

DYFFRYN YMLAEN

**GAEAF
2024
40c**

**Cylchlythyr
Cyngor Cymuned
Dyffryn Clydach**



**Newsletter of the
Dyffryn Clydach
Community Council**

**WINTER
2024
40p**

Additional copies available from the Editor, Chantele Cross-Jones
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To include local interest items please contact the Editor or your local Councillor
Er mwyn cynnwys eitemau o ddiddordeb lleol cysylltwch â'r Golygydd neu'ch Cynghorwr lleol



© Cross-Jones
Photography



EDITOR'S NOTE • GOLYGYDDOL

Hello everyone and welcome to the Winter 2024 edition of Dyffryn Ymlaen.

We hope you have all had a great 2024 so far. Sadly our summer seemed to be short lived, but it has been lovely to see lots of children using the park this year

and many people enjoying walks along the river and waterfalls.

Although the winter may bring with it some rain, it also means lots of festive happenings in and around our area. With the return of the much loved Christmas Tractor parade, our Christmas party and a festive carol service, there is something for all the family to enjoy. You'll find info on each within this issue.

Most of you will have noticed I am a new face in the Dyffryn Clydach Community Council, having joined as a Councillor earlier this year, and recently taken over as Chair of the Communications Committee. For those who don't know me, I'm Chantele, I live on Taillwyd Road, I'm a mum of 2 and run Cross-Jones Photography and Little Green Shed Studios with my husband Jon. You are most likely to see me out with a camera in hand, busy hosting PTA events for Bryncoch Church School or being pulled along by 2 energetic black spaniels down by the river or up on the mountain.

There have been a few changes for the council this year with our last Chair Cllr. James Henton stepping down and the lovely Cllr. Nicola Evans stepping into the role. Plus we have also welcomed Mrs Andrea Mateo into the role of Clerk, alongside a number of new councillors, like myself, to help support and represent the area.

It is lovely to have seen so many events take place this year, hosted by your Halls Committee. We as a council are focussed on bringing the community together and providing events and entertainment for all throughout the year.

Our new clerk has her office based at the hall and is available during her office hours for anyone wishing to book the hall for their own events, groups or classes.

Should you wish to have anything considered for the spring/summer edition of Dyffryn Ymlaen, or would like to promote a group or event taking place, please do get in touch.

We are currently working to update our new website to be able to provide you with more up to date information on the council and local area. You will find event info shared on our Facebook page also.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chantele

Helo bawb, a chroeso i rifyn Gaeaf 2024 o Dyffryn Ymlaen.

Gobeithio fod 2024 wedi bod yn wych i chi hyd yn hyn. Yn anffodus, digon byr fu'r haf, ond roedd hi'n hyfryd gweld llawer o blant yn defnyddio'r parc eleni, a nifer o bobl yn mwynhau mynd i gerdded ar hyd glan yr afon a'r rhaeadrau.

Er y gall y gaeaf ddod â glaw yn ei sgil, mae hefyd yn golygu llawer o ddigwyddiadau tymhorol yn ein hardal a'r cyffiniau. Gyda dychweliad yr orymdaith Tractorau Nadolig sydd mor boblogaidd, ein parti Nadolig a gwasanaeth carolau i gael pawb yn ysbryd yr Ŵyl, mae rhywbeth y gall pawb ei fwynhau. Fe welwch hi wybodaeth am bob digwyddiad yn y rhifyn hwn.

Bydd llawer ohonoch wedi sylwi fy mod i'n wyneb newydd ar Gyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach, ar ôl i mi ymuno fel Cyngorydd yn gynt eleni, ac rwyf newydd gamu i Gadeiryddiaeth y Pwyllgor Cyfathrebu. I unrhyw un sydd ddim yn fy adnabod, Chantele ydw i, dwi'n byw ar Heol Tai-llwyd, dwi'n fam i ddwy ac yn rhedeg Cross-Jones Photography a Little Green Shed Studios gyda fy ngŵr Jon. Rydych chi'n fwyaf tebygol o ngweld i mas gyda chamera yn fy llaw, yn cynnal digwyddiadau CRhA ar gyfer Ysgol Eglwysig Bryncoch, neu'n cael fy llusgo gan ddau sbaniel du brwdfrydig lawr at yr afon neu lan i'r mynydd.

