

Llais Llandyrnog Voice

✉ llandyrnognews@gmail.com 🐦 @LlaisLlandyrnog

September 2024 – Volume 9 – Issue 12

A very successful Flower and Produce Show



Thanks to Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm Fund for the sponsorship.



Fundraising

It's a pleasure to announce that the grand total of money raised in coffee mornings since August 2023 is £7038 – £440 per coffee morning on average.

In addition, £2047 was raised for Guide Dogs by a charity walk; the Cae Nant Hub pop-up café raised £1300 for Wales Air Ambulance and £200 for Denbigh Food Bank; and Llandyrnog Horse Show raised £900, donated equally to Welsh Air Ambulance, St Kentigern's and a Riding for the Disabled centre in Prestatyn.

A total £11,485 donated to charities in one year is incredible – thank you to all for your constant support.

Llandyrnog Flower and Produce Show Results

Fruit and vegetables: Best exhibit – Richard Davies; most points – Roger Warner

Flowers: Best exhibit – John Rowlands; most points – Julia Hughes

Floral art: Best exhibit and most points – Karen Morris

Cookery: Best exhibit – Jonathan Major; most points – Gwenda Marshall

Young persons: Best exhibit – Gwilym Emrys Williams; most points – Efan Joseff Pierce and Ralph Kinsey

Craft: Best exhibit – Carolyn Langford-Jones; most points – Gwenda Marshall

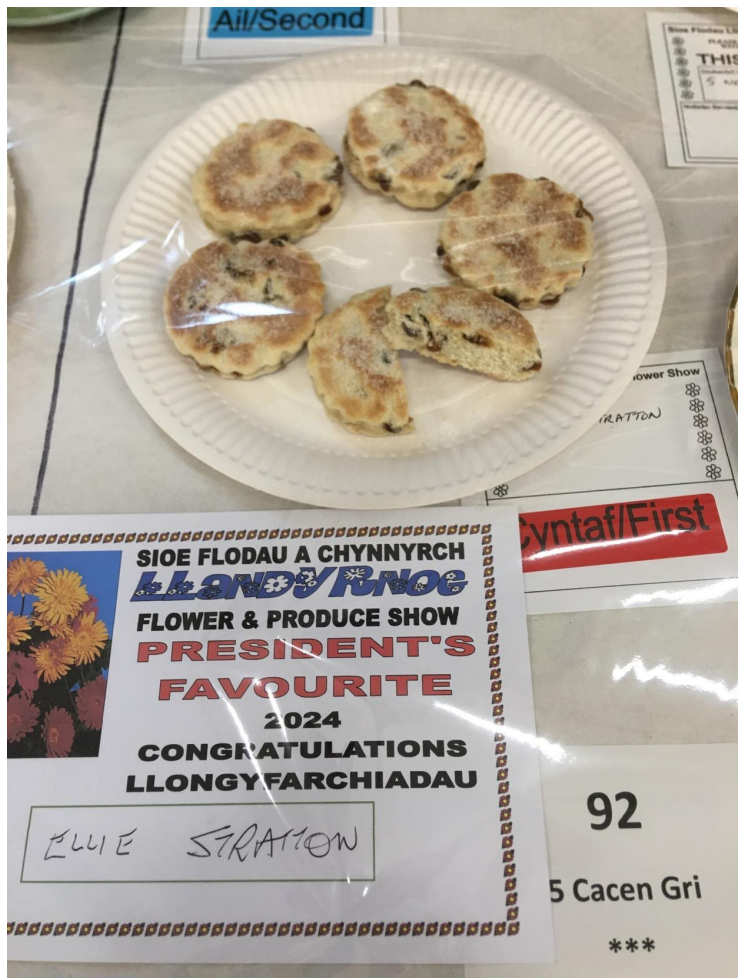
Photography: Best exhibit – Karen Morris

Adults' section: Most points – Gwenda Marshall

President's favourite exhibit: Ellie Stratton

Secretary's favourite exhibit: Penny Kinsey

Show president: Bryn Williams



A word from the outgoing Chair of the show committee

I am writing this the day after our Show, and I can honestly say, 'It was a good one'.

A lot of people commented that it was probably the best show so far. Indeed, we had more competitors than ever before.

It was so nice to see the number of young people competing – considerably higher!

Although we have no record, I'm quite sure that there were more people present than ever before, and, of course this helped things financially.

