

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

✉ llandyrnognews@gmail.com

March 2025 - Volume 10 - Issue 6

£1

Then and now

Successful Coffee Morning for Llais February 2018



On Saturday, 3 February the Llais team held a coffee morning to boost the Llais Llandyrnog Voice coffers. Our sincere thanks to all who attended and everyone who contributed cakes and raffle prizes. The team is very grateful for your support and it is nice to know that our work is appreciated. The grand total of £195 will help towards production costs of the magazine.

Successful Coffee Morning for Llais February 2025



Looking back at the 2018 photograph of the coffee morning at the Cocoa Rooms enables us to appreciate the big difference that holding these at the village hall makes.

Thanks to all who supported the 2025 coffee morning and raised £453 towards *Llais Llandyrnog Voice's* coffers. Printing costs exceed the income from sales, advertising and subscriptions, but having a full colour version every month is worth the extra cost.



Happy St David's Day!

Around the village

Teri and Julia of Hamdden Clwyd are pleased to share the news of the recent birth of their grandchild Emlyn Theodore, a little brother for Dylan.



Congratulations also to Billy-Jo (formerly of Celynog) and Rob on the birth of their baby girl, Otilie Rue, and to proud grandparents Kevin and Sharon.



Very belated congratulations are due to Huw Foulkes of Pentrefelin Farm, on his Rural Wales Award from the CPRW. It was given to the farm for its regenerative approach to dairy farming. He has exciting plans for the future – producing *Brefu Da* cheese and running a series of courses on setting up a micro-dairy.

Belated congratulations also to our columnist, Hazel Wright, who has received an outstanding contribution award from her employers, Jones Bros.

Useful telephone numbers

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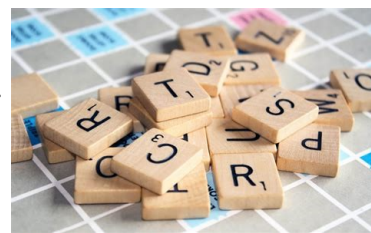
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Services at St Cwyfan's

2 nd	11.15	Morning Prayer
5 th	14.00	Ash Wednesday Service
9 th	11.15	Eucharist
	15.30	Messy Church at the Village Hall
16 th	11.15	Eucharist
23 rd	11.15	Eucharist
30 th	11.15	Eucharist

Scrabble Club

At the Shop Community Room, Thursday, 20 March – come to play Scrabble and other board games.




Llandyrnog Shop

Shop opening hours

Monday	8am – 5.30pm
Tuesday	8am – 5.30pm
Wednesday	8am – 5.30pm
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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

Mon 3 rd	Craft Group, 10am Trefoil Guild, 2pm
Tue 4 th	Book Club, 10am WI, 7pm
Wed 5 th	Llais Llandyrnog Voice committee meeting, 7pm
Mon 10 th	Craft Group, 10am
Wed 12 th	Mothers' Union, 2pm
Mon 17 th	Craft Group, 10am
Tue 18 th	Book Club, 10am Community Council meeting, 7pm
Wed 19 th	Tuesday Club, 2pm
Thu 20 th	Craft workshop, 6–9pm
Sat 22 nd	Craft workshop, 10am–12pm
Mon 24 th	Craft Group, 10am
Mon 31 st	Craft Group, 10am

Village Hall Events

Sat 1 st	Craft Group	10am–4pm
Mon 3 rd	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 3 rd	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 4 th	Pony Club AGM	6–7.30pm
Wed 5 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Fri 7 th	Dance class	7–8pm
Sun 9 th	Messy Church	3.30–5pm
Mon 10 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 10 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 11 th	Flower Show Committee	7–8pm
Wed 12 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Fri 14 th	Dance class	7–8pm
Mon 17 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 17 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed 19 th	History Society – Paul Evans re. Thomas Pennant	7–9pm
Fri 21 st	Dance class	7–8pm
Mon 24 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 24 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed 26 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Fri 28 th	Dance class	7–8pm
Mon 31 st	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 31 st	Choir	7.30–9.30pm

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

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CONTACT US

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

Realising a dream (part 2)

