

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

Llandyrnognews@gmail.com

[@LlaisLlandyrnog](https://www.instagram.com/LlaisLlandyrnog)

December 2024 – Volume 10 – Issue 3

£1

Let it snow...

November has brought snow and Storm Bert which has affected us all to a lesser or greater extent. There were icy roads and a heavy snowfall to contend with but getting out and about proved to be worth it for the views of our beautiful area. It also brought a smile to anyone passing the Selfie Bench where two snow-people were sitting watching the world go by. Thank you for lifting our spirits!

The Community Shop proved its worth during the snow – it meant that ready meals, milk and bread were available without going too far. The smell of the breakfast rolls (bacon, egg, sausage anyone?!) also proved irresistible. This was such a good idea and so popular that they will be available every Sunday morning. Well done to all concerned on the success so far.



Around the village

THANK YOU to St Tyrnog's Church (and David for his diligence in collecting the donations) for allowing *Llais Llandyrnog Voice* to be made available on church premises. The magazine will in future will be available from Ty Ceffyl Bach and the new Community Shop and Hub.

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY to Gareth Williams following his close encounter with some bees; and to Menna Davies following her recent hospitalisation.

CONGRATULATIONS: Vale Vinyard has been awarded best sparkling rosé and best still rosé at the recent Welsh Vineyard Association awards. Five judges had the tough job of judging 72 wines during the competition at Llanerch Hotel. Thank you to everyone involved in the arrangements of another wonderful event showcasing the fantastic wines from Wales.



Services at St Cwyfan's

1st	11.15	Holy communion
8th	11.15	Holy communion
	15.30	Messy Church at the Village Hall
15th	16.00	Christingle at the Village Hall
22nd	11.15	Holy communion
24th	17.00	Crib service
25th	11.15	Eucharist
29th	10.30	Mission Area service in Llanrhaeadr

Until further notice, no services at St Tyrnog's due to lack of heating



Rev. Sam Quilty was licensed on 17 November as priest for Denbigh Mission Area, and will be in charge of St Tyrnog's and St Cwyfan's. Welcome to the parish!

Christmas Greetings

Best wishes to friends and neighbours over Christmas – Margaret Evans, Awel y Foel.

Merry Christmas to all from Wyn Wilson, Moelfa.

Bryn and Anwen wish a very merry Christmas to all friends and neighbours in the village.

Cocoa Room Events

Mon	2 nd	Craft Group, 10am Trefoil Guild, 2pm
Tue	3 rd	Book Club, 10am WI, 7pm
Wed	4 th	Community Council Finance sub-committee meeting
Mon	9 th	Craft Group, 10am
Wed	11 th	Mothers' Union, 2pm
Mon	16 th	Craft Group, 10am
Tue	17 th	Book Club, 10am Community Council meeting, 7pm
Thu	19 th	Craft Workshop, 7–9pm: Macramé Christmas decorations
Mon	23 rd	Craft Group, 10am
Mon	30 th	Craft Group, 10am

Village Hall Events

Mon	2 nd	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon	2 nd	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed	4 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Sat	7 th	Craft Group	10am–4pm
Sun	8 th	Messy Church	3.30–5pm
Mon	9 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon	9 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed	11 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Sat	14 th	Coffee morning – Llais Llandyrnog	10–11.30am
Sun	15 th	Christingle service	4pm
Mon	16 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon	16 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed	18 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm

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




Llandyrnog Shop

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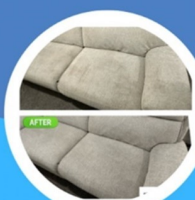
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Part 2 of Bryn's walk along the Pilgrim's Way

Having given up following a traumatic experience on the previous journey (almost coming a cropper in very high bracken!), I plucked up the courage to get myself back to Tremeirchion and head for St Asaph and Bontnewydd.

To be honest, from Tremeirchion it's a walk very much off the beaten path, crossing some very fertile meadows downhill to cross a small stream before heading up the lane towards Waen, not far from the Farmers Arms. However I did notice a small overgrown well on the side of the track a sure sign I was on the right path. There are a lot of wells along the route.