There is a special atmosphere in Llandyrnog Show that I have never experienced anywhere else. I couldn't help but notice that nearly everyone present was smiling and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

As you are aware, the show doesn't just happen. Preparations have been ongoing for months, to ensure that 'everything is in place, and there is a place for everything.'

I sincerely thank members of the committee for their substantial contribution leading up to the show, and on the actual day. I also wish to thank all the volunteers who helped on the day. The marquee has been a blessing – we have ensured that the competitors have enough room to display their exhibits and that all visitors have a comfortable environment.

We are very indebted for the substantial contribution from Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm Fund. This enabled us to purchase four gazebos, twenty tables, a number of yellow jackets and banners, and to hire the marquee.

Our small, friendly Llandyrnog show is therefore in a healthy financial situation and on a sound footing for the foreseeable future.

I also wish to thank everyone who

contributed financially prior to the show, i.e. sponsors and advertisers.

The schedule was totally bilingual for the first time this year and our thanks go to Anwen for completing a difficult task – it will be so much easier in future!

Since I have held the post of Chairman for the last twelve years, it's time to stand aside and give someone else an opportunity to take the reins! During those years, I have been supported in developing the show as a vibrant and happy village event. I'm glad to say that all meetings have been short, happy, and fruitful – no animosity or cross words!

I won't be leaving the country – I'll still be a member of the committee and will be keeping an eye on things!

A big thank you to you all,

John Rowlands



John with show President, chef Bryn Williams



John Rowlands has been Chair of the Flower Show Committee for the last twelve years and a committee member for much longer than that. He has decided to step down as Chair after this year's show. For many who contribute to the success of the show he has become synonymous with the Llandyrnog Flower and Produce Show.

The committee would like to extend its warmest thanks to John for his hard work and hope to continue to benefit from his experience and advice for many years to come.





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Around the village

Condolences to Llys Aled family, Catrin having lost her grandfather. Also to Elen Lloyd and family, Elen having lost her grandmother and father within a short period.

Congratulations to ...

... Aled and Jane Thomas, on becoming grandparents again: a baby daughter, Ava Violet was born to Lowri and Sean, a sister to Oscar and Jack; and a little daughter, Riva Vaughan, to Rob and Sian, a sister to Ivy Rose.

... Dick and Sue Hughes, Bron Berllan, on the birth of their grandson. Dion Reece, little brother of Savannah Mae, was born to their daughter, Rachel and her partner, Aled. The young family formerly lived in Arosfa. Congratulations also to Rachel on passing her MSc as Advanced Nurse Practitioner, a few weeks before Dion was born.

... Hazel and Gareth Roberts, Bod Hyfryd, on celebrating 60 years of marriage. They were pleasantly surprised to receive a card from the King and Queen to celebrate and mark their Diamond Anniversary.

... Richard Williams, Plas Bennett, for breaking the Welsh record in atlas ball lifting. He's a regular competitor in the under 105kg category of Strongman competitions. The old record stood at 165kg and Rich has smashed it lifting 171kg!

Belated congratulations to Alaw Griffith, Welsh Language Standards Compliance Officer at BCUHB, on receiving the Long Service award at a ceremony held last June. Alaw has been working for the Health Board since 1997.



Best wishes to Ilan Wyn Evans, Fforddlas and Morgan Jones, Glan y Wern Isaf, who celebrated their 18th birthdays in August, and to Leah Whitehead-Hughes, Y Rofft, on her 18th birthday in September.

Dowell's charity walk was held Saturday, 3 August to raise money for Guide Dogs. Many turned out on a fine day to support Rob Dowell and his guide dog, Alba. Following a walk around Llangynhafal and Hendrerwydd, a barbecue was held at the Golden Lion, Llandyrnog.

The organisers are extremely grateful for all the donations which came to £2046.99. This is how they expressed their thanks: 'It's really hard to put into words, but the effort and true genuine respect that this village holds for the legendary Rob Dowell made it without doubt a night to remember. Many thanks to Elfor, Dai Twin and all those who took out time to set up the barbecue; Mark and Sam for hosting; and John Sellers and Bov, his fantastic pianist, for a top performance – a night to remember. The turnout was nothing short of spectacular and this really shows that you can't beat village life.'