South Georgia and Antarctica

Three days of rather choppy sea (4 to 5m swell) was experienced on our way to South Georgia. On approaching Shag rocks, the first indication that land was close, we were called on deck and to witness a sight to behold – 76 whales gathered around our ship; humpbacks, fin and Sei, they seemed comfortable in our company and we could hear them communicating to each other in their whistles and song; almost more noisy than their audience! They stayed with us for an hour or so before going their separate ways. The next morning, as we entered Elsehul bay, we were greeted by the sight of the *RRS Sir David Attenborough* (the ship the UK public voted Boaty McBoatface!) the Icebreaker, one of the world's most advanced polar research vessels.

South Georgia is mountainous, rugged and very remote; the highest peak, Mt. Paget reaching 9,629 ft. Volcanic, granite and gabbro rock rise steeply from the ocean and over half the island is covered by glaciers, ice fields and permanent snow. The islands have no permanent human presence, but flora and fauna thrive. Albatross, petrels, prions, pintails, pipits, skuas and terns filled the sky. There is estimated to be 4 million Antarctic fur seals on the island and whales are slowly re-establishing their numbers. The first whaling station was established at Grytviken in 1904 and by the time of its closure in 1965 some 175,250 whales had been killed and processed there.

Steve trekked the last 7km (Fortuna Bay to Stromness whaling station) of Sir Ernest Shackleton's famous 36 hour crossing of South Georgia to safety – albeit in more favourable conditions than Shackleton and his men had!

Over the next three days we sailed along the north coast visiting Salisbury Plain bay, Fortuna Bay, Stromness, Hercules Bay, Grytviken and St Andrews Bay; landing by zodiac boat when possible. The beaches teeming with wildlife, meant we could not



always land due to their sheer numbers so we would cruise along the shoreline in the zodiacs instead. Almost every inch of beach had penguin or seal in place, ranging from tiny seal pups to the great 12ft elephant seal, all well-behaved but if feeling threatened, the situation could change in a heartbeat.

Grytviken occasionally accommodates researchers and British administrative or military personnel and is temporarily inhabited during summer months by a few staff who manage the South Georgia Museum which we were able to visit. We walked among the rusted old buildings and remnants of the cruel whaling industry and spent time at Shackleton's grave – he died here in 1922.



As we sailed the final stretch of the north side of the island we were treated to some exceptional weather with amazing cloud formations above the peaks that left us in true awe of the natural beauty of South Georgia. At the eastern tip of the Island, we were presented with a field of icebergs with a rainbow over the horizon. Between the

Realising a dream (part 2): ctd

moody spray clouds the meltwater glacial sea was the most aquamarine shade that you can imagine.

We then sailed into the 7-mile long Drygalski Fjord to Risting Glacier which was perched upon the stark cliffs that rose over 3,000 ft straight out of the sea. The scale is unimaginable and reminds you that we are miniscule in this natural world, just a flicker of life passing through.

The next three days at sea we headed towards the 'White Continent'. Surrounded by sea fog we knew somewhere ahead of us was A23a, the giant rogue iceberg (1500 sq. miles) on a spiral trajectory since breaking away in 1986. Then just like that, the fog lifted to reveal this great iceberg – it took 3 hours to sail past this monster piece of ice!

Antarctica beckoned. The first sight of land was Elephant Island through our cabin window framed by yet another rainbow.

Next morning we kayaked in Telefon Bay, Deception Island. The bay is the crater of an active volcano and so this deep ocean water produced heat flume calderas along with the ice, snow and fog.

Later that day we visited a Chinstrap penguin colony on Half Moon Island and had the opportunity to do a polar plunge from the beach; sharing the 0.4 °C water with the penguins – quite exhilarating and took the term cold water dip to another level!

The following day we got to stand on the Antarctic Continent at Orne Harbour on a pristine cloudless day with whales breaking the surface in the bay close to our zodiacs – that day will remain in our memories for the rest of our lives! We took part in some experiments with the onboard scientists, including collecting plankton for research back home by various universities.

Steve had been selected as one of the lucky passengers to camp out overnight at Leith Cove. He left with 25 others as the ship sailed off and returned to collect them early the next morning. Sleep was short, and at this



latitude it was now constant daylight the sun dipping below the horizon for an hour or so.

