

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

✉ llandyrnognews@gmail.com

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£1

January 2025 – Volume 10 – Issue 4



New Year greetings to all our readers. Thank you for supporting *Llais Llandyrnog Voice* and playing your part in the community. We hope to increase the number sold now the village shop is open again.

We appreciate all the articles we receive – they are what bring the *Llais* alive. The more the merrier, so keep them coming!

We are indebted to the small team who put the magazine together every month – co-ordinators, composers, translators – without them we would not exist. If you can help us in any way, please get in touch – we would love to hear from you.

May 2025 bring happiness to all our lives. May Llandyrnog continue to be the close community which allows it to thrive.

Ruth Griffith

Chair

Llais Llandyrnog Voice committee



Spring comes early to Llandyrnog – this daffodil in Maes y Wern bloomed on 6 December – 8 days earlier than last December. Hope there'll be some left for 1 March!

Around the village



Thanks to all who contributed to the coffee morning that raised £530 to support the family of Aiden, a pupil at Ysgol Bryn Clwyd, currently receiving treatment for leukaemia at Alder Hey Hospital. Here is a note received via the Headteacher of the school:

Aiden's family are extremely grateful and humbled by the support of our wonderful community. They are overwhelmed by the generosity of so many and it has meant the world to Aiden. A huge thank you to you all!



Platinum Wedding Anniversary Hearty congratulations to Elwyn ac Olga, Ger y Llan who celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on 1 January.

Sincere condolences to the family of Rob Dowell. He was well-known in the village, and an excellent footballer when he was in his prime, playing for Ruthin Town and the Llandyrnog Summer League team. Rob was a key member of the team that won nine successive titles between 1977 and 1985.

Llandyrnog FC will have a minute of applause to remember Rob before the start of their home game against CPD Y Glannau, 4 January.



Here's Rob providing the entertainment following the charity walk held in August to raise money for Guide Dogs. Alba, Rob's dog made a big difference to his life. The support for the event showed the genuine respect that the village held for him, with the donations raising £2047.

Thanks to all who bought a date to win a Christmas wall-hanging, which had been displayed at Tŷ Ceffyl Bach. The winner was Scarlett Tynan with the date 22nd August, and the amount raised for Llandyrnog Messy Church was £210. Special thanks to Angie and Graham (and Graham's grandson) at Tŷ Ceffyl Bach for displaying and selling the dates.

Carolyn Langford Jones

Services at St Cwyfan's

All services at 11.15am

- 5th Morning Prayer
- 12th Eucharist
- 19th Eucharist
- 26th Eucharist

Cocoa Room Events


- Mon 6th Craft Group, 10am
 Tue 7rd Book Club, 10am
 Wed 8th Llais Llandyrnog Voice committee meeting, 7pm
 Mon 13th Craft Group, 10am
 Wed 15th Tuesday Club, 2pm
 Mon 20th Craft Group, 10am
 Tue 21st Book Club, 10am (weather permitting)
 Community Council meeting, 7pm
 Mon 27th Craft Group, 10am

Llandyrnog Shop

Shop opening hours

Monday	8am – 5.30pm
Tuesday	8am – 5.30pm
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Friday	8am – 5.30pm
Saturday	8am – 12.30pm
Sunday	9.30am – 12pm



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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.

Village Hall Events

- Sat 4th Craft Group 10am–4pm
 Mon 6th Brownies 5.30–7pm
 Wed 8th Pilates 7.15–8.15pm
 Sat 11th Coffee morning – 10–11.30am
 Spinal Injuries Association
 Mon 13th Brownies 5.30–7pm
 Mon 13th Choir 7.30–9.30pm
 Tues 14th Pony Club meeting 7–8.30pm
 Wed 15th History Society – 7–9.30
 Film: *The Lady in the Wardrobe*.
 Tony Griffiths
 Sat 18th Birthday party 2.30–5pm
 Mon 20th Brownies 5.30–7pm
 Mon 20th Choir 7.30–9.30pm
 Wed 22nd Pilates 7.15–8.15pm
 Mon 27th Brownies 5.30–7pm
 Mon 27th Choir 7.30–9.30pm
 Wed 29th 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

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.

Tales of a 70-year-old Landy

Bryn my owner has been doing some research and it is my privilege to share it with you. I have never been in print before – how exciting!

I came off the production line in Birmingham on November 9th 1954 and within a week I was in a posh showroom in Shrewsbury – Vincent Greenhouse. I was there for a few weeks before Mr John Edwards of The Buttery, Wellington, bought me and took me home. He must have been a very rich man because I would have cost him around £500 then.