John Sellers, Rob Dowell and Bov (Erfyl Owen) providing the evening entertainment

Cocoa Room Events

Mon 2 nd	Craft Group, 10am Trefoil Guild, 2pm
Tue 3 rd	Book Club 10am WI, 7pm
Mon 9 th	Craft Group, 10am <i>Llais Llandyrnog</i> meeting 7pm
Mon 16 th	Craft Group, 10am
Tue 17 th	Book Club 10am Community Council meeting 7pm
Wed 18 th	Tuesday Club, 2pm
Thu 19 th	Craft Workshop 7–9pm
Sat 21 st	Craft Workshop 10am–12pm
Mon 23 rd	Craft Group, 10am Block of the month, 7pm
Thu 26 th	Coffee and cake – Macmillan Cancer Support, 10am

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

Thursday 26 September

10am - 12 noon

Drop in to the Cocoa Rooms for coffee and cake and donations

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Coffee Morning

The Village Hall

Saturday 14th September

10.00-11.30

Proceeds to the Trefoil Guild

All welcome!



Village Hall Events

Mon 2 nd	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Tue 3 rd	Flower Show Committee	7–8pm
Wed 4 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Thu 5 th	Choir	7.30–8.30pm
Sat 7 th	Craft Group	10am–4pm
Sun 8 th	Messy Church	3–6pm
Mon 9 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 9 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed 11 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Thu 12 th	Choir	7.30–8.30pm
Sat 14 th	Coffee Morning – Trefoil Guild	10am–12 noon
Mon 16 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 16 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed 18 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Thu 19 th	Choir	7.30–8.30pm
Mon 23 rd	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 23 rd	Choir	7.30–9.30pm
Wed 25 th	Pilates	7.15–8.15pm
Thu 26 th	Choir	7.30–8.30pm
Sat 28 th	Coffee Morning – Llandyrnog Eisteddfod	10am–12 noon
Mon 30 th	Brownies	5.30–7pm
Mon 30 th	Choir	7.30–9.30pm

To book the Village Hall, contact Ivan Butler:
07799570549 or by email
ivanbutler897@btinternet.com

Thank you all again for attending the horse show. Because of the wonderful support, £300 each has been donated to the Welsh Air Ambulance, St Kentigern's and a Riding for the Disabled centre in Prestatyn.

What's in a field?

Sheep, cows, crops, horses, trees? Well, we are talking about a field called The Parks/Parcs at Llangwyfan farm. It was formerly known as Parc Islwyn (after the house at the edge of the field) and Parc Hospital (adjacent to the former Sanatorium/Llangwyfan Hospital which was opened in 1916) and before that in the 1841 Tithe list – Llandyrnog Parish, Park and Cae Tan y Chwarel (field below the quarry which was near Penllwyn. There was also a lead mining shaft near Penllwyn and in 1858 it was recorded that two lead miners were living in Fron Haul, Llangwyfan).

Yes, there are sheep in this field but maybe there is so much more that can reveal the past and the people in this area?

What do we know?

The field is next to Llangwyfan Parish Church (St. Cwyfan's) which was founded by Cwyfan, a Saint of the 6th or 7th century. The earliest reference to the church was in the 1254 in the Norwich Taxatio. Church restoration work in 1997 revealed that there were possibly burials inside the church and part of the footings belonged to an earlier building, possibly medieval (Middle or Dark Ages 476AD – 1400/1450 – roughly 1000 years).

There is a picture/plate by John Ingleby in 1793 showing houses (no longer in existence) – “a village” near the church in the Parks. There is an ancient sheep pound and there are stocks by the church. There was also a beautiful mansion called Plas Llangwyfan nearby, dated 1584 and on the top boundary of the Parks is the mansion called Vron Yw from the late 1500s to early 1600s. Around 1700 it was a convent for Brothers of a Friary as Henry VIII had previously dissolved the monasteries.

There is a tunnel running under the field from Vron Yw and it leads down and across the field, below an area that has been quarried in the past, to what is thought to be an old wash house where a natural spring

emerges. The remnants of the building are still evident.

The existence of the tunnel was verified by Mr T.H. Evans who was the head gardener at Llangwyfan Hospital and who lived in Vron Yw cottages (1939-1955) with his family (father of Gwilym Evans, Glennydd). He drew a sketch map and said “The Monks used the tunnel to go to the wash house.” He also said “With reference to the tunnel, Mr George Lear (a member of the Sanatorium staff) and myself, went along the tunnel in 1942 for a special purpose entering from the roadway in the Park in front of Fron Yw.....and at the time it was in a good state of preservation.”