Casting my eyes to the left top of these beautiful meadows one cannot but notice the imposing Llannerch Hall now developed into a number of privately-owned flats. It was in the medieval times known as Lleweni Vechan.

By early 20th century a Captain Piers Jones and his family owned the estate. However he had to sell the whole estate to settle a gambling debt. Locally it's said the estate was lost on the turn of a card at a London casino. It sounds good, however not sure what happened but this guy's luck ran out and the estate had to be sold to settle the debt. One of the three D's that was the demise of most estates – death, divorce or debt – how very true. This was only in the late 1950s.

Someone tried to open a zoo there in the early 1960s – the first pool below Pont Llannerch is still known as Flamingo Pool. I

think I went there as a child but that is a long long time ago.

Having reached Waen on the left is Capel Waen Goleuoged where Dr Mari and her team are doing an excellent job offering respite care. It's good to see a chapel being re-purposed and all run by volunteers – but they need to raise £30k per annum just to keep afloat. They are doing excellent work and quite a few Llandyrnog residents have been there for respite over the years.

Then a bit of a jig between some very expensive properties and a gentle stroll down to a bridge over Afon Clwyd. Then back up to the rear of what once was HM Stanley hospital and into St Asaph itself. Here the path simply goes down the high street to St Asaph parish church – the next stop for the Pilgrims. I did not go into the church but it is steeped in history. It was originally known as the Church of St Kentigern, founded about 560AD but dedicated to St Asa (Asaph) mid 12th Century.

From St Asaph to Bontnewydd is very uneventful. It just follows the road through beautiful countryside which does need to be walked to appreciate and probably owned by the Williams Wynn family of Cefn Estate.

One cannot fail to miss the impressive St Mary's Church which sits in a very prominent hilltop position and built only in 1864 from rocks dug around it – the excavations are clearly visible with a bit of imagination. I did go into this church because it was coffee and cake time – plenty of room to empty my rucksack and get a book or a map out, or send Anwen a message and of course time to reflect. It does one good to reflect for ten minutes on how fortunate we are. Yes I've said it before and I will say it again – we need to count our blessings.

I have since heard that there is a well somewhere along this stretch – a well again used by the Pilgrims and I will go back one day to find it. Although I have passed many wells by now and looked at the water and whatever

The Pilgrim's Way: ctd

healing powers they are said to possess I will give them a miss thank you – unless of course there was one said to cure baldness – may give that a try – what could possibly go wrong?

As I drop down the hill to Bontnewydd and the end of my journey for the day, it's quite emotional really because it's where my mother was born and brought up – one of five children in a smallholding a stone's throw from Bontnewydd, right by the River Elwy.

As I stood on the Bontnewydd – the New Bridge, in my second language – I guessed the bridge pre-dates the pilgrims by hundreds of years. Therefore at one time it would have been a ford and the Elwy, being a spate river, would have been impossible to cross at times – unless there was somewhere else they could cross, of course.

Anyway the next leg will be Bontnewydd to wherever I can find a safe place to leave my bike.

Bryn Davies



The bridge at Bontnewydd, with the River Elwy in full spate

A huge thank you to all who supported the coffee mornings in November:

Llandyrnog United FC and Summer League team: £505

Cancer Research: £477

The History Society: £252

A total of £1234 raised in just five hours!

Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2024 at 11 am a two-minute silence was observed around the UK. Here in Llandyrnog a service held at the war memorial which was attended by about 60 individuals to remember those who have lost their lives in conflict.

Pictured below are Rob Hammond who read the roll call, Heather Powell who played the Last Post, and Louise Ecclestone who conducted the service.



The window of Tŷ Ceffyl Bach was beautifully decorated in commemoration of Armistice Day.

Becky Gittins, MP for Clwyd East

becky.gittins.mp@parliament.co.uk

Merfyn Parry's Travels

This November was a whirlwind adventure for us, taking in the sights, sounds, and flavours of Japan, Hong Kong, and Thailand. Here's a snapshot of our travels—a mix of history, culture, and stunning landscapes.

