at 180 °C for 35–40 minutes or until a skewer inserted comes out clean. Enjoy. (*The cake can be frozen.*)

Iestyn Jones Evans

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry



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Or leave a message on Facebook



The Wright Life



We are on the cusp of summer, time for planting crops and turning the cattle out to pasture. Our wildlife is highly active too with the arrival of swifts, swallows and cuckoos alongside bluebell blooms and nesting birds. Have you heard the cuckoo yet, up by Glyn Arthur?

For me, the typical spring-time marker is the dawn chorus; a symphony of birdsong that peaks roughly 30 minutes before sunrise. I am woken by Mr Blackbird singing outside my window. His song is rich with a mellow fluty melody, and he sits high up on the bay tree to carry his song, which seems even louder in the calm morning air. It certainly makes a welcome change from the howling violent sounds of the winds we have had over the winter when it buffets the house and rattles the gutters.

The weather can be hot and dry but also cold and showery, with the odd unexpected frosty night. Daytime highs typically range between 13 °C and 18 °C and greenhouse temperatures can soar, any seedlings could dry out or be scorched. I have remote thermostat sensors in the greenhouse which ping data to the receiver in the kitchen. It's a useful system and with the Bayliss automatic window vents I am confident the greenhouse is well ventilated when I am not around to manually open and close the windows.

Drier summers are becoming the norm and May is a good month to try and capture and store rainwater for those sun-baked months ahead. The greenhouses have a

gutter system, but the downpipes which shoot water into a butt were leaking and had decayed due to the sunlight affecting the uPVC plastic by causing a UV degradation making them brittle. UV rays break down the plastics structure and in places there were holes appearing with water not making the long journey to the butt and causing moss to grow in places where I didn't want moss to grow. Time for an overhaul, and after a trip to King's Ironmongers in Ruthin I found the right diameter pipes and connectors and replaced them.

I also installed gutters and an old water butt to the back of the hen hut. Harvesting water from roofs is better for garden plants as they prefer it to tap water. The butts also have a secondary use in my house, as they supply water to flush the toilet when my mains water goes off or has low pressure (low flow according to Welsh Water as they constantly correct me when I complain).

Connecting a water butt to your downpipe is another effective way of saving water and these systems can collect a surprising amount of water. Conversion kits are available online, in your local garden centre or DIY outlet and are easy to install. However, position them carefully ideally on a firm, level surface. They can get heavy when full of water and can tip over if not secured. Ideally place in a shaded or cool spot to prevent bacterial growth.

You can get lids but if using old barrels, like mine, I place some fine netting over the top to prevent wildlife and debris falling in. I like mine to be raised so you can easily fill a watering can and I empty them once a year and give them a good clean, ready for the summer ahead.

Hazel

Dougal the Alpaca

Hello, my name is Dougal, although I'm often called Doogie for short! I'm almost five years old and I'm a Huacaya Alpaca. You will have met my herd mates Cedric, Samuel and Harvey in previous issues.



I'm the gentlest and sweetest alpaca in the herd, and everyone says I've got a very pretty and innocent looking face! I'm also a lot smaller than the others. This isn't a bad thing – it means that I'm much more sprightly on my feet and when I'm excited I can be found jumping around like a lamb! But when I have to have my toe nails trimmed or if I need injections, I always growl loudly. None of the others growl! I do it to try and make myself look tough and mean. Doesn't work though.

One thing I'm not very good at is eating very fast. I'm an extremely slow eater, and if my 'paca-parents' don't keep an eye on us during dinner time, the others finish their food as quickly as possible then try and steal from me! This causes issues for my owners as the feed has vitamins and minerals in it, so I need enough of that to stay healthy.

I'm also quite delicate – I've had a few minor injuries and illnesses that have required the local vets' attention. My 'paca-parents' are starting to think I have a bit of a fondness for Uncle Dyfrig the vet, who has been out a few times to us now!

Although 99.99% of the time I look like a beautiful little angel, I did once pull a bit of an angry face just after being sheared. Unfortunately, my owner is like the bloomin' paparazzi and is always ready with her camera, so when I made that face, she took

a photograph!! Lo and behold, that photo has been shared far and wide, and has even been used to make amusing mugs, stickers, mouse mats and cards. I'm not sure that's very fair on me, as I've never pulled that face before or after! But there we go – 'Dougal merchandise' is now a thing!! There's a lesson for us all there – don't ever be angry – you never know who will capture that moment forever!



GLYN EVANS AUTOCLINIC

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The History Society

Old boys of Denbigh County School during the Great War 1914 –18

Members of the Llandyrnog & Llangwyfan Local History Society and visitors enjoyed a fascinating talk in March in the Llandyrnog Village Hall by Dr Paul Evans, former Headteacher of Denbigh High School.

