

Additional copies available from Neath Abbey Post Office or from the Editor, Cllr Mrs Margaret Smith.

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To include local interest items please contact the Editor or your local Councillor.

Message from the Chairman of the Community Council

Dear Friends

I would like to thank the residents of Dyffryn Clydach for entrusting me with the position of Chairman for the third time. It is a great honour to represent an area of which I feel I know every nook and cranny. I was born and brought up here and attended all three local schools and I am proud to represent you all as your county borough member.

As in most communities, Dyffryn Clydach has its problem issues. Here, we are experiencing a major problem with excessive underage drinking. This is a major curse in our community. Ready access to alcohol is affecting the health of the young people in our community, their rowdy behaviour

resulting in litter and excessive noise. This is spoiling an otherwise good community. Let us all enjoy the holiday season without trouble.

It is largely a very caring community and this is reflected in the care the community council takes of our area. The refurbishment of our hall is now complete and we have many works planned for the future. In the spring we know you will enjoy the daffodil planting that is being done now by ourselves, community groups and local schools.

I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful

Christmas and I am sure we will see each other in the New Year.

Martyn Peters



The plaque bearing the names of local men who gave their lives was recently unveiled in Longford Memorial Hall by the former Chairman of Dyffryn Clydach Community Council, Cllr Harry Thomas who was inspired to create a permanent memorial. The service of dedication led by the Vicar of St John's, Rev Mark Williams, with singing from Bryncoch Male Voice Choir, was well attended by members of the public and representatives of local organisations and groups.

As the shadows of autumn lengthen and the year moves towards its end, thoughts will turn once again to remembering those who gave their lives for their country. This year our community will be honouring those from our midst who have made the supreme sacrifice. A plaque bearing their names was unveiled in the Longford Memorial Hall on October 22nd, 2007.

I was brought up in the same place as one of the young men named on the plaque. He was one of the older boys in the community when I was still a small boy. I remember him joining the RAF and volunteering for flying duties. When he came home on leave, smart and proud in his new

uniform, everyone in the village wished him well. Sadly this was not to be, because his aircraft crashed and there were no survivors. His parents' grief was shared by all the neighbours but there was also a quiet pride that one of their own had faced the Last Enemy and had not been found wanting.



Photo courtesy Neath Guardian

Each name on the memorial commemorates someone who was special to those who knew him. The plaque does not glorify war because war is not glorious. It inflicts suffering on the innocent and all too often robs humanity of the bravest and the best. But when nations are confronted with evil tyranny, war can sometimes be unavoidable. It brings out the worst and the best in people. From the midst of the horror can

shine forth the resilience, courage and self-sacrifice of the human spirit.

These men, whose names are commemorated, had this nobility of spirit. They were ordinary members of our community who did an extraordinary thing. They gave their lives so that the rest of us could live our lives in peace and freedom.

Harry Thomas

BARON SPOLASCO

Wednesday, 2nd January 1839 was a red-letter day for the people of Neath Abbey for it was the day that the celebrated Baron Spolasco, reputedly "the most celebrated practitioner of medicine and surgery in the world" paid a visit to the village to attend to the needs of the sick and infirm. In all, Spolasco claimed to be able to cure some eighty afflictions. He also sold an array of patent medicines many of which bore grandiose names such as "Balm of Spolasco", "Antiphroditic", "Life Preservers" and "Celebrated Oil of Venice".

To appreciate the significance of the occasion for the inhabitants we must remind ourselves that living conditions at the beginning of the nineteenth century were far removed from what they are now. Today, in the United Kingdom, life expectancy for a male is 75 and a female 80, whereas in 1840 the figures were 40 and 43 respectively. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the working class lived in unsanitary conditions that led to the outbreak of several epidemics. Between 1830 and 1840, typhus, influenza, cholera, measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever accounted for the loss of over a quarter of a million lives. There was no NHS, nor was there any sickness or retirement benefit, and the prospect of the dreaded workhouse loomed large in the minds of the long-term sick and the elderly. Ordinary people who were desperate to cure their ailments or prevent sickness often looked to travellers who went from place to place offering treatment and selling cures in the form of pills, lotions and ointments for their medical needs. Some of these travellers were "quacks" - boastful pretenders to medical skill - who concocted medicines that consisted mainly of water, sugar and alcohol, but others were more genuine and based their cures on well-established folk medicine.