There are also two former tracks running up through the field, one leading from the church to Vron Yw. So, plenty of opportunities for a variety of people to wander in the Parks over hundreds of years and maybe drop or lose a variety of items, totally hidden – a history waiting to be revealed?

We recently came across a metal detecting group called Detect it Nation (UK Metal detecting events). It was recommended to us as a professional organisation which was well organised with rules to protect the detectorists, landowners and the items that could be unearthed.

All of their members have to be insured by NCMD (National Council for Metal Detecting) or equivalent. There are rules around respecting the land, and all of their events are managed and monitored by their admin team members.

All attendees have to arrive at a specified time for a briefing and have to leave the land at an allotted time. There are also specifics about thresholds and rules in place regarding sharing any rewards with landowners. Pictures of finds are posted on the group Facebook page and opinions on identification and ageing shared.

Anything over 200 years old or of special historical significance is reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme via a Finds Liaison Officer. They determine an age and

What's in a field: ctd?

identification and if it is to go to a museum, elsewhere, or to be returned to the finder.

<https://finds.org.uk/>

<https://museum.wales/portable-antiquities-scheme-in-wales/>

So, was anything found during the five events at the farm between Sunday 23 June and Sunday 4 August?

You will have to read about that in next month's Llais!!

Julia Hughes

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

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Football news

The football pitch at Cae Nant has been re-seeded and the goal mouths re-turfed. The Club thanks Llandyrnog Sports Association and Councillor Merfyn Parry for his very kind contribution towards the maintenance. Also a massive thank you to all that helped to get the goal mouths and penalty spots re-turfed.



The second round of the Nathaniel MG Cup (the Cymru League Cup) between Bala Town FC and Ruthin Town FC on 2 August was notable game for two youngsters from Llandyrnog. Teifi Williams (below lt.) from Ruthin Colts made his first team debut for Ruthin firsts, coming on as a substitute in the second half. Tom Hughes, also came on as substitute in the second half, and scored the winning goal in the 85th minute.



(Image: Bala Town FC)

Around the world and home again

Between October and May 2023/24 my husband Jack and I were fortunate enough to bring countless hours of daydreams to life and travel the world together. Our good friend Joe came along for the trip too.

We began our adventure in Costa Rica and completed it in Cambodia, journeying through South America, New Zealand and South East Asia along the way. It took us a little longer than Michael Palin's 80 days, provided as many questionable moments as Romesh Ranganathan's misadventures, and allowed us to experience more contrasts than you'd see in an entire series by Simon Reeve. The experience was truly once in a lucky lifetime!

We returned with memories to last a lifetime and countless stories to share with anyone interested enough to listen (or those who are polite enough to pretend to listen). Our lovely neighbours and esteemed *Llais* editors, Ann and Iestyn, were amongst the first to welcome us home and kindly suggested I might like to share some stories from the trip in *Llais*. Fuelled by Welsh cakes and a small dose of flattery it was pretty easy to say yes in the moment, but to be honest putting pen to paper has been a different story! Not quite knowing where to start, I realised it's the people we shared our adventures with that made them. So it makes sense to begin by sharing a few anecdotes about a few of the characters we met along the way:

A taxi driver named Johnny, Costa Rica

In the Costa Rican town of La Fortuna our taxi driver was so thrilled that we bought him a morning coffee, he wanted to repay the favour by sharing with us his knowledge of the local wildlife. His favourites were the toucans. Fresh on the road, and keen to connect with the locals, I enthusiastically responded (toucans are pretty cool, to be fair). With a captive audience, Johnny proceeded to tell us all he knew about the

birds. Before we knew it, he stopped the car and gleefully passed over his phone insisting we watch some rather long YouTube videos demonstrating all the different song calls of the toucan species found in the area. The moment was charming, but it taught us a valuable lesson around the risk involved with showing too much initial interest in a topic and the subsequent difficulty in sustaining such enthusiasm when you're in three poor quality YouTube videos deep! That said, I can now at least tell you that La Fortuna's 'Toco' toucan sounds quite like a pig. Don't believe me? YouTube it.