The talk centred around the discovery in a storeroom at the school of a large number of letters written by old boys who were on fighting duty in World War 1, and were writing from trenches, hospitals, and prison camps. These were sent in response to children from the school writing to their predecessors in 1917 and 1918 and sending them a postal order for 4 shillings and 6 pence from money raised by the school. Unfortunately, the letters written by the boys to the soldiers have not been found.

Denbigh County Boys' School was established in 1894 in Park Street (the girls went to Brynhyfryd in Ruthin) and moved to Middle Lane in 1903, with the first sod being cut by Mrs Thomas Gee with a silver trowel.

In the 1970s the school moved to the current Denbigh High School site taking many items from the original school along with it – including a plaque listing the 35 former pupils lost in WW1. Dr Paul Evans drew attention to the fact that many surnames are the names of families in the town today such as Salusbury, Bellis, Knowles, Waters, Keeper, Bartley, Hardy, along with Davies, Jones, Thomas, Lloyd, Evans, Roberts and a Skelton.

Excerpts of many of the letters were read out and family background details shared to accompany the pictures of the men who died during the WW1 period. The men that died were aged between 19 and 33.

The reasons for death varied and included one soldier shot by a sniper whilst carrying an officer on a stretcher, an accidental death training troops, a fatal case of Spanish flu and pneumonia, but the



Dr Paul Evans with Society officers Julia Hughes and Catherine Howarth

majority were killed during battle, with many bodies sadly never recovered. They are remembered on a variety of memorials.

One man from Bodfari, who was in the Canadian Army Medical Corps, was killed in the sinking of the *HMHS* (His Majesty's Hospital Ship) *Llandovery Castle*. *HMHS Llandovery Castle* was used at sea to treat casualties. The ship was carrying doctors, nurses and patients from Halifax in Canada to Liverpool when it was torpedoed off the Irish coast on the night of June 27, 1918 – intercepted by German submarine U-86.

Out of the 234 doctors, nurses, members of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, soldiers and seamen, only 24 people (the occupants on a single lifeboat) survived the attack to tell the story of the atrocity that had taken place.

P.S. One of the 22 men with Llandyrnog/Llangwyfan connection who died during the war was on the *HMHS Llandovery Castle*. His story, along with the others can be found in the book published by the Society – *Y Rhyfel Mawr 1914–18 The Great War*, which is available for sale from the Community Shop in Llandyrnog or Tŷ Ceffyl Bach, Llandyrnog for £14 or by contacting the Society on llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com.

Spotlight on . . . Gwilym Evans

Thank you very much for being willing to answer a few questions as part of our May Spotlight. We all know that you are a native of Llandyrnog, but where were your parents from originally?

Yes, I began life at Fron Yw – the son of Thomas and Dorothy Evans, along with my brothers and sister: Trefor, Hywel, Esmor, John, Ann, and Glyn. My father came from Gellifor and my mother from Bwlch, Bodfari.

My father trained as a gardener at Plas Draw, Llangynhafal at a young age and spent some time working with Dicksons Nurseries near Chester before returning to the area. My mother trained as a seamstress and cook while working at Bwlch Martyn, not far from home.

After marrying and living in the Gellifor area for a time, my father got a job at the Sanatorium as a gardener and later became head gardener.

In 1955, after my father had been ill for nearly two years, the family moved to live in Maes Clwyd when I was thirteen years old.

Where did you receive your education?

We attended Llandyrnog School and then Ysgol Caledfryn in Denbigh. We would walk in all weathers to Rhiwbebyll crossroads and catch a bus into the village for a penny, or get a special ticket to go to secondary school.

I remember once, there was a fire at the primary school and everyone was escorted out to Cae Nant until the fire service arrived to put it out. That was quite an experience!

I enjoyed my school years, although I wasn't particularly academic. I didn't enjoy physical exercise at Caledfryn at all!

And after leaving school?

At fifteen, it was time to leave school and look for work. I had wanted to become an



electrician for some time, so I applied for a job with Manweb and enquired at shops in Denbigh and Ruthin. Fortunately, I got the opportunity to join Evan Jones' company in Denbigh. My starting wage was £1.50, working from 9 to 6. I was expected to help in the shop, staying on Wednesdays until

6:30 and 7 on Saturdays – people from rural areas would bring radio batteries (accumulators) to be charged in the evenings.