Spolasco arrived mid-morning in his chariot and four with liveries of crimson, white, scarlet and gold. The correspondent of the *Cambrian* reported:

The Baron first drew up at the Star, Neath Abbey, where thousands were assembled to see him, the person who had done, or conferred (through God) immense good, on suffering fellow creatures, of every malady, during his

short residence (up to this period) of but three months in Swansea. The Baron remained nearly an hour to afford an opportunity of some of the worst cases being submitted to him; and to others he gave instructions to follow him to the Castle Inn, Neath, to which place he drove off at a rapid rate amid the joyous exclamations of the joyous multitude.

At least two inhabitants benefited from the Baron's fleeting visit for we learn that Mary James, on crutches and in poor health with extreme suffering from an ulcerated leg for eight years was cured in a fortnight. Such was her gratitude



The illustration shows the obverse side of a farthing token cast in his honour in 1838; on the reverse appears: "Jany 22D 1838 This Eminent Physician's 5,000 Recent Outstanding Cures and His Narrative of the Killarney Immortalise His Name, Swansea Sth Wales."

that she presented her crutches to the Baron. Seventy-two year old John King had worked at the iron works for over 40 years and an ulcerated leg had seriously impaired his health for the past 25 years. He had consulted a great many medical gentlemen in this neighbourhood, and country, but without effect, till my good fortune directed me to you.

The last reference to the Baron's activities in the Swansea area appears in the *Cambrian* of March 1845. He died in New York on the 6th September 1858. His obituary in *The Lancet* of December 1858 is headed: "The Last of the Block (Quack) Barons".

Baron Spolasco, judging from reports and testimonies alleviated a lot of pain and suffering and cured many illnesses and as a result was feted widely during his stay in the Swansea area.

[The Star Inn stood on the land where Glynfelin Flats now stand]

IMPORTANT ATTENTION ALL TODDLERS!

To secure funding and ensure a nursery place at the Early Years Unit of Neath Abbey Infants' School, parents must register their children in advance. For places from September 2008 this has to be done by the end of this year.

Admission forms and further details are available from the school, telephone 01792 812227.

DYFFRYN CLYDACH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Autumn Newsletter

We are pleased to announce the introduction of a scheme being launched in partnership with Neath Port Talbot Community Safety Partnership and the County Borough Trading Standards Office.

The “**Nominated Neighbour**” scheme aims to protect vulnerable members of the community by “nominating” a neighbour to deal with unknown visitors to their property.

A leaflet explaining the project is available; please read it and consider its benefits. Copies are available at local shops and post offices and at the monthly Neighbourhood Watch meetings. These are held on the second Monday of each month at the Longford Memorial Hall Committee Rooms. The “Nominated Neighbour” cards will be available from your street leader and from the Community Safety Team by calling 01639 889124 / 889162.

The **Anti-Social Behaviour Hotline 01639 889709** is well publicised and residents are encouraged to call

and report individuals who are having an adverse effect on the quality of their lives.

We would like to make residents aware of another “**scam**” which has been evident in the area recently. A member of our group has received notification of a very large win (over 615,000 euros) in an international lottery in Spain. This came about when a very considerate person bought a ticket on his behalf! Now all that remains is for him to fill in a simple form giving his bank details and the money will be paid over by a bank transfer – how kind is that? The document appears most convincing, with a “Spanish Government” logo and postal and e-mail addresses together with a telephone number. If you receive such a letter, do not reply – even as a joke – as you will further identify yourself with these con-men. **Please** contact the Trading Standards Officer at Neath Old Civic Centre or telephone Consumer Direct Wales on 0845 04 05 06. They are monitoring all cases of this type of incident.