Bu sawl newid i'r cyngor eleni, wrth i'n Cadeirydd diwethaf, y Cyngorydd James Henton gamu i lawr, a'r hyfryd Gynghorydd Nicola Evans yn camu i'r swydd. Hefyd, rydym wedi croesawu Mrs Andrea Mateo i swydd y Clerc, law yn llaw â sawl cyngorydd newydd, fel fi, fydd yn helpu i gefnogi a chynrychioli'r ardal.

Mae'n hyfryd gallu gweld cynifer o ddigwyddiadau eleni, dan nawdd Pwyllgor y Neuadd. Rydyn ni fel cyngor eisiau canolbwyntio ar ddod â'r gymuned ynghyd a darparu digwyddiadau ac adloniant ar gyfer y flwyddyn gron.

Mae gan ein clerc newydd swyddfa yn y neuadd, ac mae hi ar gael yn ystod ei horiau swyddfa ar gyfer helpu unrhyw un sydd eisiau archebu'r neuadd ar gyfer cynnal eu digwyddiadau, grwpiau neu ddosbarthiadau'u hunain.

Pe baech chi eisiau i ni ystyried unrhyw beth ar gyfer rhifyn y gwanwyn / haf o Dyffryn Ymlaen, neu os hoffech hybu grŵp neu ddigwyddiad, peidiwch ag oedi cyn cysylltu.

Rydyn ni wrthi'n gweithio ar hyn o bryd i ddiweddarau ein gwefan er mwyn rhoi gwybodaeth fwy cyfredol i chi am y cyngor a'r ardal leol. Fe welwch ein bod ni'n rhannu gwybodaeth am ddigwyddiadau ar ein tudalen Facebook hefyd.

Gan ddymuno Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi oll

Chantele

Welcome to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tregeles

Our school is a thriving family-based community, and our aim is to be a place where children learn and families gather knowing that everyone's wellbeing is at the forefront of all our learning.

Vision

Together our children, staff, parents, governors, and community are all part of the Teulu Tregeles (Tregeles Family). A family that will grow, host happy memories, and provide a strong foundation for development and growth as our children grow to be unique individuals.

Exciting future

Our teaching is stimulating and creative, encouraging our children to continue their education outside of school, and become lifelong learners. We want to ignite interest in the world around them, and for that interest to lead to fulfilling and imaginative lives. Learning should be fun.

Strong pastoral support

We take a pride in offering strong pastoral support in a safe learning environment where every child and adult is valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential. We aim to prepare every child for the future so they can achieve the highest standards in their personal development, building resilience and encouraging perseverance.

Parent partnership

Our parents say:

"Ysgol Gymraeg Tregeles is a happy and welcoming school with a family orientated atmosphere and caring staff who put the well-being of the pupils first. Since our son began at the school in January, we have already seen him develop and progress and we are thrilled to be part of the Tregeles family"

Ryhs and Naomi Griffiths

Come and look around!

I hope that our prospectus gives you an insight and understanding of our aim to provide an exciting curriculum that stimulates young minds and incorporates outdoor learning. We would be delighted to welcome you to our school. Please call the school office on 01792 966655 to arrange a visit and see why our school is so special.

Leanne Vaughan, Headteacher



Pets Corner – Who is your Pampered Pet?

Alfie

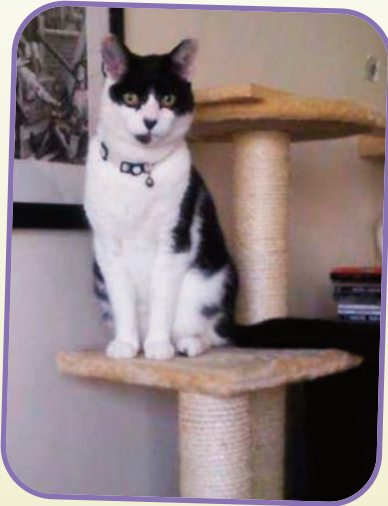
Alfie is a life-long resident of the Longford area and has had an eventful 18 years. After spending time in his youth as a drifter, he decided to adopt his current family about 12 years ago, by simply breaking in through the cat-flap and not leaving.