A city guide named Stefa, Ecuador



In Ecuador's notorious capital, Quito, we were led on a walking tour around the old city by our 23 year old guide, Stefa. The city sprawled for miles in every direction amongst beautiful volcanic mountains and is watched over by a winged statue of the Virgin Mary. This stands 15m taller than the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro. Stefa delighted in showing us Quito's cultural highlights and was passionate about the positive future she felt her country was in reach of. Yet, as we stood eating street *ponches* (beer flavour meringue foam in a cup) we overlooked a sizable demonstration staged in front of the presidential palace. The demonstrators were engaged by what seemed to be a disproportionate number of riot police. Stefa explained it was actually a campaign to seek answers regarding the hundreds of people who go missing in the capital each year.

Around the world and home again: ctd

The more questions asked, the more the city's well-founded safety fears and mistrust in authorities became clear, but Stefa's positive outlook didn't falter. This was just ordinary life here and her priority was to share with us more important things like cheese-flavoured ice-cream, her friend's finest (strongest) collection of sugarcane spirits and her favourite Ecuadorian sweet treat – *caca de perro*, which directly translates to 'dog poo'! We had such a fun day with Stefa, however it was difficult to process the contrast between the cheerfulness of the people who we were meeting with the unnerving realities of life in Quito. Perspective was quickly gained when Stefa candidly told us that her travel dreams revolved around simply one day visiting a place where she could be safe to walk at night. I hope one day soon, Stefa doesn't have to travel at all to fulfil this dream.

A waiter named Joseph, Columbia

Waiter: "What would you like to drink?"

Us: "Stella Artois, por favor."

Waiter: "Pardon?"

Us: "Stella Artois..?"

Waiter: *sighs* "Please stop trying to speak in Spanish, just say it in English."

Us: Telepathically questioning each other...

How on earth do you say 'Stella Artois' in English?! *Pointing to the menu instead*

Waiter: "Ohh! You want Stella Artois!" said in a slightly overzealous accent.

Us: "Yes please." ?!

Us: "Yes please." ?!

Us: "Yes please." ?!

...We never did master the lingo.

A tuk-tuk driver named Polin, Cambodia

In the bustling town of Siem Reap, Cambodia, we had grown to rely on a tuk-tuk driver named Polin. We got to know Polin pretty well, but it was a surprise when driving to the airport that he insisted on a detour to his home to introduce us to his wife and children. This probably wasn't wholly advisable in terms of travel safety and airport timings, so we were both relieved and touched when the

invitation transpired to be one of genuine friendship and we didn't miss our flight!

Upon entering his home, Polin ushered his children to meet us. They had an endearing look of embarrassed reluctance that suggested a subtext of 'oh no, not this again, Dad!' Despite the language barrier and embarrassing dad, Polin's children politely stuck around for a chit chat and a few shared giggles with us. His son was wearing a Manchester United football shirt and looked in disbelief when we told him Manchester was where we were flying home to. His eldest daughter was turning eleven and hopeful she might soon get a moped to drive herself to school on, which is a perfectly reasonable age to drive a moped in Cambodia. We hadn't bargained on a family meet and greet when asking Polin for a lift to the airport, but it was the perfect end to our time in Cambodia.

Fran and Jack Williams, Helenfa



Jack, Fran and Polin

Tuesday Club

The club met for a cup of tea and to put the world to rights in August. The next meeting will be at 2pm in the Cocoa Rooms, Wednesday (yes!) 18 September when our guest speaker will be Helen Murphy who makes the beautiful copper jewellery that is for sale at Tŷ Ceffyl Bach. New members welcome!

The Church of St Tyrnog

1st	11.15	Holy communion
8th	11.15	Holy communion
15th	11.15	Morning prayer
22nd	11.15	Holy communion
29th	10.30	Holy communion at St Mary's, Denbigh

The Rev. Dan Morgan, currently assistant curate in Mold Hub Church, has been appointed to Denbigh Mission Area. He will be the new priest for Mission and Community Engagement, with pastoral care of the church of St Tyrnog. He will start his work in November.

Dyffryn chapel

01/09	5.00	Rev. Morris Puw Morris
08/09	9.45	Rev. Andras Iago (Communion)
15/09	11.00	Rev. Ifor Ap Gwilym
22/09	5.00	Rev. Robert Parry
29/09	11.00	Rev. Andras Iago

Congratulations to Gwenan, Pen y Bryn who won the Cerdd Dant Solo 16–21 at the National Eisteddfod at Rhondda Cynon Tâf. She also played the role of the traditional Eisteddfod Mother in the musical comedy 'Mess ar y Maes' (*Mess on the Field*), which was performed on the Eisteddfod field during the week. She was also involved in the script-writing and composing some of the songs.