We left home on the 1st of November, flying from Manchester to Dubai. Although Jacob, Hilary's son, was away in London, we had a wonderful time with Spencer and George before flying to Tokyo, Japan, on the 4th. Tokyo was a vibrant experience, with its famous Shibuya Crossing, neon-lit streets, and quirky sights like people driving Mario-themed go-karts.

From Tokyo, we took the high-speed bullet train to Osaka.



Highlights there included the impressive Osaka Castle and Nara Park, where wild deer roamed freely, bowing for treats. A day trip to Hiroshima left a lasting impression, as we visited the Peace Memorial Museum, a powerful reminder of the city's tragic history and incredible resilience.

Kyoto was another highlight. We explored its stunning bamboo forest in Arashiyama, crossed the iconic Togetsukyo Bridge, and wandered the mountain towns of Kurama and Kibune. The lively Nishiki Market offered incredible street food, with eel, crab, and

calamari among the delicacies we enjoyed. Kyoto's rich history and charm made it a place we could easily have spent even more time in.



Mount Fuji

From Japan, we flew to Hong Kong. Despite some rain, we made the most of our time, exploring busy streets, soaking in the energy of the city, and riding the cable car up to Victoria Peak for breathtaking views.

Our final destination was Phuket, Thailand, where we enjoyed the sunshine and beautiful beaches of Kamala, Surin, and Patong. The calm, scenic sands were a sharp contrast to the lively Bangla Road, with its colourful shops and bustling nightlife. In the final days, we moved on to Kata, where we appreciated the slower pace and more serene surroundings.

On the 28th, we planned to head back to Dubai for a brief visit with family and to catch the Dubai 7s rugby tournament. This November was especially memorable, as I celebrated my 66th birthday on the 23rd—a milestone marked by unforgettable adventures, delicious food, and incredible memories.

Now, as we return to North Wales, I look forward to the comforts of home while reflecting on the diverse and fascinating world we've experienced. I'm also grateful we managed to miss the snow back home—it's been a much warmer November for us! No plans to retire just yet—there's still so much more to see and do!

Merfyn Parry

Recipe

Sticky Toffee Pudding

A very tasty alternative to those who hate the traditional Christmas Pudding!

The Pudding

85g soft butter
140g caster sugar
2 medium eggs
170g self-raising flour
170g crushed dates
285g boiling water
½ teaspoon vanilla essence
2 teaspoon coffee essence
¾ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

Oven – 180°/ Fan –160°/ Gas 4
20cm square, 7.5cm deep tin, greased

The Sauce

170g soft brown sugar
115g butter
90ml double cream

Put the crushed dates in a bowl and pour the boiling water on them. Add vanilla and coffee essence, carbonate of soda, mix, and leave to one side.

In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar until light and white. Add the beaten eggs gradually, and then fold in the flour gently. Gradually, add the dates mixture with a wooden spoon until it turns into a brown slush. Pour the mixture into the prepared cake tin, and level the top.

Cook for 50-55 minutes.

The toffee sauce – Gradually mix together all the ingredients in a saucepan on low heat with a wooden spoon, until all sugar has dissolved.

Use a fork to make deep holes on top of the pudding and pour over the hot sauce. Put the pudding back in the oven until the sauce begins to bubble.

Cut into small square pieces and serve with cream or ice cream – heavenly! It keeps well in the freezer, and is handy in an emergency. Enjoy!

Ann Jones Evans

Trefoil Guild

Members enjoyed a flower-arranging demonstration by Dorothy Roberts relating to Christmas and the arrangements became the raffle prizes. This was followed by tea and biscuits, chats and ideas for next year's meetings. The next meeting will be our Christmas lunch at Cafe Cariad in St Asaph, with secret Santa presents – all to be bought at a charity shop.





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The History Society

Landed Estates of the Vale of Clwyd – a talk by Gareth Evans

There was another bumper turnout of members and visitors at the meeting in October when Gareth Evans of Ruthin talked about the Landed Estates of the Vale of Clwyd. The AGM was held prior to the talk with the previous year reviewed, plans for 2025 outlined, finances discussed and officials confirmed.