His favorite pastimes include singing on the street in the early hours of the morning and wearing hats. Alfie also spent much of his youth sunbathing whenever he could, but this unfortunately led to a brush with skin cancer and the tops of his ears being removed, resulting in his distinctive appearance. His dislikes include; any black and white cat that looks like him, fighting them any chance he gets, we have no idea why, as he tolerates other types of cat.

Alfie remains active in the community, constantly patrolling and monitoring the goings-on in the area. When off duty he likes to sleep in warm places and eat expensive cat food and treats.

Even though Alfie is heading into old age he continues to entertain the neighborhood with his singing, as well as making everyone aware if strange cats are in the area.

Steve Jones



Opie & Bolt

Opie is a 10 year old working cocker spaniel who has been with his family since he was a puppy. Bolt is a sprocker who was rescued in June this year, we think he is 2 years old. Sadly he very underweight and hadn't been treated well when he arrived, he was scared of loud noises and quite timid. But he is now a lot healthier and very happy, although still hates the Hoover!

Both boys are full of energy and live up to their spaniel stereotype. They loved to go on really long walks, swimming in the river and playing fetch. If you walk along the Cwm you may occasionally see them doing zooms around their garden, or in some cases Bolt attempting to scale the fence (which he has managed on a number of occasions!)

When at home they love nothing more than playing with their mini owners Elian and Effie, and curling up for a good nap on the sofa.

Elian and Effie Cross-Jones



Abbey Primary School

I am pleased to inform the community that our new school carpark opened on Monday 4th November. Can we thank the community for their patience and understanding whilst the carpark was being built.

Please take a look at our new school website at abbeyprimaryschool.com

Thank you to all our parents and carers who donated food for our Harvest collection. Mr. Kevin Hodder, Headteacher, our Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy will be delivering the donations to our local food bank.



Miss Eleanor
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I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand

nurturing natural ability

tiny toes ballet
learning through dance

The UK's first pre-school
dance programme fully integrated with the
Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum
Give your child a head start!



The Longford Christmas parade was a great success last year

Last Christmas Eve 2023, Ty Canol Farm's Marvin family brought thrills of excitement to the streets of Longford when Santa dropped by on Christmas Eve to deliver some Christmas spirit (and chocolates of course) to the families of Dyffryn Clydach. The event was bigger and better than in 2022 and we are incredibly lucky that Santa has agreed to visit again this Christmas Eve. The streets were thronged with families and excited children shrieking with delight and waving to Santa as he sat resplendently on his sleigh which was pulled by 2 of his reindeer. Santa was accompanied by an entourage of elves who helped deliver selection boxes to the children both on the route and at the memorial hall following the parade, which had been opened especially, due to the inclement weather.

Santa has been in touch again to say he enjoyed his visit so much last year, he is keen to do it again.

Due to time constraints on his busiest night of the year, the parade will travel once more through Longford on a set route which will be carefully planned to accommodate the tractor and trailer as not all roads are viable to travel along with such a large vehicle the time and route will be provided closer to the day.



The Street - 'On Which I Grew Up On'

This feature has become a regular in the Ymlaen Magazine over the past few years, so it is my intention to carry it forward for future issues. Feedback has shown that these memory flashbacks resonate with lots of residents who have lived in the community for many years. Today's memory comes from Kathryn Absalom who is still a resident of Longford having lived here all her life

Kathryn Absalom - Longford Girl, Always

My earliest memories of growing up in Longford is that of complete accountability. If you failed to say 'Thank You' in the local shop your mother knew about it before you got home. CCTV may not have existed but the ladies on the cream line bus did! They reported back on any misdemeanours in their rollers and scarves. Neighbours were extended family, all 'Aunties' and 'Uncles'.

Need new clothes? See 'Aunty' Ethal. Got growing pains? Go see 'Aunty' Margaret. They gave unconditional attention and often money. My neighbour, 'Uncle' Joe Davies would take me along on outings to the beach. First sign of a bucket and spade, I was there with a towel and a hopeful expression.

The veg man delivered fruit and veg. Whilst milk came slowly via Champion, the wonder horse and June the Milk. An old cockle-woman dressed in black sold cockles around the doors, and any old clothes were rewarded with crayons and balloons by the rag and bone man.

Harris the Shop would never have achieved a food hygiene rating. I once bought a tin of peaches that had a competition dates from five years earlier.