The **Festive Season** is approaching once again, and our usual message goes out regarding safety and security of homes and possessions. Be good neighbours and look after the elderly and less able in the community – **then we'll all have a lovely time!**

Nature notes

Have you seen or heard a Buzzard, Sparrow Hawk or Peregrine Falcon recently? You may have also have come across a Red Kite, Goshawk, Tawny Owl, Little Owl, or even a Kestrel or Barn Owl, for all these birds of prey either reside in or visit our community. We are fortunate to see such a variety of species in Dyffryn Clydach. Why not keep a record of your sightings for future reference?

The Wildlife and Countryside Act is twenty-five years old this year, yet wildlife crime still exists with 142 bird-related incidents taking place last year. Egg collecting has been outlawed since 1954 (having just part of a wild bird's eggshell in your possession is a criminal offence) yet last year there were 72 recorded incidents of egg collecting with 16 involving our rarest species. In all, the number of eggs confiscated from illegal collections totalled 7,700.

Many species of birds leave their nesting grounds in late summer and early autumn, fly to warmer climates for the winter and return again in the spring. Most travel south to Africa using islands in the Mediterranean Sea as resting places. In addition to natural hazards, many birds are subjected to trapping and shooting. The main offenders are the Maltese. In a country of under half a million people there are nearly 12,000



*A Female
Sparrowhawk*

hunters and over 4,500 trappers - the ratio is six times higher than in any other European country. A phenomenal number of birds are slaughtered on their journey north each year, many of them extremely rare. The Maltese government, in not banning spring hunting, is in contravention of the European Birds Directive, and the European Commission has sent a final written warning to the island's government.

Let us hope that this measure will put an end to this heinous “sport”.

Neath Port Talbot Ramblers...

have once again completed a very successful summer walks programme with an increased membership which now stands at over eighty.

Members arranged and led walks in the Neath and Afan valleys as well as the Gower Peninsula and the Brecon Beacons. Travelling further afield, members enjoyed walks at St Davids and at Tintern Abbey.

New this year is an increased programme of shorter walks of no more than five miles. This caters for those people who are unable to participate in the longer walks.

The winter walks programme has just commenced again, with a walk every Sunday as well as many short walks.

The Secretary will be pleased to send out a walks programme. He may be contacted on 01656 733021 after 6.30pm.

Dyffryn Clydach Community Council hosts a calendar of events

throughout the year and we were pleased to welcome along more people than ever this year. We started in January with a party for Senior Hall users whilst February saw Cupid join us in the Valentine's disco. At Easter we held an Easter Egg Hunt and Disco which was attended by throngs of local children. Moving into the Summer we had an Open Bowls Session, Tea Dance, Quiz Night and Family Fun Day and an Historic Walk. The Children's Art Competition was judged and winners' work displayed at the Memorial Hall during the Fun Day. We had a short breather then before our children's Halloween Disco.

If you enjoy taking part in community events you are very welcome to join us in organising them. We can always use new talent. Maybe you have a suggestion that we can take on board? Do you think there would be any interest in a karaoke afternoon for our youngsters?

Our one disappointment this year is that we have been unable to hold any 'Blue Light' Discos owing to either the hall being already booked or the police team not being available but we hope to improve on this.

CREATIVE LIGHT SHINES THROUGH

The children of Neath Abbey Infants School entered the council's art competition this year and the theme was 'Animal Magic'. Their paintings certainly lived up to the title and were displayed in the Memorial Hall during Community Week and seen by many on our Family Fun Day. We saw some truly scary tigers and a crafty spider, a fabulously feathery duck and shiny rainbow fish.

Nursery and Reception Class winners:

1st Prize Winner Luke Jones, 2nd Ebony Robinson, Joint 3rd Harry Leatherland and Matilda Homes

Neath Abbey Infants winners

1st Prize Ellie Davies, 2nd Alisha Jenkins, Joint 3rd Samantha Brown and Olivia Seymour



Robert King and some local residents nearing the end of this summer's historical walk



Regular members of Longford Short Mat Bowls Club



The Bringing Warm Homes to Neath Port Talbot is the only scheme that is supported by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council along with npower and the National Grid. The project helps **all** residents of Neath Port Talbot to take part in the scheme. If you qualify you could benefit from

FREE cavity wall insulation

FREE loft insulation

Everyone who takes part can have **FREE** benefit advice, **FREE** energy efficiency advice and **FREE** energy efficient light bulbs.