There was also an exhibition of original sales brochures and details from Landed Estates such as Cerrigllwydion, Glan y Wern, Ystrad and Pool Park amongst others (on loan from members and friends).

Gareth is a former chief officer with Denbighshire County Council and a history graduate of Bangor University and wrote his MA thesis on 'Denbighshire Towns (Denbigh, Ruthin, and Wrexham) in the Seventeenth Century'. Since retiring he has researched and published extensively on Ruthin local history and researched local landed estates.

Gareth explained that a country estate has more than one farm and enough rental income to create a manor house. He took the audience through the historic journey of estates and how they come and go, grow, go bust, are divided, and amalgamated with other estates illustrated with information about many estates including Bachymbyd, Rhydonnen, Llewenni, Glan y Wern, Plas y Ward, Plas Ashpool, Llwyn Ynn, Nantclwyd, Wynnstay, Plas yn Llan, Cerrigllwydion, Bathafarn, Llewenni, Plas Llangwyfan and Pool Park.

He also highlighted the main families linked to and in charge of these vast estates including the Salesbury, Thelwall, Powell, Ashpool, Price, Prys, Bagot, Haygarth, Fairfax, Williams, Roberts, Parry, Ward, Broderick, Wynne, Lloyd, Clough, Naylor Leyland, Jesse and Madocks families as well as the part De Grey, Dudley, Canon Haygarth and land agent Colonel Hughes of Ystrad Hall had in the history of the

ownership and management of these lands. The history of how land was given in exchange for military service, ecclesiastical/church land and land belonging to the Welsh tribes was also explored.

He also touched on the Black Death in 1348 – 1350 as well as the system which did not allow women to inherit land, how the land of a man without male heirs went to his Lord and a Welsh mortgage or Tir Prid enabling the Welsh to raise cash/a mortgage to buy land.

The 1880s was a decade of great hardship and depression in agriculture and every estate owner experienced a decrease in incomes. Between 1900 and 1913, prices of agricultural produce rose by 18% and there was a growth of freehold tenure as estates were beginning to break up.

By 1920, the landowning class was on the way to extinction and there was a huge boom in land sales.

The next History Society event will be meeting on 15th January 2025 when a film – The Lady in the Wardrobe – will be introduced and shown by Tony Griffiths.



Gareth Evans (lt.) with committee member, Hywel Davies

Ysgol Bryn Clwyd



Dosbarth Babanod have been enjoying their topic on celebrations. They started the month making Diwali lamps and are now learning about weddings, auditioning for different jobs like wedding photographer, catering and entertainment.

Meanwhile, the older children in Dosbarth Iau enjoyed their residential trip to Pentrellyncymer. They managed to fit gorge walking in before the snow came and then enjoyed a very special day of sledging and canoeing at the Brenig, followed on the final day with a climbing activity.

We are quickly approaching the festive season and there are a few events coming up that we welcome our community to join us for, please see dates below.

Thursday 5th December @ 12 noon
Community Christmas Lunch

Friday 6th December Friends of the Federation Christmas market at Ysgol Gellifor.

Wednesday 18th December Christmas service at 1.30pm

GLYN EVANS AUTOCLINIC

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Spotlight on... Ethan Plumb

Hi, my name Ethan William Plumb, aged 25.

What do you like about living in Llandyrnog?

I like living in Llandyrnog because of the people and family.

What makes you happy?

Playing football makes me happy, and my family and dogs.

What football teams do you support?

I support Wrexham, Arsenal, and Llandyrnog Utd and the Summer League team.

What is your favourite food?

My favourite food is lamb, steak, fish, and chips.

Do you have any pets?

I have three dogs, called Red, Sali and Misty.

Who is your hero?

My hero is Uncle Russ (Giggysy).

What makes you angry?

It makes me angry when my team lose.

What is the best thing you have ever done?

The best thing I've ever done is scoring a try for Brynhyfryd and I went on the tv.