Anyway there was no need to worry. I had a very happy time the two years I was there before I was purchased by a Mr Instone of Church Street, Broseley and then onto Mr Jukes of Lydbury North for a five years just carrying fruit and veg – a doddle, really.

I was very lucky to survive, to be honest. A lot of my friends who came off the production line the same day were destined for hard labour as builders' trucks or tow trucks. They were worked very hard and did not survive and were sent to scrap.

Most were shipped abroad to work carrying anything from bamboos to bananas – one even has a thatched roof by now!



Bryn does complain every now and then that I am a little thirsty, but I remind him that I

was made when petrol was five shillings a gallon – not £6.20. Anyway, I am not too keen on this low octane stuff. Bryn does add a bit of go-go juice to the fuel to get me going properly. I do cough and splutter a bit first thing in the morning but once I get warmed up and going, I'm ok.

Don't get me wrong, I am no oil painting – not a show pony by any means. I hate 'show ponies' – grown men poking around and counting my rivets, making sure they're right shape and in the right place. I just want to be left alone in my working clothes.

Bryn's always on about something. He was having a whinge the other day about the cost of my new tyres, but I told him they will last longer than you. And there's no road tax or that awful MOT where a man pokes, prods and shakes everything around and virtually stands on my brakes bringing me to a shuddering halt. But Bryn does take me for a light touch MOT – to make sure I am safe on the road and don't hurt anybody.

I've had a very good life here in Llandyrnog – Bryn keeps me in a nice warm shed and we have had a lot of adventures together.

I needed a new coat to cover my back and because I'm a bit of an odd shape, I had to have one made to measure. We drove all the way to Llanfairfechan – that's a long way, but fair play to Bryn he stopped by the sea in Colwyn Bay to make sure that I was ok and not too hot and that my oil was ok. I think he disappeared too for a coffee somewhere while I prepared myself for the second half of this epic journey. I was not happy because everyone was overtaking me but I was doing my best. Fair play to Bryn he took me home the scenic route, over hills and dales, with a few stops to admire the view and cool down a bit. I'm much happier tooting along at 40mph.

I remember once we went on an adventure to Ysbyty Ifan of all places over what Bryn told me were the Denbigh Moors (you live in a beautiful area). Uncle Phil was

Tales of a 70-year-old Landy: ctd

with us that day and I had to work a little bit harder to carry the two, They shouted at each other all the way and laughed in between, so obviously they were not arguing. I have been told that I'm a bit vocal myself, so maybe that's why they were shouting. I was allowed to join in a convoy with a few of Bryn's tractor friends. We went for a jolly and stopped in Betws y Coed for an ice cream – for me and him to cool down. Back to Ysbyty and I was given a rosette – I'm still not sure what for to be honest, just getting there I suppose. It's my pride and joy and the only one I have – I am proud of it.

I did have a very embarrassing moment in Llanrhaeadr show once. Bryn had been out with his tractor friends and we went straight into the main ring. The ring was very small, with square corners, and well I'm a big girl and need a lot of room to turn – a whole field. Much to my embarrassment, when I reached the corner of the ring – I had to reverse back to swing round the corner and follow the tractor in front of me. I learnt my lesson and cut every corner after that.

Oh dear, I very nearly went on fire once. As we were heading towards the Ponderosa for lunch, the heavens opened. Bryn had to put the windscreen wiper on (I have got two). Oooo it got hot and started smoking. Coral who was with us on her way to meet her husband for lunch was in a right state and had her hand on my door handle about to jump out. Bryn kept his cool and got the extinguisher out ready for action, but a damp cloth sorted it all out. Then we had no wiper, so Coral had to shout instructions – to me – to you, along this narrow lane. We got to the Ponderosa eventually, and the sun shone!

Bryn took my wiper motor off and sent it to a Mr Fuggles who took it apart and rebuilt it. Mr Fuggles makes a living out of fettling with wiper motors. You see, I was built well before what they now call the 'throw-away society'. There is a man in a shed who can mend most of my parts if I'm poorly.



I was tasked once with looking after a very important lady on one of Bryn's charity runs – Kate Miles, manager of the DPJ Foundation which he supports. All was well until Bryn, for some reason, swung my steering much too quickly full lock to the right and the door flicked off its hinges. Well how embarrassing! I have no seat belts, remember, but all was well – it was a very sharp right. Sharp left would have been a disaster. Kate just laughed it off and keeps reminding Bryn of her Land Rover experience.

But I must admit I enjoy helping Bryn and his mates with charity work. They work hard to make sure it happens every year. I do my bit carrying everything that is needed and whizzing around to make sure everyone is in the right place at the right time. It's good fun but I do get tired though – my cv joints hurt and it takes me a while to get over it.