To date Warm Wales and its partners have invested over £8million on energy efficiency measures. The Neath Port Talbot Benefit Advice Service has generated over £1.7million by finding new and additional benefits for local people. People of all ages and in a range of differing circumstances have been successful in claiming extra benefits. Many of them didn't realise that they were entitled

to anything.

The project has been extremely successful and so far over 80 per cent of households in Neath Port Talbot have already taken part in the project. Make sure that you are not missing out on these savings. To arrange a time for the surveyors to visit your home call Warm Wales today on

RECIPE ♦ RECIPE ♦ RECIPE

MAGIC SALT!

This is a recipe for the health conscious, keen gardeners or real foodies.

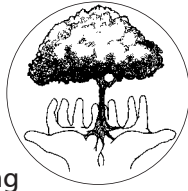
It is simple yet superb on vegetables, fish or meat.

You can grow some of the ingredients at home, yet it would cost you a fortune in the gourmet shops

- 1tbsp dried lavender buds
- 2tbsp dried rosemary
- 2tbsp black peppercorns
- 5tbsp Ynys Môn rock salt or similar

Grind all the ingredients in a mill or new coffee grinder or even use a pestle and mortar if you need the exercise. Store in a screw top jar.

Dyffryn Clydach Environmental Group



Autumn is a good time for a **walk in the woods** when Nature is beginning to close down for its winter sleep.

Our native tree species, the oak, ash, beech, rowan and field maple, show a rich colouring as their leaves decay before they start to fall and are a spectacular sight. The needles of the larches make a golden pattern on the footpaths and the wood has an indefinable smell, unlike that of the summer scents. The crunch underfoot of fallen leaves is a sure sign that the season is advancing and the long dark evenings will soon be here. The ivy, now in flower, provides food, nectar and pollen for the queen bees and peacock butterflies before they hibernate.

Squirrels swing along the top of the canopy seeking beech nuts and acorns, their presence marked by the fall of leaves or quick scurrying across the floor to hide and bury their harvest. Other small creatures like the wood mouse and the dormouse, together with the hedgehog, are now in preparation to hibernate.

The summer visiting birds, swallows, martins and warblers, have now migrated south, leaving the woods to the resident robins, blackbirds and tawny owls. The sweet song of the robin can be heard. The eerie call of owls, which begin their breeding cycle now, can be heard in the evenings.

Another autumn sight is the many strange forms of fungus that appear. It is fascinating to discover the

strange sounding Beefsteak fungus, Dryad's saddle, Jelly ear, Yellow brain and Birch polypore as well as the poisonous fly agaric.

With this abundance of wildlife riches in our woods it is disheartening that a minority of people do not respect the important environmental sites within our community and use them as a tipping ground for their household rubbish and garden waste. Our council runs an efficient kerbside recycling service so that any tipping is quite unnecessary.



Group members taking a well earned break from leaf clearing in Coed Bach

Details of Dyffryn Clydach Environmental Group activities are available from the secretary, Margaret Smith, 01639 681112

The Helping Hands Knitters News

'The Baby Packed Lunch'

On October 18th a very special lunch was held in Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Hall. The Helping Hands Knitters hosted an afternoon of good food and entertainment on the theme of 'Mothers and Babies'. Renowned writers including Emily Hinshelwood, Deborah Llewellyn, Marion Preece, Jean Saunders and Alyson Thomas entertained the diners with their funny, warm and sometimes poignant work. Val Berni and Alyson Thomas, dressed as rather overgrown babies, had everyone in stitches with their Baby Packed Sketch. The lunch raised a total of £500 which will be used for purchasing supplies and for shipping which is very expensive. Many thanks go to our cooks and bottle washers and to Rob Smith of 'La Cucina' coffee shop, Skewen, who helped with catering supplies.

The group only started meeting in our hall in March of 2007 and is growing by the minute. Work on the Baby Pack Project, providing new mothers in Kwa Zulu Natal with basic layettes for their babies, is a runaway success. The group has so far put together 240 packs and thanks to the terrific generosity of 3M's, a shipment worth £5,000 has reached the clinic. The group incorporates 40 members from Blaengwrach to Baglan ranging in age from 4 to 84,

with hundreds more people contributing their time, expertise or money to the cause. Thanks are due to Longford Parent and Toddler Group for donations of baby clothing and to the Mothers Unions, WI Branches, churches and chapels and to our St. John's Church team.