Ethan laid the Denbighshire County Council wreath at the remembrance service in Llandyrnog on behalf of Cllr. Merfyn Parry.

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Dyffryn chapel

Humanitarian Collection This year's collection went to a worthy cause which is very close to us – Heledd Iago, our minister's wife, is one of the founders of Vale of Clwyd Baby Basics. They do excellent work in providing practical support for mothers who cannot afford essential items for their newborn babies.

Y Gymdeithas Monday evening 28th October, was a very enjoyable meeting playing Bingo with Siwan, the Bingo Caller, assisted by Eluned. Everybody was thanked by Rod.

On Monday 11th November, John Huw welcomed Rhian Pierce, who talked about her work with the RSPB – a very informative and interesting illustrated talk. A vote of thanks was given by Alan. A stall was also held to raise funds for the Christmas Party.



Rhian Pierce (lt.) and Siwan Hulme

Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

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

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

National Cerdd Dant Eisteddfod Cerdd Dant is a Welsh musical tradition of vocal improvisation over a harp melody. In this art form, a singer or small choir sings a counter melody over the harp melody. The Eisteddfod was held this year in Mold on Saturday November 9th. Congratulations to all those who were members of Recitation, Cerdd Dant, Folk Singing Parties and Choirs who reached the stage and especially the individual winners: Mabon Evans 2nd Primary Cerdd Dant Solo; Gwenan Mars Lloyd 1st Folk Song 14 – 21 years and 2nd Cerdd Dant Solo 14 – 21 years

Services

01/12 10.00 Advent prayer meeting

08/12 11.00 Rev Huw Dylan Jones

15/12 17.00 Children's Christmas Service

22/12 10.00 Lessons and carols

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Messy Church

In our November session we learned about saints, especially the saints of Wales like St Tynog. We see them clearly in stained glass windows when the sun is bright and the light of Jesus shines through them. We also learned that there are many people today who are saints because the light of Jesus shines through them too, as we see their acts of kindness and compassion to people in need. We made stained-glass windows and figures of saints and we made a light box so that we could see the saints. We also decorated kaleidoscopes and we made a Remembrance Day craft to commemorate those who died in war.



Our next session will be on Sunday 8th December at 3.30 in the Village Hall so why not come and join us to celebrate the coming of Christmas?

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Detectorists

Another very successful event for the Detectorists who have been regular visitors to land at Llangwyfan Farm. A wide variety of finds this time including -

- * Gold gilded brooch 17th–18th century
- * Edward IV (1461-1483) hammered silver penny
- * Livery button (fox)
- * Hand made brooch 18th century
- * William III Love Token c.1696
- * One penny token (1811–1843)
- * Sweet heart brooch silver 1900s
- * Medieval spindle whorl
- * Roman Fibula – Polden Hill type Roman brooch 50-70 AD
- * Silver brooch 18th/19th century
- * Spectacle buckle
- * Tombac buttons
- * Lid
- * 1912 penny
- * William III shilling silver 1696/1697
- * Bangle
- * 1813 Penny Token
- * Elizabeth I (1658-1603) silver sixpence

And more too numerous to list. It is surprising after several visits there is still so much under our feet waiting to be discovered. The group will be back on 1st December.



William III silver shilling 1696/1697

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



The Wright Stuff



Has Christmas come early this year or am I just doing a good impression of Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol – BAH HUMBUG. Heart Breakfast officially switched on Christmas on November 12th playing Christmas songs and jingles. That's just a wee bit early for me. I'm one of those people who doesn't do Christmas until December. It's a family thing, as my brother has his birthday on 28th November, so mum never let anything Xmassy come into the house until after then. She would say that Christmas starts on Saint Nicholas Day (a 4th Century bishop of Myra) on 6th December and finishes on the 12th night, usually around 5th January (which marks the coming of the Epiphany).

The weather hasn't helped us all feel festive; it's been so mild with very dense fog. Fog forms when the air temperature and dew point are close together, causing water vapour to condense into tiny water droplets suspended in the air. We saw some impressive temperature inversions or valley fog in mid-November. It happens where the air temperature increases with height and you have the cold dense air settling in the valley, but it's clear higher up.