On our final day of adventures the weather returned to the more typical grey polar skies and snow flurries. We reached Neko Harbour where we visited a gentoo penguin colony, there surrounded by huge glaciers we had a special kayak trip with king penguins swimming around us inquisitively and a leopard seal resting on nearby rocks. Thunder could be heard rumbling as we paddled back to the safety of the ship – time to leave.

That night we reached our southernmost latitude at the Lemaire Channel which was blocked by an iceberg so the ship turned and started back for the infamous Drake Passage – three days on the roughest sea in the world before reaching the security of the Beagle Channel and Chilean Fjords and the completion of our 22 day adventure.

Even in one of the world's most remote places the effects of the changing climate can be seen. Antarctica is losing ice at an average rate of about 150 billion tons per year. Some of the glaciers we saw both in South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula have been receding by up to 0.5 Km a year and this has a direct effect on the local ecosystems.

Travel is a magical experience that must be respected, but when you live in a village like Llandyrnog; there's no place like home.

Steve and Helen Jukes-Hughes

Woodland Management Event

A Farming Connect event was held at Glyn Arthur Farms, hosted by Mr and Mrs Rowley Williams and their daughter Sarah Hammond on 5 February. Geraint Jones, Farming Connect Forestry Specialist facilitated the event with guest speakers, Phil Morgan and Mike Richards. These have worked with Geraint to write a woodland assessment and subsequently a woodland management plan for the 20 ha of woodland on the farm. Talks were given whilst walking the woodland, discussing woodland management and the benefits of a continuous cover forestry system. Demonstration of tree selection and tree measurements were made with the opportunity for farmers who were present to learn of management techniques to improve timber quality.



Phil Morgan and Mike Richards demonstrating tree selection and mensuration methods.



A magnificent veteran Oak surrounded by Norway Spruce and larch on the slopes of the valley below Moel Arthur. Woodland management intervention will look to protect this tree by gradually removing the surrounding conifers.

Trefoil Guild

Members took part in a quiz provided by Mary Steel, testing our general knowledge and faces of Tom, Dick and Harry. We received prizes of chocolate buttons! Two new members were present. We ended with tea and chat, and Karen Morris won the raffle.

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Recipe

Kaiserschmarrn (scrambled pancakes)

If you're not very adept at flipping your pancakes, why not give these a go?

Ingredients:

- 8 oz plain flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 fl oz milk
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

To make the batter:

In a medium bowl, whisk the eggs. Add the milk, vanilla extract, and melted butter and mix to combine.

In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, and sugar. Make a well in the middle and pour the wet mixture into it. Whisk the batter gently to combine, working from the outside of the bowl in.

Let the batter sit for 5 minutes. This helps hydrate the flour and gives the scramble a better texture.

Cook:

Heat a non-stick griddle or large pan over medium-high heat. Once hot, grease, spray, or melt butter on the hot surface.

Immediately, pour some of the pancake batter onto the greased pan. How much you can fit will depend on the size of the pan you're using. Let the large pancake sit on the hot surface and cook for 30 seconds to 1 minute until a light crust begins to form.

Use a silicone spatula to gently lift the pancake and fold it over, like a quesadilla. Once folded over, use the silicone spatula to break up the pancake into large and small pieces, letting the uncooked batter ooze out and cook, while flipping them around (or over) until the pancake scramble cooks through. Repeat this process with the remaining batter.



To serve:

Keep the scrambled pancakes warm while you cook the remaining batter. Serve warm with dusted icing sugar on top, dipped in a fruit compote or apple sauce.

Don't worry if yours don't look as good as those in the photo – *Kaiserschmarrn* means 'the emperor's mess'!

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Messy Church

In our first Messy Church of 2025, we learned at some of the things Jesus said about himself. He said "I am the bread of life" so we made bread rolls to have with our meal. He said "I am the good shepherd" so we decorated cup cakes to look like sheep and we ate those with our meal too! He said "I am the true vine" so we created a vine using the shapes of our hands as leaves.