Where to next? Well I have no idea. I don't want to leave Bryn and Anwen since they have been so good to me. Bryn will be too old soon to get on and off his little tractor. I've noticed he's struggling a bit to get his leg over the gearbox, – so who knows I may well may be his carriage of choice for future adventures. But I know he's got another younger one hidden away somewhere. That makes me sad – is he going to give up on me? Anwen is sure that he won't, so I hope she's right.

HUJ 432

New Year's Resolutions

Members of Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan WI were asked for their resolutions:

Iona Pierce: My New Year's resolution is to try and improve my horse at dressage. He loves his show jumping, so it will be a challenge.

Viv Rosser: My NY's resolution is to go to the gym at least twice a week next year.

Jane Borthwick:

- * To support Daddie Aid again and get miles in daily in January
- * To keep up walking and cycling more often than I have done in 2024
- * To be more productive by doing more making and crafting
- * To practise for retirement by reducing work to 3 days a week
- * To have a good New Year clear out and donate lots to the Mencap charity shop in Denbigh
- * To buy less and reduce my carbon footprint.

Recipe

This is one of my favourite puddings.

Peach Meringue

Base

8oz digestive biscuits
4oz margarine
1oz caster sugar

Crush biscuits, melt margarine in saucepan and add biscuits and sugar. Smooth out in dish and bake at 180 °C for 15–20 minutes.

Filling

8oz can peaches
1oz cornflour
4oz caster sugar
2 egg yolks
1oz butter

Drain juice from peaches and make up to ½ pint with water.

Put cornflour, sugar and egg yolks in a bowl and add a little juice and stir.

Put rest of juice in a saucepan and when nearly boiling pour over the mix in the bowl and mix.

Return to pan, boil, then simmer for 1 minute.

Remove from heat and add the peaches and butter, stir until the butter has dissolved.

Put in the baked biscuit base.

Meringue

2 egg whites
2oz caster sugar

Whisk egg whites, fold in sugar, spread on top of peaches.

Bake at 150 for ½ hour.

Iona Pierce

Mothers' Union

In our December meeting we enjoyed a traditional Advent Service with carols and seasonal readings – followed by mince pies!

Becky Gittins, MP for Clwyd East

becky.gittins.mp@parliament.co.uk



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Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

December has been very busy as always.



There have been lots of treats for the children with a visit to the pantomime in Llandudno and their reward afternoon.

Mr Williams (Athro Bro) visited the Babanod to do some reading yn Gymraeg with the pupils.

We enjoyed a fabulous Christmas dinner with our community courtesy of Mrs Tynan.



Miss Gemma made S'mores with everybody for their last Forest school session of the year.



This term the children have been earning tocyns for hard work and good behaviour towards a candyfloss-making session with Mr Lindquist.



We had an amazing turnout for our nativity service in St Tyrnog's church.

Dosbarth Iau made Christmas cards and gingerbread for our community and had a lovely morning walking around the village delivering to houses. Thank you to all our community who have said hello or joined us for an event at the end of the year. We wish you all a Happy New Year!

Dyffryn chapel



Y Gymdeithas On Monday 2 December, Dafydd welcomed Robin Davies, Llanbedr, a pilot with Easyjet for over 30 years. A very interesting illustrated talk was given about his training to become a pilot and his flying experiences over the years. Robin had a special birthday the day before, and to his great surprise a birthday cake was presented to him with a photo of an EasyJet aircraft on top! Gwenno proposed the vote of thanks.

Children's Christmas Service The service was held Sunday evening December 15th. The Christmas message was presented by the children and young people – with the children in their usual nativity costumes. During the service there was a ballet dance portraying the angels, and two beautiful solos by Gwenan and Nest, with Lona the accompanist. Gwenno and all the parents were then thanked by Gwyneth Evans for a wonderful service.



Following the service, the children's party was held in the vestry. After a sumptuous meal, the children were delighted to welcome Father Christmas and his presents. Then the usual Christmas games were enjoyed by all.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning on 30 November when £457 was raised towards Chapel funds.

Congratulations to Alan and Buddug who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in December.

Services

05/01	10.00	Circuit service, Denbigh
12/01	10.00	Prayer meeting
19/01	9.45	Rev. Andras Iago
26/01		No service



Messy Church

In our December session we looked forward to the coming of Christmas. We did all sorts of Christmas activities, including building the manger for the Baby Jesus, making a wooden-spoon Mary, lanterns, crowns, angels and sheep and of course, not forgetting clearing up the donkey poo! At the end of a busy afternoon, we all ended up at the stable, where the children helped Rev. Sam to tell the wonderful story once again. Rev. Sam told us that Jesus is known as the Light of the World and she gave us an illuminated globe so that we could pass the Light to each other.