While in the shop, I had the chance to repair small electrical items such as kettles, lamps, and irons, and occasionally went out with the men to install television aerials. One day in St Asaph, on a tall building in very windy conditions, I was told to hold the ladder while the men worked on the roof. Unfortunately, a strong gust of wind blew the ladder to the ground, leaving me in a difficult situation. Luckily, a policeman happened to be passing and helped me out!

The company was responsible for installing a shared television signal system in the Penmachno area, using a large aerial on a hill above the village and distributing it by wires. One morning, shortly after we started the work, I was knocked to the ground by an electric shock. There was some concern, but the cause was quickly identified – and I'm still here to tell the tale!

After some time with the company, I asked if I could move to the electricians' department. I was then able to attend college in Colwyn Bay and Wrexham, where I earned a merit in electrical work.

During the 1950s, electricity was still new to rural areas, so we wired many houses and farms in areas such as Cerrigydrudion, Bontuchel, and Cyffylliog.

Spotlight on . . . Gwilym Evans: ctd

After several happy years with the company and friendly colleagues, I was offered a job at the Llandyrnog creamery. As this gave me experience in industrial work, I accepted and stayed there for several years.

What was the next step?

In 1968, I decided to set up my own company, G C Evans Electrical Contractor. With support from many friends and building companies, there was plenty of work, but as business increased, I needed help, and several people worked with me over the years.

Through various builders and architects, I had the opportunity to work on interesting projects on the Colomendy Industrial Estate, such as the Henllan Bakery site, Mars Jones store and office, and a factory producing components for industry.

I worked in many chapels, churches, rectories, farms, mansions, and private houses. I also carried out a lot of work for the Water Board at Alwen and the Forestry Commission at Clocaenog.

At that time, much of the work required using ladders of all sizes and hand tools, long before modern safety regulations and equipment. Two particularly challenging buildings were St Tyrnog's Church, with its high roof, and Dyffryn Chapel, due to the breadth of its ceiling. One thing I didn't enjoy was working in roof spaces with bats flying around!

And then, a change of direction?

In May 2004, I decided to retire from electrical work. I had always been interested in local government and having served on the Community Council since 1974, I applied for a seat on Denbighshire County Council for the Llandyrnog, Llanynys, and Aberchwiler ward. With Glenys's tireless support, we prepared thoroughly for the election on June 10th. We

prepared posters and leaflets and visited almost every house in the constituency. With two other candidates standing, I managed to secure enough votes.

A councillor is expected to maintain close contact with the community, and I received a warm welcome and co-operation from all three communities in the ward, for which I was very grateful. Together, we achieved a number of successful projects and improvements.

Why is your local area so important to you?

One of the most important things to me is working for my village and local area and supporting it. I have supported local organisations such as the Village Hall, the Llandyrnog Eisteddfod, and Ysgol Bryn Clwyd – both as a parent and as a governor. Glenys and I also ran the Tuesday Club for many years. I co-ran St John's for a time and served on the Llandyrnog Youth Club committee.

Do you have time to relax?

I enjoy relaxing by keeping the garden tidy and colourful, and I've had some success at the Llandyrnog Show. I also love mowing the lawn on my ride-on mower.

The Chapel means a great deal to me. Over the years, I've been a Sunday School teacher and worked with others in children's meetings. I have also served as an elder for several years. As children, we walked from Fron Yw to Sunday School and weekday meetings. It was there that I had the opportunity to take part in competitions and services – this helped build my confidence in public speaking and enabled me to contribute to the community.

I must thank the Chapel and the community of Llandyrnog for all their support through difficult times.

Messy Church

In our April session we heard the story about the Prodigal son, who left home to seek adventures further afield. Having spent all his inheritance, he found a job working with pigs and even having to eat their food as he was starving. At last he came to his senses and went home to seek his father's forgiveness and was welcomed back with love. We did lots of pig related activities, including a very big pig-pen and some very small ones made of biscuits! We also made piggy keyrings and made bunting for the party to welcome the lost son home. We also enjoyed our piggy cakes with our tea!



Our next session will be on 10th May at 3.30pm in the Village Hall and everyone is welcome.

Trefoil Guild

Trefoil members listened to Nia Williams talk about the Olio Project, and went home with all kinds of unsold food collected from supermarkets. Nia collects the foods from supermarkets and makes sure it is put to good use. Mary Steel came to show us the Maundy Money which she received from the King at St Asaph Cathedral. Then we enjoyed tea and cakes with raffle.

Our next meeting will be a picnic at Tŷ Clwyd, Llanfair TH, the Clwyd Girl Guides Outdoor Centre, to see the new wildflower garden and pond.

