

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

✉ llandyrnognews@gmail.com

April 2025 – Volume 10 – Issue 7

£1

The Wombles Have Been at Work

The Community Council (aided by Tidy Wales) had a litter pick around the village lanes on Saturday, 15 March. The pictures below show before and after. It was a good morning's work – 14 bags of rubbish!



Gwen Butler's Fitbit advised her that she'd achieved a total of 7,800 steps. Her most unusual finds were a pair of underpants and a hub cap!

Sadly, they found several takeaway coffee cups, bottles and cans deliberately discarded. It shouldn't need a team of Wombles to keep our lovely village tidy, if only individuals would take their own rubbish home.

Thanks to Wendy from Tidy Wales for the equipment; Bryn for organising everything; Emyr, Elaine, Ruth, Jane and Geraint for their help on the day; and to everyone for the encouraging comments received since.

Please help to keep our lovely village tidy.



Around the village

Welcome to baby Lydia (Tŷ Newydd), a little sister for Molly.

And happy baby news in the Davies household – Anwen and Bryn are grandparents again – Manon and James have had a little boy, Maccsen Clwyd, a little brother for Rhiannon.

Well done and good luck to Mason Powell, who has qualified for the Urdd Eisteddfod finals later this year.

Happy belated 80th birthday wishes to Veronica Roberts and to Coral Clark, Cefn Bithel, who celebrated her 50th birthday at the end of March.

Congratulations to Myfanwy and Gwilym (Gwylfan), who celebrate their diamond (60th) wedding anniversary, also to Phil and Lyn Rose on celebrating their ruby wedding anniversary.

We wish John and Olwen Rowlands every happiness in their new home in Denbigh and hope they will continue to visit us.

Welcome to Helen, Garry, Cara and Sean Fiskin, who have come to live in Maes y Wern. We hope you settle in well.

We hope Ifan Dafydd will be happy in his new home in Clwyd Terrace.

Condolences to Pauline Jones and family, Nant Glyd, on the death of Dewi.

Scrabble Club

Every third Thursday of the month (the next one being 17 April) there will be a Scrabble tournament in the back room of the village shop at 2pm – all welcome. There are also other board games there for you to use.




Llandyrnog Shop

Shop opening hours

Monday	8am – 5.30pm
Tuesday	8am – 5.30pm
Wednesday	8am – 5.30pm
Thursday	8am – 5.30pm
Friday	8am – 5.30pm
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.

Cocoa Room Events

Tue	1st	Book Club, 10am WI, 7pm
Mon	7th	Craft Group, 10am Trefoil Guild, 2pm
Wed	9th	Mothers' Union, 2pm Llais Llandyrnog Voice committee meeting, 7pm
Mon	14th	Craft Group, 10am
Tue	15th	Book Club, 10am Community Council meeting, 7pm
Wed	16th	Tuesday Club, 2pm
Thu	17th	Craft workshop, 7–9pm
Sat	19th	Craft workshop, 10am–12pm
Mon	28th	Craft Group, 10am
Tue	29th	Book Club, 10am

Services at St Cwyfan's

6th	11.15	Morning Prayer
13th	11.15	Eucharist
	15.30	Messy Church at the Village Hall
20th	11.15	Eucharist
27th	11.15	Eucharist

Service at St Tyrnog's

18th 2pm Reflection on Good Friday

Services at Capel y Dyffryn

6th	9.45	Rev. John Owen
13th	9.45	Rev. Andras Iago (Gellifor)
	17.00	Community Singing
20th	10.00	Circuit Service – Dyffryn
27th	11.00	Llinos Mary