There's no Messy Church in January but we will be back on 9th February so do come and join the fun.

Trefoil Guild

Members enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch at Cafe Cariad, St Kentigern Hospice, St Asaph. Secret Santa was exciting! We ended the year with two new members. Our next meeting will be in February.

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

Playing darts for Wales



Thursday, November 28th will forever live in the memory of 15-year-old Theo Vaughan as that was the date he got to represent Wales in the JDC World Darts Championships in Gibraltar.

Theo says it was the best week of his life. It was a five-day event and Theo got to play against the best young players from all over the world and to make lifelong friends with them.

He also got to meet a player he massively respects in Luke Littler, who was there to present the trophy he himself won the previous year.

Theo added that the highlight of his week was walking out with his Wales team mates and coaches behind the Wales flag with the booming backtrack of Yma o Hyd which made him very proud.

A truly magical and emotional experience for Theo.

Alan Vaughan

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



The Wright Stuff



Let me tell you a story about my new lodger – Neville. The garden is tucked up for the winter and the recent bad weather means I am not out and about as much, only doing garden chores and my tools are stacked away in the shed. That is apart from one lonely bucket which I forgot and was left by the outside tap. One evening I noticed it was full of rainwater, and I decided to tip this out to give it a thorough clean before stacking it with the others. Imagine my surprise when something moved from under a few leaves which had blown into the bucket and sunk to the bottom. A small grey, brown creature, with dark spots, a long ‘paddle shaped’ tail, four legs and a dumpy head. I see quite a few frogs in the garden hopping under the hedge for safety from predators, but it wasn’t a frog. A quick look at Google and I found it was a smooth newt. I have never seen one in my garden and was rather surprised it had decided to make its home in an old ‘tubby’ bucket. How did it get in there and how does it get out? What does it eat? So many questions.

Neville obviously felt my bucket was a good place to sit out the winter. I added more leaves to provide shelter and a couple of sticks in case he did want to crawl out of the bucket. He has been there a few weeks now. I make sure the water doesn’t run out and I have got into the habit of checking Neville every day.

Newts are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It says it’s illegal to sell, trade, barter, exchange or transport smooth newts for sale. What does Neville eat? Insects, caterpillars, worms and tadpoles, but these are few and far between in winter. Do they hibernate? Yes, they do apparently. They find sheltered places, under logs or rocks or in compost heaps, so why is Neville in my ‘tubby’ bucket? They are amphibians so can live on land and in water.

I don’t have a pond: we had a large deep pond in the garden when we lived in Formby, until I was around 7 or 8 when I accidentally fell in. My father was looking out the kitchen window at the time, saw what happened and immediately rushed out and pulled me out by my long-plaited hair. My school skirt had ballooned up and formed an air pocket, so I had bobbed back up just in time for him to grab my hair. Rather unceremoniously I was dragged out. After that incident my mother gave strict instructions for the pond to be drained and it remained like that until we moved.

So back to Neville; a friend who works for RSPB told me he will have to be evicted from his bucket as if we have freezing weather he will die if the water freezes. So, I will have to remove him and tip the bucket gently out under a sheltered hedge for him to find a more suitable place for his hibernation. I just hope he isn’t gobbled up by any local birds, hedgehogs or indeed chickens. Release day approaches and I wish Neville, as I do to you dear reader, a Happy and Healthy 2025.

Hazel

The village that keeps on giving

£8796 – that is the total sum raised by the generous residents of Llandyrnog and its environs for charities in 2024. And in just 18 events, mostly coffee mornings at the village hall. That makes an average of £488 per event – incredible for a village of 1,103 (source: UK Office for National Statistics). So give yourselves a pat on the back. There'll be many coffee mornings, no doubt, in 2025, and your support will be greatly appreciated once more.

Coffee mornings have become important and popular social events – a chance to meet with friends and catch up with the latest news. Many of you will remember the coffee mornings held at the Cocoa Rooms – one wonders how on earth we managed in such a small space, and how a serious accident didn't happen with hot cups of coffee and tea being handed around. There was no use having more than two to make the tea and coffee – no room for any more!



The coffee morning at the launch of the first edition of Llais Llandyrnog Voice in October 2015. A very poignant photo, including several former residents who are sadly not with us any more – Glenys Evans, Albie Roberts, Gwyneth Roberts, Clwyd Williams, Olwen Roberts, and Mary and Jack Crowther.