Sunday School and Band of Hope gave us a moral compass. Although biscuits and squash was a bigger attraction than eternal redemption. The Whitsun March, complete with white gloves and a straw hat was an annual event.

Playing up the woods and in 'bomb hole', but my favourite game was always 'camping'. This meant building a precarious den of blankets and branches, and often



involved jam sandwiches and squash.

Longford kids were safe, robust and had lots of freedom. Even now when the mirror is not my friend, I am proud to say, I am a Longford Girl, now and always.

If you would like to submit a memory or story for consideration in the Spring/Summer issue of the magazine please send an email to chantelecrossjones@gmail.com.

Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Hall – For Hire

Are you looking for a venue to hire for a party, a community group, training?

Look no further than us.

We have a seated capacity of 70 and standing of 100, kitchen and disabled facilities.

Reasonable rates guaranteed!

For further details contact the Clerk via DyffrynClydach@outlook.com

Notice to Dog Walkers Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Park

We have a beautiful, well maintained childrens play park situated at The Drive, however it has come to our attention that there are dog walkers who are allowing their dogs into the park. There are many fields and woodlands in the area where they can be walked freely, and we really want to keep this a clean and safe place for our young people and ask that your canine friends are kept out at all times.



Please do not be offended if you are asked to leave the park with your dog.

Celebrating Inter Reflex: Dance Wales UK's Rising Stars Shine with 'Alice in Wonderland'

In a remarkable year for local talent, the Inter Reflex team from Dance Wales UK has captured the community's admiration with their outstanding achievements in Acro competitions across the region. This spirited team, comprised of 14 girls aged 7 to 12, has not only brought home top honours but has also wowed audiences with their creative and imaginative routine, *Alice in Wonderland*.

Inter Reflex's success is nothing short of inspiring. Their journey this season has taken them to the podium at multiple prestigious events. At Magnetar Events, they earned 1st place in the Acrobatic Groups category—a victory that highlighted their agility, precision, and the countless hours of dedication they put into training. This win was just the beginning, as Inter Reflex continued their streak with a 1st place finish at *Move It Shake It*, an event that celebrates dynamic and expressive performances.

One of their crowning achievements came at the *Born 2 Perform* competition, where they not only clinched the 1st place trophy but were also awarded the coveted *Original Concept Award*. This special recognition honoured the team's creative interpretation of *Alice in Wonderland*, bringing to life the whimsical, fantastical characters and storylines in a way that captured the hearts of judges and audiences alike. Their routine, filled with energetic acrobatics, playful expressions, and storytelling flair, transported viewers into a wonderland of their own, showcasing the team's versatility and innovation.

The success of Inter Reflex is a testament to the incredible work and commitment of Dance Wales UK in fostering young talent. Their emphasis on creativity, teamwork, and discipline shines through in every performance, allowing these young dancers to express themselves confidently and develop lifelong skills. Behind each leap and pirouette are dedicated instructors and supportive families who encourage the dancers to aim high and follow their passion for dance.

For Inter Reflex, the thrill of competing and achieving their goals is matched only by the friendships they've built



along the way. As a team, they have grown stronger together, learning to support and motivate one another through challenges and triumphs. They are not only dancers but also role models for other young people in the community, inspiring peers to pursue their dreams with enthusiasm and dedication.

As the year draws to a close, the achievements of Inter Reflex remind us of the power of community, creativity, and commitment. Their journey has just begun, and there is no doubt that they will continue to captivate audiences and make Dance Wales UK proud. Here's to Inter Reflex—our very own stars of *Alice in Wonderland*—and to many more successes in the years to come.

Want to get your kids involved check out Dance Wales UK on FB or www.dancewalesuk.co.uk



‘A Window on the Past: Bryncoch’s Coal Mining Heritage’ by Jeff Griffiths

How many of today’s Bryncoch’s residents know that they’re living in a former coal mining community? This thought occurred to me when looking through St Matthew’s church’s registers. Bryncoch’s reliance on coal mining is overwhelmingly evident from the job titles that appear in the old baptism registers. A large number of the early entries describe the fathers as being, variously, collier, miner, coal tipper, haulier, colliery ostler (caring for the pit ponies), shunter, fitter, tram repairer, and mechanical or electrical engineer, all of these being roles in the local coal mining industry.