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

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

Village Hall Events

Tue 1st	Dyffryn Clwyd Assoc of National Trust: AGM	6–9pm
Wed 2nd	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Thu 3rd	School Easter Bingo	5.30pm
Fri 4th	Dance class	7–8pm
Sat 5th	Craft Group	10am–4pm
Mon 7th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 7th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 8th	Flower Show Committee (downstairs)	7–8pm
Tue 8th	Pony Club Committee	7–8.30pm
Wed 9th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Fri 11th	Dance class	7–8pm
Sat 12th	Coffee Morning Air Ambulance	10am–12pm
Sun 13th	Messy Church	3.30–5pm
Mon 14th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 15th	History Society Committee	6–9pm
Fri 25th	Dance class	7–8pm
Sat 26th	Coffee Morning Church	10am–12pm
Sun 27th	Birthday Party (private booking)	To be arranged
Mon 28th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 28th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 29th	Dyffryn Clwyd Assoc of National Trust: 'Plas yn Rhiw' by Mary Thomas	7–9pm
Wed 30th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm

Capel y Dyffryn



On Monday, 24 February, the guest speaker at Y Gymdeithas was Francesca Sciarrillo, an Italian, whose family moved from Italy to Mold in the 1960s. From a young age, Francesca was determined to learn Welsh, and became so fluent that she won the Learners' Medal at the 2019 Urdd Eisteddfod in Cardiff. She is so enthusiastic about the Welsh Language – she now lives her daily life and even dreams in Welsh! She works for the Welsh Books Council, writes a weekly column for *Lingo.360.Cymru* and also organises reading groups for Welsh Learners and speakers in Flintshire. She resides in Rhewl.



On Monday, 3 March, the Gymdeithas Programme ended with a sumptuous St David's Day supper. Entertainment was provided by the singing duet Dyffryn Divas, Catrin and Gwyddfïd, Rhuthun, who sang beautifully. Dafydd Meirion thanked everyone for a wonderful evening.



On Sunday morning, 23 March, a large congregation attended the christening of Myfanwy, little daughter of Steffan and Zoe Parry, with our minister Rev. Andras Iago. During the service, the family's children sang a beautiful song, there was a reading by Siân, a prayer by Huw, with Anwen at the organ. This was a service to remember, and following it the family invited all the congregation to join them for refreshments and chat in the vestry.

Capel Dyffryn Sunday School

At the 16 March meeting, the children continued with the Noah's Ark theme. They busily painted an enormous rainbow, creating white clouds with decorations as they continued with the story, to show God's covenant with the world. They played various animal games and sang 'Song of the Animals'. The next Sunday school meeting will be on 6 April. A warm welcome to everyone!

Cars we remember

Why don't we see rusty cars anymore? Modern cars just don't seem to rust. They're made of lighter materials, plastics and carbon fibre. Never buy a second-hand car from someone who had lived by the sea, as the salty air rusted cars quicker – do you remember that advice?

Our first car stays in our psyche and holds plenty of memories, good or bad. Do you remember your first car? Of course you do, everyone does. Some of us hold an affection for these mechanical machines and some of us even give them names; my first car was called Tappy and was a Talbot Horizon. It was called Tappy as the tappets in the engine made a tappety-tap sound as it went along. The Talbot was renowned for this particular sound to the engine.

My focus when I turned 17 was getting my driving licence, and I signed up for lessons. A few months later I took my driving test and passed first time. No theory test in those days. I remember my first trip out on my own in my mother's Suzuki. I went into Llandyrnog to the shop, a short trip, but I was alone, driving and at last free to go wherever I wanted. I was fortunate, as soon after I came into some money, which gave me a kick-start into car ownership, and I bought Tappy from a local garage. Tappy was a compact hatchback designed by Chrysler, but for me I remember it was a heavy car to drive (no power steering in those days) and was built like a tank, with a heater that never worked. I used to put gloves and a hat on to drive in the winter. It had an 1100cc engine, so no chance of being a 'girl racer'.

Tappy shared my final year at university with me and I used it to ferry many friends to and from college in Worcester. When I graduated, I loaded it up with all my possessions, including an oak bookcase I'd discovered in an antique shop in Malvern.