A coffee morning at the village hall is a far more pleasant experience. However, a lot of work is involved and thanks to go the stalwarts of the Friday evening shift of setting out the tables and chairs – David Kellett, John Rowlands and Bryn Davies. David is also

invaluable in his regular presence in coffee mornings, and especially in his knowledge of how to operate the dishwasher! We also thank Margaret Evans and Wyn Wilson for their service at the raffle table, another constant feature of the coffee mornings. There is no need to ask for raffle prizes as these just miraculously turn up, and are greatly appreciated, as are the contributions to the home produce stall.

So onwards to the next year of coffee mornings and thank you all for your support and generosity during 2024.

Coffee Morning
Saturday 11 January, 10-11.30am
at the Village Hall

in aid of **sia** spinal injuries association
for life after spinal cord injury

*Contributions gratefully received
towards home produce stall*

GLYN EVANS AUTOCLINIC

Canolfan Trwsio Ceir

**Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Colomendy
Dinbych LL16 5TA**



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News from MHC Llangwyfan



Hillside view revamp unveiled

Hillside View has been transformed from two separate services that previously supported six individuals into a bespoke, two-bedded service. This redesign allows for residents to have personal space while still providing opportunities for increasing daily living skills,

independence and interaction with others.

Building a snowman winter fun

Two brothers who live at Elm and Beech, enjoyed time together building a snowman, and just look at the wonderful snowman they created. A true testament to their fun-filled time bonding in the winter wonderland!



Bronze awards

Billy and Michaela, residential managers of MHC, were

presented with the Bronze Award during the Wales Care Awards in Cardiff. Congratulations!



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Storm Darragh



The village unfortunately suffered the impact of Storm Darragh on 8 December, following high winds and heavy rain. Many homes were left without electricity, some for several days.



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Tuesday Club

The members had an excellent Christmas lunch at 'Y Ddau Ful' cafe, Llanbenwch Caravan Park, Llanfair DC. Although it wasn't the traditional Christmas menu, the food was excellent. Thanks to Sara and all the staff for their warm welcome.

The next meeting will be at 2pm, Wednesday, 15 January, at the Cocoa Rooms. The guest speaker will be Eirian Jones from Citizens Advice. A warm welcome will be given to new members!

Matters discussed in the December meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

- ◆ Although the community policeman was not present, it was requested that he considers increasing his presence in the Llanychan exit from Llandyrnog, possibly to monitor speed following a recent incident.
 - ◆ The bench is on order and will be delivered at end of January, therefore the fixing of the base can be programmed.
 - ◆ A new box has been made to keep the audio equipment safe – this has been made by local craftsman Mr Hession.
 - ◆ Since most councillors are shareholders in the shop, the Community Council has applied for dispensation to discuss any matter regarding the shop without declaring an interest, and this has been granted.
 - ◆ Having prepared a draft budget, it was decided that to cover inflation and additional costs, the council requests a 5% increase in its precept. This is the money received from DCC to enable the council to carry out its statutory duties, and the total is £12993.
 - ◆ It has been decided to source quotations for a new electricity supplier for the Cocoa Rooms. The standing charge is a business rate charge that is particularly onerous and may lead to having to increase hiring charge. Early indications are that alternative suppliers may well lead to a substantial saving.
 - ◆ Draft business plan – it has been decided to draw up a business plan to protect the community council reserves. Cllr Borthwick has prepared a draft which, after consultation, will be offered for adoption. It will show that the community council is inclusive and community-led.
 - ◆ Although it had been questioned whether or not the community council should commit to paying the standing charge and water usage on the allotments, it was decided to proceed, providing that DCC opens the allotments to the whole village and not limit them to DCC tenants. This would need to be written into any agreement.
 - ◆ There were two planning applications:
 - ◆ Old Coach House, Plas Bennett – gazebo and shed – no objections
 - ◆ Wern Farm – retrospective application – change of use of stable to dog day care and boarding facility, continued use of manage as exercise area.
- The council has asked many questions to allow members to make an informed decision, but the replies were not clear, especially regarding overnight supervision and noise issues. It's best left to the Case Officer to decide whether the replies received from the applicant's agent addressed his concerns.
- ◆ DCC has failed to clear the ditch by Capel Dyffryn despite offering a glimmer of hope October that the task would be undertaken. The failure led to a torrent of surface water during Storm Darragh crossing the chapel car park, leading to a clearing-up operation before it could be used. The water was coming down from Cross Keys. The Clerk explained that the solution at that point requires some serious engineering work and considering the DCC budget, it was unlikely to

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry



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Or leave a message on **Facebook**