The village’s principal employer at the start of the last century was the Main Colliery Company which mined 8 million tons of coal between 1897 and 1918. The Company, formed by the Moore family, had amalgamated a number of smaller pits in the area including those at Neath Abbey and Skewen. Three of the Company’s pits were at Bryncoch where they mined the Graigola and Victoria seams. At the height of its working over 500 men were employed by the Company in Bryncoch. But the state of the national economy in the 1920s, and especially of an ailing coal industry, would be all too starkly reflected locally. In 1924 the Main Colliery Company’s work force went on strike. While mining resumed in 1926, overseas markets had been lost and the Company closed in December 1928, owing considerable debts when formally wound up. St. Matthew’s Easter vestry minutes in 1930 recorded that the pit-head machinery was being dismantled. Most evidence of mining has now all but gone at the Main Colliery’s site which was near the Bryncoch Sports Club. This closure brought an end to industrial-scale coal mining in the Bryncoch area which had first been recorded in 1772.



The financial fortunes of the family whose ancestor, Howel Gwyn, had founded St. Matthew’s Church were intimately bound up with Bryncoch’s coal mining industry. The Church’s benefactor had married into the Moore family and the Squires of Dyffryn received royalties for the coal mined on the estate, an income that dwindled then ceased altogether in the 1920s.



By 1927 Dyffryn mansion, which had already been vacated for a few years, and its estate was offered for sale. Plans to transform the mansion into a hospital or similar institution failed to materialise and the estate was divided into lots and sold. The fixtures of Dyffryn mansion, which had contained splendid furniture, fine paintings, choice pieces of Swansea china and a large library, were disposed of in 1931. The organ from the mansion was given to Abercrave Church and the sculpted busts of Mr. and Mrs. Howel Gwyn came to St. Matthew’s Church. By 1932 the family’s residence that had stood prominently on the lower slopes of Drumau mountain since 1855 had been demolished, some of the stone being employed to build houses in the locality. The Moore-Gwyn family continued to reside for some years at Longford Court before later moving to Hampshire.

The disappearance of the Squires of Dyffryn was part of a massive social change in Britain that happened between the two World Wars. When I wrote the centenary history of St. Matthew’s in 1971 there were many villagers who still remembered life under the old established order in which the gentry dispensed patronage and expected to receive



The column in church register where the names of the fathers of the baptised were entered is headed ‘Quality, Trade or Profession’. The first of these descriptions applied to those few who are simply described as ‘Gentlemen’ and principal amongst these locally were the Moore-Gwyns. Joseph Edward Moore, the eldest son of Mrs. Howel Gwyn’s brother, had succeeded to the Dyffryn estate in 1900 and, in compliance with Howel Gwyn’s will, had assumed the additional name of Gwyn by Royal Licence.

deference (one villager recalled as a boy being summoned before the village school's headmaster for not doffing his cap when a member of the Moore-Gwyns passed by). With the closure within a few short years of both the Main Colliery Company and Dyffryn mansion, with the range of employment opportunities that it too had provided (a photo taken around 1900 showed sixteen house servants), Bryncoch, then so much smaller a village than today, experienced a severe economic blow.

Many in the village went to fight for their country in the two World Wars. The parish magazine recorded the profound impact of the First World War upon this community: fifteen men died and others bore the scars of battle on their return. The heroism of those who fought in the First World War can be judged from the five Military Medals and a Distinguished Conduct Medal awarded to the enlisted men of the village. Captain (later Colonel) Howel Moore-Gwyn, son of the Squire, was a highly decorated soldier who received the Distinguished Service Order, the Military Cross, and the Croix de Guerre in his army career. In 1919, Norman Harvey, who won the Victoria Cross for outstanding acts of bravery when just 19 years-old, married a villager who was serving in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

Someone is described as an 'oil refiner' in 1921, the same year that the National Oil Refinery at Llandarcy was commissioned. This new, modern industry would become a major employer in the area, proving a successor to that older fuel source, coal. The baptismal register also shows that there were those with ties to the village who played a part in the wider British Empire: two fathers, who were both recorded as being mining engineers, had addresses in, respectively, Shanghai in China and in Southern Rhodesia (modern Zimbabwe).