He said "I am the light of the world" so we made lanterns. He said "I am the way, the truth and the life" so we made a maze and followed it to find the light of Jesus in the middle.

Our next session will be on 9th March so why not come and joins us for fun and friendship? Children, please bring an adult with you.

llandyrnognews@gmail.com

Dyffryn chapel

A Sunday School for children was held on Sunday 16 February in the vestry, led by Glesni, Gwen and Siwan. The theme was Noah's Ark, and the children were busy with pairing the animals against the clock game, and answering the questions 'Which animals were chosen for the Ark?' and 'What food would the animals have eaten in the Ark?' Then everyone had the opportunity to build a 3-D Noah's Ark, followed by an animal treasure hunt and an opportunity to complete jigsaws. Then they had playtime, biscuits and orange juice. The next Sunday School will be within a month.

Y Gymdeithas On Monday 3 February a quiz was held with Rich and Iona being the quiz masters. A most interesting and educational evening.

Services

02/03	9.45	Rev. Andras Iago
09/03	11.00	Rev. Aneurin Owen
23/03	11.00	Rev. Andras Iago
30/03	17.00	Dafydd Iwan

GLYN EVANS AUTOCLINIC

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Tuesday Club

The members saw photographs of the wonders of Mount Kilimanjaro in the February meeting. Dafydd Roberts and Ron Davison came to tell us about their trek up the mountain to raise for Prostate Cancer UK and LawCare, a mental health charity for the legal sector. Last year, a coffee morning was arranged at the village hall to support their fundraising effort which raised £600. A light-hearted condition of arranging the coffee morning was that they would come to the Tuesday Club to talk about the journey, and indeed, Ron and Dafydd kept their promise.

Climbing the mountain's 19,340 feet was very arduous, and they saw many who had failed to make the ascent. To begin, they walked through a rain forest to reach their camp, before a three-day trek to reach base camp.



The last leg of the climb to Uhuru Peak started at midnight, and involved walking in darkness until daybreak, around 6am, when they reached Stella Point. This was one of the three peaks, and then had to carry on to Uhuru Peak, the main peak. Conditions were very difficult, especially due to the cold and altitude sickness. However, the thought of the good causes they were supporting kept them going and they eventually reached the peak.

The trek down the mountain was also very difficult – the scree underfoot was very slippery and they had to walk for around 18 hours without much rest, food nor drinking



water. Before flying home, they went on a day's safari as a reward for their hard work.

The trek raised £3,580 for Prostate Cancer UK and LawCare, a very worthy total.



Ron and Dafydd, pictured above leaving Kilimanjaro National Park, were thanked for their presentation and members then had tea and a chat. The next meeting will be Wednesday, 19 March at 2pm. A warm welcome awaits new members.

From our County Councillor

I recently met with Luisa Citra from Denbighshire County Council's Housing Department to discuss the possibility of re-establishing community allotments on the land behind the bungalows at Nant Glyd. This area was previously used for raised-bed allotments but faced challenges due to the lack of an on-site water supply. Our aim now is to address these issues by installing a water supply, creating a new entrance gate, and establishing a small community group to manage the site.

The intention is to open the space as a community allotment, making it accessible to residents who would like to grow their own produce. We are also exploring the possibility of involving different groups, including Ysgol Bryn Clwyd, if there is interest.

It's still early days, but I'll keep you updated as plans develop. If you are interested in getting involved or have any ideas, please feel free to get in touch, my details are on page 16.

I have also had an opportunity to showcase the up and coming new enterprises in Llandyrnog to our MP Becky Gittins. She was pleased to hear that they are working closely with the local community. Becky took advantage of the opportunity to congratulate Tŷ Ceffyl Bach and the shop to on their recent awards nomination.

Cllr. Merfyn Parry



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

Ysgol Bryn Clwyd

All the pupils have been getting outside this month. Dosbarth Iau have been preparing for Spring by planting sweet peas and fruit bushes. Dosbarth Babanod have been on a visit to Llyn Brenig to test out if the boats they made could float, and tell stories of 'The Lady of the Lake.'