A word from the priest

As we approach mid-summer and the long sunny days in which we can enjoy times of rest and relaxation, may it be time too when we can spend time caring for ourselves. Let us set aside the often mistaken concept of leisure – that we should be doing something all the time, when it is not only acceptable to occasionally take the time to 'stop and stare' but it is also beneficial to our wellbeing.

This summer try to be kind to yourself and endeavour to have a balanced life, take time to still yourself and look around at the beautiful colours, sounds and smells of this season let your hearts be filled with the wonder of creation and our almighty, all gracious and all loving God. Take some time in quiet contemplation and receive the depth of his love for you, allowing his love to heal, transform, free you, and lead you to the abundant life he has always longed to give.

The bible likens us to a vineyard, that needs pruning and watering in order for it to grow healthily and produce its fruit. (*'You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail' Isaiah 58:11*)

May this be a time of renewing ourselves and our relationships, with family and friends, with nature, and also with our creator. Let us: 'be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46 v10). In the beautiful area in which we live there are ample places where we can be still and take in the wonders of creation and the majesty of God, and know he is with us and all around us. Enjoy the summer, may you feel renewed and re-strengthened.

Rev. Canon Juliet Fraser

Coffee morning

Saturday, 16 May 10.00-11.30

at the Village Hall

Proceeds to Garden Club

All welcome!

Garden Club

Phil from Smithy Farm (at Pentrefelin, Ffordd Las) explained to a packed room how his passion for growing organic vegetables started with feeding his family. He soon found he had more veg than they could eat and so moved to Saughall Farmers Market and since then he hasn't looked back. Moving to Pentrefelin Farm permanently has meant more space to grow and a new chapter for Phil.

He explained the 'No Dig' gardening method inspired by Charles Dowding which focuses on soil health by avoiding tillage and applying surface compost. It enables you to grow more food from less input. Phil has adapted these methods with his own style to achieve plenty of delicious organic veggies. Why not pop along to the farm shop at Pentrefelin which stocks all Phil's vegetables as well as dairy produce from Huw's herd of grass-fed Red Poll cows and artisan breads on Saturdays? Afterwards we all tucked into Pentrefelin's very tasty cinnamon buns together with a cuppa.

Our next meeting will be on May 12th at 7pm in the lower room at the village hall with Josef Vass from the Micro Garden Project in Denbigh. If you are interested in joining the club, why not pop along or email us at LlandyrnogGardeners@outlook.com?



Mothers' Union



Our April meeting was a real joy! We welcomed back Doro Roberts from Nantglyn who talked to us about her garden and produced three beautiful flower arrangements, using a lot of flowers and greenery from her garden. As always, Doro entertained us with stories and her observations on life! She donated the three arrangements to the raffle and three very lucky winners took them home to enjoy! Our next meeting is on Wednesday 13th May at 2pm in the Cocoa Rooms when we will be hearing about the Henllan Warm Hub. All are welcome to join us.

An advertisement for Extreme Cleanz cleaning services. The background is blue with white and orange accents. At the top left is the 'EXTREME CLEANZ' logo. To the right is a Trustpilot logo with a star and the word 'Excellent' and five green stars. Below the logo is the text 'UNCOMPROMISING QUALITY, TRUSTED RESULTS - INVEST WISELY IN THE BEST!'. There are three circular images showing cleaning results: a carpet being cleaned, a sofa, and a tiled floor. Below these are three checkmarks with the text 'CARPET CLEANING', 'UPHOLSTERY CLEANING', and 'HARD FLOOR CLEANING'. At the bottom left is a phone icon with the number '07873 751919' and the website 'www.extremecleanz.co.uk'. At the bottom right is a 'CONTACT US' button and a 'Cymraeg' logo.

Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

Even though we have only been back in school for 2 weeks after the Easter holidays, lots has happened. Denbighshire Play Rangers have started weekly sessions with the children. These sessions are designed to develop co-operative and imaginative play and have been really fun. Dosbarth Hedfan have been designing and making games that use magnets to make them work.



Our Eco school council met with the community council to plant flowers at the park, ready for the new play area to open.



The nursery pupils in Dosbarth Tyfu have been showing just how much they have grown with some amazing number work.

TY CEFFYL BACH

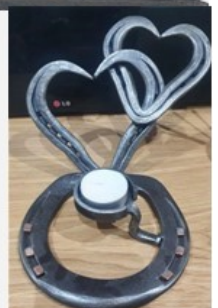
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 We are delighted to invite you all to visit our unique gift shop to celebrate our 2nd anniversary. Party while you shop with some prosecco and chocolates.

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

World laughter day

What is happening in May you may ask? So I Googled a bit and look what I came up with! Sunday 3rd May believe it or not is 'World Laughter Day'.