Illustrating the changing mode of transport in those times, one of the Dyffryn servants is described as both 'Coachman and Chauffeur'. The Moore-Gwyns were the first family in the area to own a motorcar after the turn of the century. A newspaper report from 1905 tells how Mrs. Moore-Gwyn and her son, while being chauffeur driven through Margam, escaped unhurt after a bull charged at their car. In November 1912, an eight-year-old girl knocked down in Bryncoch became one of the earliest road fatalities in the district. An entry in 1929 records one father as being an Automobile Association patrolman. The AA, founded in 1905, had been patrolling on motorcycles since 1910. Older readers will recall military-style uniformed AA and RAC patrolmen, riding motorcycles with box sidecars, who would deliver smart salutes as they drove past any badged member of their motoring organisations.

The dangers of child birth in the early part of the last century are reflected by entries which record baptisms held shortly after the mother's own death: one poignantly records the child as being baptised "over the coffin of her mother". The high death rate among infants too is graphically reflected in the burial register which shows that, of the 75 recorded interments between 1872 - the year of the first burial at St. Matthew's - and 1892, nearly half the deaths were of children aged five years or under. In those pre-National Health Service days, local residents would club together to subscribe towards the salary of a nurse to serve the area. In Bryncoch, an annual subscription of two shillings and sixpence (12½ p) enabled families to call on the services of Nurse Vaughan who took up her duties in May 1912. She was succeeded in 1914 by Nurse Lilian Garland who, during her long years of service in the village, tended many hundreds of patients and brought not a few of St. Matthew's parishioners into the world.

Book Corner

Angel Maker - Morgan Greene

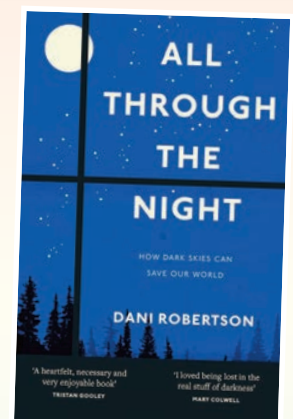
In *Angel Maker*, local author Morgan Greene introduces readers to Detective Inspector Jamie Johansson, a tenacious and resourceful investigator. Set against the moody backdrop of Scandinavia, this thriller follows Johansson as she hunts down a merciless killer known as the "Angel Maker" who leaves behind a chilling trail of victims. Greene deftly intertwines a suspenseful plot with complex character development, as Johansson faces both the brutal realities of her case and the unresolved trauma of her past. This intense,

atmospheric novel is the first in a gripping series that has quickly captivated thriller enthusiasts, showcasing Greene's skill in crafting immersive, character-driven mysteries.



All Through the Night: Why Our Lives Depend on Dark Skies by Dani Robertson

In *All Through the Night: Why Our Lives Depend on Dark Skies*, Dani Robertson reveals the vital importance of natural darkness for ecosystems, human well-being, and our cultural connection to the night. As a Dark Sky Officer for Snowdonia National Park, Robertson explains how light pollution not only disrupts the natural behaviors of plants and animals but also affects mental and physical health. Through personal stories and scientific insights, she encourages readers to embrace darkness and protect it, challenging our society's reliance on artificial light. Her work underscores that preserving the night sky is essential to maintaining our world's balance, offering simple yet impactful actions to reduce light pollution and reconnect with the nocturnal environment. *All Through the Night* is both a poetic celebration of darkness and an urgent plea to protect one of our planet's most endangered landscapes: the night sky.



Low Cost – 3 Step – Winter Warmer Recipes

Leek, Potato & Chorizo Soup



Ingredients

- 850g potatoes (such as Maris Piper or any floury variety), cut into 2cm chunks
- 1.6 litre chicken stock (see tip below)
- 3 large leeks, sliced into thick rounds
- 225g cooking chorizo, skin removed, thickly sliced (or use smoked lardons)
- 40g finely chopped parsley

Method

STEP 1

Tip the potatoes into a large pan with the stock and a large pinch of salt. Bring to a simmer and cook for 10 mins.

STEP 2

Meanwhile, put the leeks in a bowl and rinse to remove any grit. Add the leeks and chorizo to the pan, season and simmer for another 15-20 mins until the leeks and potatoes are cooked through.

STEP 3

When ready, the potatoes and leeks should be almost falling apart and very tender when pierced with a knife, and the stock should be shimmering with the fat from the chorizo. Season to taste, then remove from the heat and stir through the parsley. Leave to rest for 5 mins, then ladle into deep bowls, grind over a little black pepper, if you like, and serve with thick slices of sourdough.