We rounded our 'Changes' topic off in the best way in the Dosbarth Babanod with a visit from Mr Jones, a former pupil! We wanted to find out how our school has changed over the years. We prepared lots of questions and listened carefully to all of the interesting answers. There were lots of changes that have happened over the years – the lessons, the uniform, the playground, the toys, the technology! If anyone else came to our school and has stories or pictures from the past, please send them to the school, we'd love to have them.

Our Year 6 pupils had a brilliant afternoon with their fellow Year 6 pupils from Ysgol Gellifor, when they visited Ysgol Brynhyfryd to watch the school's show, *Matilda*.

The whole school is preparing for this year's e-steddfod, an online eisteddfod in which we compete against schools from around Wales. This week in particular we have been working on our writing, maths, science and art entries. The live competitions will take place later in the term.

The Community Shop and Hub



Good news: the shop's request to the Croeso Cynnes Grant Scheme for a project to improve the hub has been successful. More information to follow but part of the money is to buy board games and picture books for visitors, young and not so young to enjoy. So what would you like to see on the activity shelf? We are open to suggestions and recommendations. The funding has been made available via Denbighshire County Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, and Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council.

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.



The Wright Life



The aroma and taste of freshly baked bread is one of life's little pleasures and when cooked at home it's even better, giving a warm homely aroma to the house. My Grandmother made bread and so did my mother; she insisted on a special cooker with an S setting, which was very low and was used to aid the fermentation process to get the yeast to work and what makes the bread rise. According to history, the earliest bread was made in or around 8000 BC in the Middle East, specifically Egypt, so humanity has eaten this staple food for many years.

My Grandmother made bread during WW2 and told us when white flour was in short supply, she would substitute this with 'wholemeal' flour or cornmeal. This is when the 'National Loaf' was introduced in 1942 and was made with fortified wholemeal flour and had added calcium and vitamins.

Unfortunately, I don't have the time to bake bread by hand; so I invested in a bread maker. Many say it's cheating, but 'needs must', as they say. However, I have been without my bread maker since before Xmas as it had a fault and the bread wasn't rising. I had been given this machine by a friend, who had received it as a present, made one loaf and gave up. How many electrical appliances are bought with good intentions – used once and stuck in the cupboard? Electric woks, cappuccino makers and sandwich toasters to name but a few. After receiving an award at work I decided to use the prize money to buy a new bread maker. The first bake wasn't successful and produced a hard blob of ingredients. It takes time to get used to your bread maker and at last I am now getting better and it now produces a perfect granary/wholemeal loaf – my favourite.

A bread maker is basically a tiny oven which consists of a bread pan or tin at the bottom of which is a 'paddle'. There are a variety of programmes from basic to French bread and even pizza dough. All the ingredients are

added to the tin and off it goes. The machine will mix, knead, rise and bake the dough to a beautiful soft bread with a crispy crust.

The one-stop machine for baking bread was first introduced in Japan in 1986 by Matsushita Electric, now Panasonic. Going back further in 1894 Joseph Lee secured a patent for a kneading machine 'which will thoroughly mix and knead the dough and bring it to the desired condition without resorting to the tedious process of mixing and kneading by hand.' It did the work of six people and produced sixty pounds more bread from each barrel of flour than could be made by hand – it was revolutionary for its time.

I wanted to continue to make my own bread as it's rewarding and a healthier choice. It is free from preservatives and additives, and I can control the ingredients to suit my own taste. It's healthier than shop bought loaves which are often high in sugar and preservatives which are needed to prolong the shelf-life of the product. Perhaps I'll enter my loaf in the village show in August. I have noticed that my dogs love my bread too – in moderation of course. When I have a sandwich, they all drool and look at me, begrudging every bite I take. In comparison they turn their noses up at shop bought bread, sometimes animals know what's good for them.

Hazel



Hello from the Rectory

I really wanted to say a very BIG THANK YOU for your very warm welcome as I begin my ministry here. It is such a privilege to be journeying with you and serving the community as your parish priest. I am so enjoying hearing your story both with the joys and the challenges and listening to your hopes for the future and I am so open to how I can support in anyway. Do come and tell me how I can help.