It was only created in 1998 by Dr Madan Kataria founder of the Yoga Laughter Movement. The idea – spread awareness that laughter is great for physical and mental health and bring people together through laughter exercise, events and good vibes.

The physical benefits

Stress relief: laughter lowers cortisol and adrenaline and triggers endorphin release

Heart health: gives your heart a mini workout by increasing the heart rate and blood flow and then helps muscles and arteries to relax

Pain reduction: endorphins act as natural painkillers and will raise pain tolerance

Calorie burn: 10–15 minute of laughter can burn 40 calories by working our diaphragm and abs.

The mental benefits

Mood lift: releases dopamine and serotonin help ease anxiety and mild depression

Tension release: interrupts negative thought cycles and helps reframe stressful situations.

Social Benefits

Bonding: shared laughter strengthens relationships and builds trust fast – breaks down barriers

Conflict buffer: lightens tense moments and makes tough conversations easier.

OK those are the benefits – the boring bits. Yes, laughter is the best medicine as they say, but remember it's a very personal thing. Not everyone, including myself, actually enjoy jokes – probably an age thing because you've heard most of them before.

But some people are naturally comical – their mannerisms, their sayings, their facial expressions and even observing these

people have some people in stitches. A prime example of this was Tommy Cooper.

Personally, Max Boyce has me in stitches with his simple but clever lyrics. His timing is perfect. According to Max in his *Ballad to Morgan The Moon* – 'Mock landed on the dark side' way before Artemis II hovered above it. I wonder if they saw Mock?

'Old Mock the Mechanic

I remember him well.

He once built a rocket,

Or so they will tell,

With an old winding engine

He found on the dole.

It was built in the Rhondda

And powered by coal.'

At one venue, a rundown rugby club, Max was shown his dressing room – a stone-cold kitchen. Max was told to use the cooker to heat the room 'and if you're cold put the grill on.'

And who cannot remember *Dad's Army* – Private Frazer the undertaker 'We're doomed', 'Lance Corporal Jonesey 'Don't panic', and Captain Mainwaring 'Don't tell them your name Pike' – part of our vocabulary by now.

Yes what makes us laugh is a very personal thing – but we all feel better after having a good laugh.

Bryn Davies

Pothole planting



We trust that you weren't fooled by our prankster, and realised that this was an April fool's tale? Sadly, no flowers will brighten our pot-holes!

Llandyrnog Community Council

Notes from the community council April meeting

- ⇒ The PCSO was not present but has been informally monitoring the speed of traffic entering the village and visiting the shop to chat with residents.
- ⇒ The community council has asked for speed monitoring strips to be placed temporarily in places where cars have been witnessed possibly exceeding the speed limit, but to date no response has been received.
- ⇒ Parking issues – DCC has taken a lead and sent letters to many houses in the village outlining how inconsiderate parking was causing obstructions to buses and emergency vehicles. If the situation does not improve after a period of monitoring, consideration will be given to more formal approach to parking enforcement.
- ⇒ The Keep Wales Tidy package of wildflower plugs have been planted in Cae Nant, thanks to Ysgol Bryn Clwyd.
- ⇒ Cllr Borthwick has offered her resignation from the community council – it was decided to proceed to seek permission from DCC to co-opt.
- ⇒ It is good to see that the additional equipment at Cae Nant has been installed and it was decided to proceed to install fencing around the play area. This is made possible by the extremely generous donation from MHC and council reserves.
- ⇒ It was reported that the Artist in Residence project will be commencing in May – a lot of work has gone into enabling this project. It is much appreciated by all and awaited with anticipation.

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Friendship Group

On Tuesday April 7th we had a very educational and interesting gardening talk by Graham Pickles, particularly on Hedgehog Rescue. Tuesday 14th April we visited Cai Dai Trust Denbigh. On 22nd April we travelled to Llangollen. In May, we will be visiting Conwy.



The ladies of Llandyrnog at the home of the ladies of Llangollen

The Tuesday Club

The guest speaker at the April meeting of the Tuesday Club was Ian Wilson, company secretary of the Llandyrnog shop. He gave an overview of the background of our shop, which now has 30 volunteers working in it. It employs four people, one of whom is employed to provide food at lunchtime due to the demand for it.

There are a number of exciting plans to come, and it's pleasing to say that the shop and post office is getting busier every week.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 20th May, at 2pm in the Cocoa Rooms. The guest speaker will be Rhian Pierce of the RSPB.

Coffee morning

Saturday, 30 May 10.00-11.30
at the Village Hall

Proceeds to Blood Bikes Wales

All welcome!