Winter Vegetable Soup

Ingredients

- 85g dried red lentils
- 2 carrots, quartered lengthways then diced
- 3 sticks celery, sliced
- 2 small leeks, sliced
- 2 tbsp tomato purée
- 1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves
- 3 large garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 tbsp vegetable bouillon powder
- 1 heaped tsp ground coriander

Method

STEP 1

Tip all the ingredients into a large pan. Pour over 1½ litres boiling water, then stir well.

STEP 2

Cover and leave to simmer for 30 mins until the vegetables and lentils are tender.

STEP 3

Ladle into bowls and eat straightaway, or if you like a really thick texture, blitz a third of the soup with a hand blender or in a food processor.



CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS • GAIR O GADAIR Y CADEIRYDD

The past 18 months has been a difficult one for Dyffryn Clydach Community Council, especially with the changes to our Council membership and staffing. Having experienced retirements, resignations and recruitment, I feel that we are now in a much-improved position with a strong future ahead.

At the beginning of June this year we have welcomed Mrs Andrea Mateo as our new RFO and Clerk and we have found that she is more than meeting our expectations of the role, she is an extremely committed individual who has faced the challenges head on and is focussed on assisting and supporting us with our visions for the future of the Community Council.

We have also recruited a new grounds/handyperson this year who is doing a fantastic job of reinstating and maintaining the grounds of the Memorial Hall, playpark, Orchard at Lon Glynfelin and woodlands to a high level to ensure that the community can continue to fully enjoy the areas within our ward.

This year, we have held events to celebrate Easter with an annual Easter Egg Hunt, a D Day Commemoration Tea Party which featured 1940's themed food including homemade Rabbit Pie and Spam sandwiches and a Family Scavenger Hunt which took participants right around the ward, many finding places they have never been, but plan to in the future. Upcoming events include The Christmas Carol Service to be held this year at St Johns Church on the 11th of December and the Christmas Party which will also incorporate the celebration of the 130th year of Dyffryn Clydach Parish/Community Council.

This year, we will continue to support Ty Canol Farm with their Christmas Eve Tractor Run and ensure that children in the community receive free selection boxes.

I would also like to give mention to the groups who continue to hold their sessions at the Memorial Hall that include Longford Short Mat Bowls, Parkinsons Group, Longford Over 50's Club, Community Links, Helping Hands, Friday Night Fundraising Bingo and Tiny Toes Ballet; I would like to offer thanks to these local groups who really keep our community spirit alive and hope to see this continue for many years to come.

Just a reminder that more community events are planned for 2024/25 by us and our hall users, so keep an eye out on our Facebook page **Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach Community Council** and posters in the community for more details.

Cllr. Nicola Evans

Mae'r 18 mis diwethaf wedi bod yn gyfnod anodd i Gyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach, yn enwedig yn sgil y newidiadau i aelodaeth ein Cyngor a staffio. Ar ôl gweld sawl ymddeoliad, ymddiswyddiad a recriwtio, teimlaf ein bod ni bellach mewn safle llawer gwell, gyda dyfodol cryf o'n blaen.

Ar ddechrau mis Mehefin eleni, fe fu i ni groesawu Mrs Andrea Mateo fel RFO a Chlerc newydd, ac rydym wedi canfod ei bod hi'n tra rhagori r ein disgwyliadau o'r swydd, mae hi'n unigolyn hynod ymroddedig sydd wedi wynebu'r heriau ar eu talcen, ac sy'n canolbwyntio ar ein cynorthwyo a'n cefnogi gyda'n gweledigaeth ar gyfer dyfodol y Cyngor Cymuned.

Rydym ni wedi recriwtio person i drin y tir a gwneud mân swyddi eleni hefyd, ac mae'r unigolyn yn gwneud gwaith rhagorol o ailosod a chynnal tir y Neuadd Goffa, y parc chware, y Berllan yn Lôn Gynfelin a'r goedwig i safon uchel iawn, er mwyn sicrhau y gall y gymuned barhau i fwynhau'r ardaloedd hyn o fewn ein ward yn llawn.