Every year a friend of mine usually takes a photo every day during Epiphany and posts it up on Facebook with the title 'glimpses of glory'. This year she has



decided to take a photo every day throughout the year as she does not want to stop noticing these wonderful unexpected moments. Her photos are inspiring, creative and beautiful. Things she sees in the everyday around her that reflect these words and they are wonderful, these God moments, which are very much signs of hope.

There are photos of light through her window that look like angels' wings on the kitchen wall, a puddle reflecting the blue sky and clouds above it, light dancing on her cat's whiskers, two people laughing in the street, snowdrops giving spring hope. I took a photo of a glimpse of glory this morning. The first lambs I have seen this year skipping around the field on a cold, murky day and for me a sign of hope. I just love these photos which encourage me to look, to see in different ways especially on those days where I am feeling weary and overwhelmed.

There are signs of hope in our everyday, in the beauty of God's creation that surrounds us, in our homes, our community, in our world

and in each of us, of God doing something new, unexpected, in the midst of all that is happening in our broken world and the challenges we are facing in our own lives in many ways even if they are hard to see. It is often when we are at our most vulnerable that how we are shown love and kindness and compassion at these times within the community we live in makes a big difference to our journey especially through difficult and challenging times, threshold times, 'glimpses of glory' for sure.

Know from my heart that I am very much here for you and please do not hesitate to make contact with me anytime if you would like a conversation about anything or need support in any way. Faith or no faith. Email samquilty@cinw.org.uk or Tel 07546 562816.

Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Revd Sam Quilty

LLANDYRNOG AND LLANGWYFAN Local History Society

Next meeting:

**Wednesday, 19 March at 7pm
at the Village Hall**

**'Thomas Pennant, naturalist, traveller and
writer'**

A talk by Paul Evans

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 170592*



Spotlight on... Myfanwy Williams

What are your childhood memories?

I was born on a farm near Dothan, Ynys Môn, the third of four children. My home was quite isolated. My childhood memories are of playing around the farm with my brother and sister and a happy upbringing. When I was seven, our home was destroyed by fire and we had to move to nearer the centre of the rural area, where there was a chapel, a shop and a blacksmith's. There were more children around us to play together and we all met on the crossroads.

How were your school days?

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at school. But there was one thing that I didn't like – we had singing lessons every afternoon and I'm not a songstress! I attended four secondary schools – two on Anglesey, Holyhead and Llangefni; and two in Denbighshire, Brynhyfryd and Denbigh. I settled, made friends and was happy in each one.

And after leaving school?

I was accepted on a two-year course at the Normal College, Bangor, to qualify as a teacher. My first teaching post was in Mold, before I was relocated in 1960 to Bodfari. Gwilym and I were married in 1965 and I gave up working in Bodfari in 1967 to start a family. Ten years and three children later, I started as a supply teacher in the area. I was called to go on supply to Plas Bondyffryn School to cover maternity leave – and 21 years later I retired from there! I then volunteered with Citizens' Advice for fifteen years where I learned a lot. Gwilym and I have enjoyed travelling abroad and in Britain. By now we are grandparents and looking after the grandchildren is a privilege and gives a great deal of pleasure.



Is there a place that's important or significant to you?

Visiting Patagonia made an impression on me due to the warm welcome from everyone and their efforts to keep the Welsh language alive.

What annoys you?

People who are always complaining about something or other without reason, and who have a negative attitude.

What cheers you up?

Good weather. Going out for a walk, seeing nature changing with the seasons. Talking to people.

Who would like to have a meal with, and why?

I would like to have a meal with David Attenborough to hear about his travels and his life, hoping that he brings photographs as well.

Thanks to Myfanwy for sharing her memories with us. We have it on good authority that she was an excellent hockey player in her schooldays – she's too modest to mention this!

More **blood donors**
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Business fined for fly-tipping

Denbighshire County Council has issued a £300 Fixed Penalty Notice to a Flintshire business for breaching its duty of care in relation to waste disposal. The fine was issued following an investigation by Denbighshire County Council's Environmental Crime team, relating to a large-scale fly-tipping site that was discovered in Llanynys.