Tappy carried the lot home; the only time it struggled on the long journey back to North Wales was coming over the Horseshoe Pass. The small engine huffed and puffed up the steep A542 to the Ponderosa, and we stopped for a rest before cruising down the other side. Tappy took me to my first job in Liverpool, survived two 'bumps' in the narrow Welsh country lanes and being broken into in Leeds. There came a time when I needed a bigger engine as my job involved travelling up and down the country, so I sadly traded Tappy in for a Rover 216 Sprint. More power and a working heater and a radio – luxury.

For me, Tappy gave me the independence I craved. There was a simple engine under the bonnet, and I could check the oil, etc. very easily. Unlike modern cars, which are so finicky and fussy – beeping at everything, lighting the dashboard like Blackpool illuminations with warnings and updates of weather conditions. Tappy had none of this. There was no sat nav, parking sensors, cameras, electric windows or central locking. Tappy was mine, and there's nothing like your first car, holding the keys as a mark of ownership and with it the responsibility of knowing its *yours*. The freedom is magical, and it represented, for me, adulthood and independence, and I loved that car.

Anyone else got memories of their first car. Why not write about it here and let us know.

Hazel Wright

Factory news

This is a short update from Harvey Jackson, the boss of Procter Johnson, who have taken the old Creamery site.

'We're not quite up to full production but are making steady progress. We have approximately 65% of the workforce here now and hope to have the office staff here in the next six weeks or so. Our aim is to have the business fully operational in Llandyrnog by the end of July. I'm pleased to report that we have employed two people from the village to date, so we're very happy about that.'

This is good news indeed. Thank you, Harvey.

Trefoil Guild

Members celebrated St David's Day by displaying the Ddraig Goch and eating Welsh cakes. The table was decorated with a beautiful vase of daffodils. They also enjoyed making Easter crackers and baskets. The next meeting will be at a member's house in Denbigh.



Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club had a change of venue for its March meeting – we met at the Village Hall to be entertained by Dosbarth Iau of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd. We were treated to joyous rendering of the Welsh hymns, 'Cofia Bob Amser' (Always Remember) and 'Diolch, Diolch Iesu' (Thank You Jesus), and the famous song that can be heard at rugby internationals – 'Sosban Fach'. The song 'Dwi'n Gymro, Dwi'n Gymraes' (I'm a Welsh Boy, I'm a Welsh Girl) was learned for the e-steddfod – a competition where learners compete against other schools live, online, from their sites. Ysgol Bryn Clwyd were due to compete on 31 March. We then heard 'Deffra' (Wake Up), and ended with 'I Have a Song to Sing', with the three Year 6 pupils singing solo verses. This song is special since it is also performed with sign language.

The club thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and Mrs Lyon and the accompanying staff members were congratulated on their excellent work with the pupils. Light refreshments were served to the pupils and the members, and the raffle drawn.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 16 April at the Cocoa Rooms as usual. If anyone would like to join us, you're more than welcome.

Other news

The community has been successful in obtaining funds from the Levelling Up Grant Scheme. In accordance with the terms of the grant it will be put towards the levelling up of Cae Nant football pitch. It has always been a toss-up decision whether to play the first half uphill or down, so this should help the team captains in the future.

Renovations of Church Square

I think it's fair to say that everyone is most impressed with the work being carried out on these most prominent of village listed buildings (apart from the church itself of course). The new windows are great and the intriguing sight of the brickwork exposing the old doorway is so interesting. The old photo is dated circa 1918 and shows the property as two houses and a post office (from the History Society book *Trem yn Ôl*).



The Cadw Schedule of Listed Buildings considers them to be from the 17th century and part of an original group of up to ten properties with gardens, probably almshouses belonging to the parish. This larger group reduced to three when the Cocoa Rooms were built in 1881.



Well done to all concerned. We look forward to seeing the cottages completed and occupied once more.

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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.