Eleni, fe gynhalion ni ddigwyddiadau i ddathlu'r Pasg gyda Helfa Wyau Pasg flynyddol, Te Parti i Goffau D-Day, oedd yn cynnwys bwyd ar thema'r 1940au gan gynnwys Pastai Cwningen cartref a brechdanau Spam, ynghyd â Helfa Fforio i'r Teulu, a arweiniodd y cyfranogwyr i bob twll a chornel o'r ward, a sawl un yn darganfod manau nad oedden nhw erioed wedi bod iddynt o'r blaen, ond gyda'r bwriad o ymweld eto. Ymysg y digwyddiadau sydd ar y gweill mae'r Gwasanaeth Carolau Nadolig a gynhelir eleni yn Eglwys Sant Ioan ar 11 Rhagfyr, a'r Parti Nadolig, a fydd hefyd yn cynnwys dathliad o 130-mlwyddiant Cyngor Plwyf / Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach.

Eleni byddwn ni'n parhau i gefnogi Fferm Tŷ Canol gyda'u Ras Tractorau ar Noswyl Nadolig, gan sicrhau y bydd plant yn y gymuned yn derbyn bocsys 'selection' losin am ddim.

Hoffwn hefyd sôn am y grwpiau sy'n parhau i gynnal eu sesiynau yn y Neuadd Goffa, sy'n cynnwys Bowlio Mat Byr Longford, Grŵp Parkinsons, Clwb Dros-50 Longford, Cyswllt Cymunedol, Dwylo Da, Bingo Elusennol Nos Wener, a Bale Tiny Toes; hoffwn ddiolch i'r holl grwpiau lleol hyn sydd wir yn cynnal ein hysbryd cymunedol, a gobeithio y gwelir hyn yn parhau am flynyddoedd lawer i ddod.

Dim ond i'ch atgoffa fod mwy o ddigwyddiadau cymunedol yn cael eu cynllunio ar gyfer 2024/25 gennym ni a chan ddefnyddwyr y neuadd, felly cadwch lygad ar ein tudalen Facebook **Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach Community Council** ac am bosteri yn y gymuned am ragor o fanylion.

Y Cyng. Nicola Evans

Winter Wonderland Wordsearch

T V E H R H N Y T N T H K S T Q W V Q C G T R N Z
 Q A K U O C Q S P S Z X R U D O L F K I J G P N Z
 X H B P J U C P F U Q S R K O P C L I V C G T L M
 S N U G G L E G X P H A H P E V D Y O J P Z L C Z
 O M D R B H F V K W H N N I M L B D R L E H Q Y G
 R E Y M T R J V K R P T G D F Q L L Z A P W U C S
 W Q H I A I E M I E R A S H M U L L E D W I N E V
 K I E N F P N Y G A E K P L T V R I J N D R N V W
 N W I C J B B S R T S X G T E N V S J U W Z S E N
 E I Z E O P I E E H E I X I C D E S D Q N S J H B
 R N Z P P H S S L N K C S L F D I N A L Z J A I
 A T Q I B R Z V N I T G B I X O R I J O K X S L P
 Q E A E N R A A O F S P W E C D M O N P W I B S B
 C R Y A P Y P C W J R M V O G L L A Z G X M T L V
 V I Y V J T E B F Y Q O D G N F E X P E K P A N J
 A G C R J E L M L D M K V P Z D D S S N N I K N Z
 G R G E V D V M A Y I I K N W M E Y R M G B L A B
 H W N I S W E Z K M S Y T P X A C R R D Y U J Q G
 W B A V O K S T E C R Z D T M U D T L P T W Y X O
 Y A T H W K A Y S G O J P G E S B C Q A B A Y F J
 V U I V P Y T T R L M Q W L I N E U E V N E N C W
 B B V U W L K Q I F O E P N C L S L Y A A D I L P
 Z L I R X Y J G Z N S H N V F Z V B L I Z Z A R D
 P E T T M O D Z P X G V F C G N F D W V B F T M Q
 N S Y F D F V R O G E L C C X C O E C X R H S C H

Wonderland
 Mulled Wine
 Sledding
 Icicles
 Snuggle
 Wreath
 Baubles

Ice Skating
 Mince Pie
 Nativity
 Mittens
 Winter
 Frozen
 Santa

Snowflakes
 Blizzard
 Presents
 Snowman
 Tinsel
 Rudolf
 Elves