Congratulations to Beca, Elinor and Tomos in the A Level exams, and best wishes for the future.

Denbighshire County Council

Merfyn Parry



Contact details

Mobile: 07836 208446

E-mail: merfyn.parry@denbighshire.gov.uk

Or leave a message on **Facebook**

Musical Presentation by Rev. Robert Parry, BMus, BD, Liverpool

Sunday, 22 September at 5pm
at Dyffryn Chapel

Tickets £10, children free

Proceeds towards Chapel buildings and
St Kentigern Hospice



Rural Connections Advice Service Denbighshire



The service will include advice on how to maximise income, welfare benefits advice, debt advice, household energy advice, family law, housing advice and wider holistic advice. Most advice will be available in Welsh and English.

Every Friday from 10am to 12pm - Starting Friday 23rd August 2024
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Advice is offered by appointment only

Please contact Eleri Jones on 01824 719 623 or email: advice@dcab.co.uk

Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan History Society



Elfed Williams, 2nd left foreground, with members of the History Society at St Dyfnog's well

Llais Llandyrnog Voice Committee:

Ruth Griffith (chair), Ivan Butler (treasurer & composer), Anwen Davies (composer & 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.

Members and friends of Llandyrnog and Llangwyfan Local History Society enjoyed a wonderful visit in July to St Dyfnog's Church, Well and Almshouses in Llanrhaeadr followed by a tea, talk and tour of The Laundry Garden.

A special thank you to June Hughes, who gave an historical account of the church; to Elfed Williams, who gave a detailed account of the restoration of the St Dyfnog's Well; and to Jenny and Tom Williams of The Laundry Garden who explained the recent developments.

The next Society meeting will be on Wednesday 16 October at 7pm when Gareth Evans will talk about Landed Estates of the Vale of Clwyd – all welcome.

For further information, e-mail: llangwyfanhistory@hotmail.com.



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**** SAVE THE DATE ****

**Concert on Saturday,
12th October at 7pm
in the Village Hall.
Caerwys Male Voice Choir
and talented local young
musicians.**

**Tickets £10; children free.
Proceeds to St Tyrnog's Church.**

Llandyrnog craft workshops

Monthly craft workshops for adults are held at the Cocoa Rooms. There is a new craft to learn every month, with hopefully a finished piece to take home.

Workshops are £25pp, which includes all materials, plus tea, coffee and biscuits.

If anybody is interested, please leave a message for more details. Helen
hbrookhouse@yahoo.co.uk

September: Peg loom wall art

A simple weaving loom to create your own wall art using natural dyed wool.

Thursday, 19 September 7–9pm

Saturday, 21 September 10am–12pm

October: Copper wire bracelet

Make your own copper and glass bead bracelet.

Thursday, 24 October 7–9pm

Saturday, 26 October 10am–12pm



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Recipe

Turkey loaf

Ingredients

- 500g turkey breast mince
- 1 onion finely chopped
- 1 carrot grated
- 1 red pepper finely diced
- 1 courgette grated
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 2 tsp garlic granules
- 50g breadcrumbs
- 1 egg beaten
- oil to fry
- 1 chicken stock pot
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the glaze

- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 1 tsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- ½ tsp sugar
- ½ tsp garlic granules
- 1 tbsp water

Method

Preheat the oven to 180 °C. Over a medium heat, sauté the onion, carrot, pepper and courgette in a little oil, for 5 minutes until soft. Stir in the chicken stock pot until dissolved.

Allow to cool for a couple of minutes.

While the vegetables are cooling, put all the ingredients for the glaze into a small bowl and mix well.

Place the turkey, breadcrumbs, garlic granules, oregano and egg into a large bowl.

Add the cooled vegetables and mix well.

Season with salt and black pepper.

Put the turkey mix into an oven-proof dish.

Brush with the glaze.

Place in the preheated oven for 30–35 minutes.

When cooked, allow to rest for 5 minutes, before serving with your choice of accompaniments.