Becky Gittins, MP for Clwyd East

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

Messy Church



In our March Messy Church we learned about the creation of the world. We made a beautiful tree to show just a few of God's creations and we made wooden mobiles of the solar system showing all the planets. We also made pictures of each others' faces, which made us all laugh! We learned that it's our responsibility to look after God's world, so we made bird feeders to put in our gardens to show kindness to the birds. Our next session will be on 13th April and all are welcome to join us.



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Bryn's motorcycling dream

I passed my car test in 1975. I remember it well because the examiner – the man with the clipboard – told me, 'Mr Davies, don't stop unless I tell you to do so.' It all went well until I came up to a bin lorry blocking the road. Clipboard had told me not to stop unless I was told to do so, and he was saying nothing. There was nothing for it but maximum observation, mount the pavement and away... After I was told that I'd passed, I asked Clipboard about the somewhat unorthodox driving along the pavement. 'Fine,' he said, 'you used your initiative and were very observant.'

However, I didn't own a car, so my daily mode of transport was a motorbike – a Suzuki 120 that I could ride with L plates. I was on 'day release' at Wrexham Tech, and often in winter would be riding in snow and ice. My dad knew I was vertically challenged and had bought me a low motorbike, so I was able to use my legs as stabilisers on the ice.

About two weeks after passing my driving test I was back in Rhyl to take my motorbike test. Another man with a clipboard told me to take a route while he observed from the roadside. We sort of missed each other, and when I returned to base he was there waiting for me, not looking too happy. I failed and didn't reapply, which is something I've regretted ever since. So recently I finally decided to do something about it!

The first step is Compulsory Basic Training, an eight-hour intense training session, practical and theory. My fellow trainee for the day was young Alex, who had turned 17 just the day before. The instructor, Paul, threw in a few Highway Code questions: 'Bryn, what would you expect to see on a Pegasus crossing?' 'A what?' was not the answer he was looking for, but I said I knew Pegasus was a mythical horse. 'You're right, a horse.' Apparently, the controls are high so that a horse rider can operate and control the traffic.

He asked Alex what he'd expect to see on a Toucan crossing – again 'toucans' was not the answer he was looking for. Apparently, it means two can cross – pedestrians and cyclists.

Next was a practical test. After showing us the basic controls, we were asked to do a slalom around cones, with emergency stops. Sadly, young Alex mistakenly pulled his clutch lever, thinking it was his brake lever and went straight into a container – it wasn't a very dramatic incident, he was okay, but the instructor was very assertive with him. Was he really ready to go on the road?

Soon we were on the road proper. We had our helmets wired up so Paul could speak to us, warning us of any potential hazards ahead. 'Be careful on Foryd Bridge, Bryn, there's a strong cross-wind.' And, yes, he was right – had a right old wobble there! 'Watch out for the gritting wagon.' Yes, we all got covered in grit. And it snowed – and rained.

Reaching Pensarn, we had a debrief in the car park. The only earache he gave me was, 'Bryn, when you reach a junction and need to turn left or right, stay in the middle of the lane. That "box" is yours. If you're polite and squeeze to the left or right, some b*****d motorist will cut you up.' He was obviously talking from experience, and I'll remember that. I'm not making apologies for hogging any junction from now on.

I did get my certificate, which now allows me to do two further modules – a theory module and a practical module that will allow me to progress to a bigger bike. But it's not a walk in the park by any means – and not cheap either! Anyway, I'll now have to consider buying myself a learner-legal motorbike and get some hours' practice under my belt to progress to the next step. Who knows about that? But, hey, life is for living.

Bryn Davies

Women's Institute

Sadly, the Llandyrnog & Llangwyfan Womens' Institute members have decided to fold. After celebrating 100 years of the WI in Llandyrnog in 2021, membership has declined. That, together with the rising membership fee, has been the deciding factor. We will, however, continue to meet as a 'Friendship Group', at the Cocoa Rooms on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm. We have a programme of speakers and outings arranged for the year, so please come and join us.