The investigation into the fly-tipping site uncovered items that traced back to a business in Flintshire, and a fixed penalty notice was issued as part of the Council's ongoing efforts to tackle fly-tipping and reduce illegal waste disposal across the district.

All who live in the County have a legal duty to ensure their waste is disposed of correctly by a licensed carrier. For further information about waste disposal and to check if a waste carrier is licensed, please visit the Permits and Permissions section of Natural Resources Wales' website, naturalresources.wales.

MHC Liaison Committee Meeting

The meeting held on Friday, 24 January addressed the following points:

- ◆ Actions from the previous meeting.
Regarding lighting, the dark skies report has been received and is being reviewed by the estates team. Funding has been received and lighting is in the process of being changed where needed. Maintenance are looking at the brightness of the lighting outside the Lodge.
Additional signage has been put in place for Alexandra House and Entrance B.
The issue in relation to litter including blue gloves has been raised again with the relevant managers to pass on to all staff. In addition, two litter-picking events have taken place.
- ◆ Site update.
A staff recruitment event was taking place the same day and was attracting early interest. Staffing numbers were reported as approx. 320 with an additional 40 staff in general roles including administration and maintenance.
- ◆ Occupancy.
70 of the 72 available beds were currently occupied with admissions arranged for the other 2.
- ◆ Community Matters.
The gate at Entrance C requires a suitable lock because as it is sometimes left open, this creates problems when sheep are being moved between fields.
There was discussion about the ongoing problems regarding traffic. David Jones from North Wales Police spoke about recent incidents locally. It was confirmed that MHC's own vehicles are all tracked.
The group was pleased to note that Highfield Park is providing articles for *Llais Llandyrnog Voice* which is beneficial for all concerned.
There have been fewer misplaced deliveries and this was felt to be linked to the improved signage which had been installed.

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Matters discussed in the February meeting of Llandyrnog Community Council

- ◆ The meeting was attended by PCSO Dave Jones who reported that there were a five recorded incidents in the parish which included assault, antisocial behaviour on the MUGA pitch, a civil dispute, e-mail scam and harassment on-line via a social platform.

The PCSO also reported that there had been reports of suspicious vehicles looking out for trailers or caravans which they could remove on a return visit. Everyone is urged to use appropriate equipment to secure anything that can be towed away and also to report any such incidents to the police via 101 including a registration number – the police depend heavily on local intelligence.

- ◆ The Community Council has been successful in obtaining a 100% grant through Digital Gwyrdd/Coleg Menai Llandrillo to upgrade the heating and lighting in the Cocoa Rooms. The work has all been carried out by local contractor Peter Jones to ensure that the money is spent locally – the local pound is very important.
- ◆ The Community Council (CC) was also successful in its bid for additional green area/garden packages via Keep Wales Tidy. Two packages with a total value of £576 will be delivered soon and we will be looking for volunteers to assist – watch this space!
- ◆ Although Denbighshire County Council (DCC) has attempted to repair some of the numerous potholes in the area, it is disappointing that it is unable to share any information regarding capital works where roads need a total re-surfacing.
- ◆ The base of the new bench will be laid soon once Jones Bros' workload permits. We are looking forward to having a half-way stop between the village and The Waen roundabout!
- ◆ It is very disappointing that DCC, after three years of use, has decided not to offer free

access to the internet from the Cocoa Rooms. Provision of the service has been offered for £488 per annum – a sum that has not been included in the budget. The CC is looking at alternatives or a reduced fee from DCC.

- ◆ The CC has received a clean Completion of Audit notice.
- ◆ It was Dark Skies week commencing 24th February with Pen y Cloddiau being a vantage points with guided tours – weather permitting.
- ◆ The Chair had attended a meeting of the AONB and the aspiration was that there would be an additional National Park before the end of the present Senedd's term 2026, this being in Labour's manifesto.
- ◆ There was a request for the play equipment at Cae Nant to be more accessible to children with additional needs – unfortunately at the moment there are insufficient funds to permit an upgrade. However it was agreed that once the contributions from the local developments have been submitted to DCC – commuted sums in lieu of play areas – the Community Council will be bidding for the money and hopefully have a plan in place which would have involved community engagement.

Denbighshire County Council

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