The Wright Stuff

Harvest is such an important time of the year and a signal summer is drawing to a close. The countryside will soon be cleared of crops and we all start to prepare for the winter. In my younger days, I would help my neighbour bring in the hay. The day would be drawing to a close and we would start to eagerly await that last bale. 'Ahh that's the one I have been looking for' the old farmer would say to us, implying we had been searching for it all day. That last bale had a significance and we would all climb up onto the top of the load for that last journey up the farm track to load the elusive last bale onto the elevator into the Dutch barn.

Traditionally at harvest time farm labourers would weave the last corn stalks into a 'corn dolly,' as it represented the spirit of the corn and was kept ensuring a good harvest next year. I watch for the moment the silage contractors leave – first the spinner, then the tractors with those enormous bins and finally the forager turns into the field opposite to chug away into the distance. Suddenly everything is quite again with just the red kites floating over the fields in search of any rabbits. I breathe a sigh of relief that my trusty road cone has prevented any damage to the house for another year.



Hazel's father at harvest-time

My grandmother and her family used to escape the polluted London area for their annual late summer holiday where they would help with the harvest including working in the hop fields in Kent; it provided a welcomed breath of fresh air for them.

So how has 2024 been? For me there have

been failures and successes. The onions were a disaster; my soil was far too wet in the spring to plant the onions sets and so they were late going in and then never really grew. The runner beans have loved the wet, cooler conditions with lots of green growth and flowers. I enjoy picking a bean straight from the plant and eating it – juicy with that distinct flavour of late summer.

Every season is a learning experience even for veteran gardeners, there is always something unexpected with problems you haven't had before from pests and diseases to weather related issues. I have also had an awful aphid problem on the plum tree, the sticky substance they produce is annoying and it has been followed by a sooty mould fungus indicating the presence of a sap sucking insect. Washing the leaves isn't an option as I will be there forever, it's a large tree. I may prune it and leave the washing to the rain which will arrive at some point.

So if you have had some flops this year, try and figure out what has happened and make improvement for next year. Learning what works and what doesn't work is what gardening is about and not kicking yourself too much when you get failures. I think you have to be positive when gardening, there is not always rhyme nor reason to it. Each year is different and produces its own challenges and we all do the best we can with what weather and nature throws our way, it's all part of gardening some things will do well and others won't.

Hazel



Hazel at harvest-time

Fly-tipping



A very sad sight in our beautiful countryside here in Llandyrnog – random overnight fly-tipping by the treatment plant. Not the work of local residents, that's certain. This is probably the work of an unlicensed carrier – a cowboy carrier. They will respond to a social media request for removal of rubbish – cash only, drive out into the country and fly tip.

So we all have a part to play here. If you do have rubbish to be cleared and no friendly neighbour to take it to the skip site, make sure you use a licensed carrier. Ask to see their licence and if practically possible, a copy of the transfer note, i.e where has the rubbish been taken. If they are unwilling or uncomfortable with a transfer note – stay clear. You may well have innocently left evidence of your address in the pile of rubbish. So when the Council does a forensic search – which it will – you can be traced. That is why it's important that you know who you are dealing with.

These unlicensed traders will be cruising our lanes during the day for a recce to find a place where they think is safe to tip, and will return under cover of darkness. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious vans or tipper pick-ups to 101 – a county-wide pattern may emerge.

Becky Gittins, MP for Clwyd East
becky.gittins.mp@parliament.co.uk

Llandyrnog Hub Thanks

The Llandyrnog Hub ladies were delighted recently to receive some thank-you messages:

The first was from the Denbigh Food Bank. We gave them £200 at Christmas from our collections and a total of 10.4 kg of food during the last year which made a big difference to local people in crisis. We were so pleased this went to good use.

Secondly a lovely letter from Wales Air Ambulance thanking us for donating a total of £1300. They made us aware how important the donations are – we all know the Air Ambulance provides a very speedy paramedic service in traumatic circumstances, but they also have a dedicated critical care team who can intervene in the most complex and urgent cases. They are able to give anaesthetic and ventilator support when required to keep the patient going until they get to hospital. This is such a vital service we are so lucky to have in Wales and we were proud to be able to support them.

Thank you Llandyrnog for helping us to help others.

Anne, Gwen, Carolyn, Glynis and Penelope

Tŷ Ceffyl Bach

We had a lovely day at our Summertime at Tŷ Ceffyl Bach event. Thank you to everyone who joined us. The prosecco and strawberries were enjoyed by all, making a happy shopping experience. We hope you enjoyed as much as we did. We now look forward to our Christmas event.