In January we had an interesting, informative talk, with slides, on the History of Shops/ Post Offices in Llandyrnog. The first shop was Siop y Waen on the Denbigh road out of Llandyrnog in 1839. There was a shop next to the Golden Lion in the village from 1841 to 1980. The shop then moved across to where it is today. There was also a shop on the corner of Clwyd Terrace and another next door. A mobile shop from the village was taken up to Llangwyfan at weekends, when visitors would come to see relatives at the TB sanatorium. The post office has been in Church Square, Clwyd Terrace, West Mead (now Monfa), next to the Golden Lion and now back in Clwyd Terrace.

The old photographs of the village showed how much has changed over the years. Old photographs and information about the Llandyrnog WI, which started in 1921, were shown to end the evening.

The March visit was to the WI Museum on Anglesey. Home of the first British WI in 1915. This was followed by lunch and shopping at the station in Llanfair PG.

Jackie LeFevre is giving a talk on 'The Magic of Story' in April, and the visit is to the Empire Theatre Liverpool, to see *War Horse*.

Iona Pierce



Mike Neumann

The *Llais* team would like to extend hearty congratulations to Mike Neumann, the esteemed printer of this publication, who has been in business for 25 years this year! Congratulations Mike, and thank you for all your help.



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Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

With the arrival of spring, the whole school has been getting outdoors even more than usual.



The children are loving using their newly refurbished outdoor classrooms, and trip season has really begun. The infant class visited Llyn Brenig to explore, while the juniors went to Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and enjoyed a canal boat ride.



The juniors have also had a very musical half-term with glockenspiel lessons from Denbighshire Music Co-Operative and singing for the Tuesday Club, who kindly came to visit us in school.



Although there are only a few weeks left until Easter, there's lots of fun still to come. On 31 March, we will be taking part in the e-steddfod, a national online eisteddfod that will be live-streamed; and on 3 April, the Friends of the School will be holding an Easter Bingo event in the Village Hall at 5.30pm – a warm welcome to all!



The Wright Life



Gardeners' World is back on the television (BBC2), a sure sign that spring is here! It's part of my Friday night. The working week is finished and it's time to look forward to the weekend, as long as the Beeb doesn't move it around the schedules, airing it at some very peculiar times. Last year I had to search the listings to find it, so thank heavens for iPlayer. Any other time just isn't right, BBC.

At last, the propagator has been dug out of the cupboard and plugged in ready for the plethora of seeds. For me the first to go in are the tomatoes, as I wait in eager anticipation to see the first shoots of life. The heat from the propagator improves germination rates, and when the seed merchants have dramatically reduced the number of seeds in a packet, you need all the help you can get to ensure 100% germination. I've sown two extra tomato varieties apart from my usual Alicanti – Black Beauty and Sun Gold, as the names suggest, a dark sweet ruby black and a yellow. I was relieved to see some leaves peeping up out of the compost one morning, reassured that they're on their way. It's still exciting to see the very first sowings, as it's a time of great promise; there's optimism and hope for a good year stretching out ahead.

My propagator does all the hard work for me, as it sets the temperature and humidity. I do highly recommend one; mine was only £30 plus delivery. Only small but does the job perfectly. Anyway, for those without one, there are three keys to success: temperature, moisture and light. Temperature has a huge role to play in stirring seeds into life, between 20°C and 30°C, but tomatoes certainly need above 18°C, I'd say. Next is moisture, as seeds like to be moist. So sow into a moisture-retentive soil. These days we're going or have gone peat free. I must say, I'm still getting used to the stuff and I do find it can form a hard crust on the surface if allowed to dry out,



unlike peat. A way round this is to top your seeds with vermiculite (as Monty Don does), which is a hydrous phyllosilicate mineral. It's light, so won't hinder seed germination, and it holds water while letting light through to encourage good germination. Most importantly, it doesn't form a hard crust. Lastly is light. Pop your seeds on a well-lit windowsill to guarantee optimal light.