At this time of year my thoughts are turned to the last of the bulb planting. The best time to plant bulbs is November, but with the mild conditions you can still plant them in December, so there is plenty of time. The mild weather also meant the geraniums were still flowering and it seemed a shame to remove them. Bulbs provide spectacular flowers in the spring and have been loved for centuries as they bring bright colour to the garden. 2024 has seen a shortage of bulbs in the UK due to the warmer spring and wetter summers affecting the growth and harvest in Holland. Supplies have been reportedly down by 25%. Global shipping costs have also affected the supply; it's just too costly. A fall in supply leads to higher prices, I knew my 'A' level in Economics would come in handy one day.

Strangely they say the demand for bulbs has also increased since the start of Covid as people look to their gardens for comfort and respite from their busy lives. I was lucky to get some doubles and fringed varieties with a small variety 'Giuseppe Verdi' with its golden yellow flowers and a splash of red in the outer petals.



Now the vegetable garden is clearing it's time to spread compost and manure to nourish it in time for next year's crop. I start to put horse manure on my veggie bed at the end of December, the hens kick it about and it decomposes over the colder months to provide a fine tilth in the spring for me just to rake in. Any vegetables still awaiting harvest may succumb to mice, rats and voles who feed on any stored in the ground. If you find your parsnips, carrots or beetroot are hollow - its rodents. I lift mine and store out of reach.

Finally with the shorter days, its time to browse the seed catalogues as the shortest day is on its way on Saturday 21st December at 9.19 am. It will soon be here, and we can all start to look forward to the longer days. May I wish you all a joyous holiday as we eagerly anticipate what 2025 will bring.

Hazel

Matters discussed in the November meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

- ◆ Jones Bros have kindly offered to prepare a base for a new bench opposite the former Arla site. Therefore a new bench will be ordered and *Llais Llandyrnog Voice* has kindly offered a substantial donation towards the purchase.
- ◆ There has been an issue with parking outside Oliver's Row – a tractor was unable to pass the parked cars. The main concern was if the same should happen with an emergency vehicle. The PCSO has responded that it is a matter for the County Highways Department as there are no yellow lines or parking restrictions in place. It was decided to see whether any form of parking restrictions could be implemented.
- ◆ Considering there is such low use of the Nant Glyd allotments, the question was raised whether the Community Council should commit to the annual standing charge and the water usage charge.
- ◆ Denbighshire County Council has given the green light for the Community Council to co-opt someone to fill the vacant seat.
- ◆ Councillor Butler had attended a meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape Forum (formerly known as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or AONB) where a number of issues were discussed.

There had been a very successful International Junior Ranger Camp hosted locally which brought together young participants from 11 European countries. They had enjoyed the visit very much, participating in nature restoration projects, sporting events, and learning about local history.

The officers of the Dark Skies project are keen to bring their mobile planetarium to the village hall so that the pupils could see how it worked, and hopefully develop an interest.

The public consultation period relating to the proposed National Park will be ending on 16th December and local drop in sessions are on going at the moment. The consultation response document is available on line and everyone is urged to complete the survey so that the authorities have a balanced view.

- ◆ The bus shelters are in need of a coat of paint and this will be done in the spring.
- ◆ There were two planning applications:
 - ◆ A three-bay cart shed at Glan y Wern Cottage – no concerns
 - ◆ Extension to Llangwyfan Farm House – no objection to the principle, however could the planning authority see if the designer could revisit the full-depth windows to ground- and second-floor rooms to a more appropriate fenestration design to reduce the overall impact.
- ◆ It was decided that the Community Council would arrange to erect a Christmas tree in the church yard again this year. The Clerk to arrange collection and placing and seek the permission of the Church prior to purchase.

Thanks to Glyn and Carol Davies once again for sponsoring the Christmas tree. The village looks so much better with the tree's lights to brighten up dismal winter nights.

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry



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Or leave a message on **Facebook**