If all these are present, within seven to ten days you should start to see little plants emerging from the soil ready to prick out into pots and, when the weather is warm enough, into the greenhouse. Before that they live on a south-facing windowsill in my spare room. It has a large bay window that provides perfect conditions for them to grow into strong plants. The family have got used to sharing their bedroom with tomatoes, cucumbers and chillis, and are careful to close the curtains without catching a plant and knocking it onto the carpet. Believe me, it has happened, so I train them well – the family, not the plants.

I encourage you all to have a go. Invest in a small bag of compost from either your local garden centre or even Lidl and sow some seeds. Watch the magic of these tiny packages and how they burst forth into new life and mature into plants we eagerly tend, harvest and enjoy.

Hazel

The influence of Christianity

Christian heritage can easily be uncovered in Britain. Since those claiming to be Christians reduced from 57% in 2011 to 43% in 2021, it's possible that many don't realise where our traditions and customs came from.

The calendar

The academic year revolves around Christmas and Easter holidays. The shape of our week is religious – the seven-day cycle with a day of rest being one of Judaism's contributions to our society. Days and months are named after (pagan) gods, while years are numbered after the birth of Christ.

The word 'holidays' derives from 'holy days', and there's a religious basis to most of our annual celebrations.

New year resolutions are a puritan tradition of spiritual improvement. St Dwynwen's day and Valentine's Day are saints' days. Shrove Tuesday is a last chance to eat fat before the austerity of Lent. Mother's Day marks the halfway point of Lent. Another name for it is Refreshment Sunday, a day of respite from fasting during Lent.

Halloween is a last hurrah of the spirits of the dead before crossing to the next world on All Hallows' Day, and Bonfire Night marks the burning of an effigy of the Catholic threat to national security.

Language

Many swearwords and milder exclamations, are religious. Some are explicit: OMG, what the hell, good heavens, damn. Others are not so obvious: 'Heck' is hell, 'Dickens' is the devil, 'goodness' is God, 'blimey' is 'God blind me', 'strewth' is 'God's truth'.

The linguist David Crystal found 257 phrases in everyday English that come from the King James Bible. If you mention a scapegoat, or a leopard changing its spots, whether you go like a lamb to the slaughter or escape by the skin of your teeth, if a little bird tells you anything, or you go the Land of Nod at the end of the day – you're using terms from the Old Testament. The translation of the Bible to

Welsh following the Protestant Reformation played a major part in ensuring the survival of the Welsh language.

Sport

Football may be a 'religion' in itself, but it still has room for Christian traditions. The fans sing hymn tunes – occasionally with the original words, such as 'Abide with Me'. More often they're adapted, such as 'three-nil' to the tune of 'Amazing Grace', 'We are the famous CFC' to the tune of 'The Lord of the Dance', or 'You're not singing any more' to the tune of 'Bread of Heaven'.



Food

Simnel cake is eaten on Mothering Sunday. It's a rich fruit cake with 11 marzipan balls on

it, representing the disciples without Judas. Pancakes were originally eaten to use store cupboard ingredients before fasting in Lent, and hot cross buns eaten on Good Friday to break the fast at the end of Lent. Chocolate eggs celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

National identity

England is the only country in the world where the king is head of the church. St Andrew's Day is a public holiday in Scotland, as is St Patrick's Day in Ireland, though attempts to do the same for David and George have not so far succeeded. Their crosses mean that British flags commemorate three Christian martyrdoms.

Music

In addition to masses, oratorios and sacred cantatas, religion is a recurrent theme for many of the most respected and/or best-selling music acts, e.g. from the gospel of Elvis and Mariah Carey to the hymns of Bob Marley and Van Morrison. Even *X Factor* has had its religion-tinged phase, thanks to Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah'.

Village shop & post office



The village shop was pleased to have a visit recently from the local (Vale of Clwyd) Member of the Senedd. Gareth Davies MS is pictured here with Emma, Viv and Emyr.

Palm Sunday Hymn-Singing Festival

13 April at 5pm

Capel y Dyffryn,

Llandyrnog LL16 4HL

Conductor: Trystan Lewis

Proceeds to Gofal Dydd y
Waun and Capel y Dyffryn
buildings fund

*For further details,
contact Bryn Davies: 07585*



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Alpaca news

My name is Harvey. I'm three years old (I'll be four in June!) and I'm an alpaca. You may have met my friend Cedric in the last issue of *Llais Llandyrnog*.

I'm the 'herd leader', which means I'm the boss of the group of alpacas I live with. I'm always calm and sensible – unlike some of the others! I'm also bigger, heavier and stronger than the others, which makes it harder for my human 'slaves', Edith and Mark, to hold me still while cutting my toenails or giving me medicine.

One of my favourite treats is a slice of carrot... ooh I love carrots so much! Edith has to cut them into tiny pieces in case I choke on them (we tend to eat too quickly, so we're at risk of choking if our food is too chunky). I also enjoy a good roll on the tarmac. Yes, you read that right! We're sometimes given 'garden time', which essentially means we're allowed out of the paddocks and into the garden to run around and explore. I love to throw myself onto the dusty driveway and roll around, as I can scratch my back and stretch out.

As it's winter, our fleece is really thick. Another human called Tom will be visiting us in May to shear us. We need to be sheared, otherwise we'll get too hot in summer – even in Wales.



Tom's a specialist alpaca shearer – we have to be sheared in a very different way to sheep because our skin is much thinner than a sheep's skin, so it needs to be pulled extremely taut or we could get cut. We don't really care much for Tom, but we know it's got to be done, and it's over within ten minutes. We look so handsome with our new haircuts. And small! We're very much 'all fluff'! Fun fact, it takes us around 24 hours to recognise each other after we've been sheared! I enclose a photo of yours truly from last year's shearing day!



Harvey

Matters discussed in the March meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

Councillors wished Cllr Mc Guire a speedy recovery.

The community policeman attended and there had been quite a bit of activity in the area recently, which included:

- ◆ Road Traffic Accident – driver arrested
- ◆ Another RTC – drivers exchanged details no further charges
- ◆ Verbal abuse towards children – ongoing case
- ◆ Rough sleeper in a van in a parking area – welfare referral
- ◆ House door opened by unknown person – person left without entering premises
- ◆ Quad bike stolen but soon recovered
- ◆ Advice was given on how to prevent being scammed, and it was hoped that an informal workshop would be available soon in the village shop to raise awareness of this crime and what to do if one suspects it's a scam caller.

Following a request from the organisers of the Cymanfa in Capel Dyffryn it was decided to offer a £150 donation towards the running costs.

There is a meeting taking place on the allotment site on Friday, 21 March to decide how to proceed with the project and make it more community-orientated.

Cllr Parry had taken the Denbighshire County Highways officer responsible for road maintenance around the area to show him the terrible conditions of the roads in the community. However, due to prioritisation of funds available, the majority of the £2m county-wide budget will not be targeted at more rural areas, which is extremely disappointing. The 'additional £25m' referred to recently in the media is shared across the

whole 22 authorities of Wales and targeted at A Roads.

Planning matters – there were no objections to the proposed extension at Llwyn Helyg, Denbigh Road.

The Community Council has had a 'final demand' from DCC for collection of trolley box service, although no previous demands had been received, and it was unclear which property it referred to. Clerk to make further enquiries.

It was decided not to take part in an inter-community council meeting to form one view on the proposed national park, it being such a divisive subject, unlikely to be able to a collective Community Council view.

There had been a very successful litter pick with 14 bags of rubbish being collected in a few hours. These have been picked up by DCC. The school may be approached to see if they would be willing to prepare posters about not dropping rubbish on our roads.

A community involvement questionnaire is in the process of being prepared and it is hoped to hold an informal drop-in at the village shop in the future.

A base had been prepared for the new bench and it is hoped to be in place during the week commencing 25 March.

Denbighshire County Council

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