The Helping Hands Knitters is a very friendly and welcoming group and if you would like more details of meetings or how you can help ring Alyson 01792 528754 or Val on 01792 423359. 007 11 02



Val Berni and Alyson Thomas as the overfed babies with Emily Hinshelwood and Marion Preece as the long suffering mothers in 'The Baby Packed Sketch.'

Get Gardening

Margaret Smith

After the wettest summer on record it has been so difficult in the garden. Flowers rotted off before they came into bloom and vegetable crops failed miserably. Nevertheless, it was heartening to see that some hardy gardeners were able to stage late displays, and they were formally thanked for the pleasure they had given everyone and duly awarded with certificates of merit in recognition of their efforts. The residents were:

Mr and Mrs. A. Pidgeon, 68 The Highlands

Mr and Mrs. Hibbertson, 70 The Highlands

Mr and Mrs. D. M. Davies, 35 Longford Rd.

Mr and Mrs. Williams, 48 Lon Glynfelin

Mr and Mrs. Watkins, Swiss Gables, Dyffryn

Mr. C. Phillips, 63 Stratton Way,

Mr and Mrs. S. Thomas, 55 Stratton Way

Mr. A Jarrett, 20, Graig Parc

Mr and Mrs. Radford, 193 Longford Road

Nicola Jones, 9 Highlands Close

Tom Thomas and Julie Owen, 1a Danygraig Road.

Well done to everyone and we look forward to some more fantastic displays next year.



Pictured above are Mr Randall Shopland, Clerk to DCCC, Mr Clive Phillips, Mr Stan Thomas, Mr Cliff Watkins, Mrs Radford, Mr Alan Jarrett, Mr and Mrs Davies and Cllr Martyn Peters

Colourful brochures promising great results in the garden for next year are dropping through our letter boxes. Perfect vegetables, sturdy shrubs and large colourful blooms are overflowing from every page. Given better weather next year, I am sure we shall see wonderful displays in our gardens again. Remember, when ordering seeds for next year you can halve the cost of the catalogue price by ordering them from Longford and District Gardening Society. All orders should be received before Sunday 25th November.

Lawn care

Remove fallen leaves and continue to cut the grass as necessary. Because the weather is so mild, the grass will continue to grow, and it will need mowing. Try not to go onto the lawn when it is wet (or frosty). When mowing, see that the blades have been raised so that the grass is not cut too short.

Vegetables

Clear the ground and dig it roughly. It is not necessary to break it finely. This will only compact the soil causing difficulties with natural drainage. Any frosts we have will break it up anyway. Prune apple and pear trees and fruit bushes and plant out garlic cloves.

Flowers

Clean the beds by removing and composting any dead and rotting material. Keep tubs and containers tidy, too. They can be mulched with compost to enrich the soil. A further layer of chippings will reduce the surface puddling caused by excessive rain.

Lift and divide overgrown clumps of herbaceous perennials such as michaelmas daisies and phlox. This will improve the plants, giving them a better shape and more flowers next year.

Finish planting out spring flowering bulbs. Tulips can be planted out throughout November when the ground is cooler.

Roses and shrubs should be pruned now to prevent them rocking in the wind and damaging their root systems.

Apply mulch or use garden fleece to protect more tender plants.

For gardening supplies and up to 50% reduction on Dobies seed catalogue orders remember to visit Longford Gardening Club. This is to be found in the garage compound off Heol Penlan and is open on Sundays between 10.00 am and 12.30pm. It will be closed for the winter period, from Sunday 2nd December until Wednesday 10th February. Anyone wishing to purchase items from the Gardening Club during the week or during the winter recess may contact the secretary, Stephen Absalom, on 01792 813465.

Dyffryn Clydach Community Council congratulates Cllr Mrs Alyson Thomas on her recent **appointment to Neath Port Talbot Local Health Board**. Her position on the board is as Voluntary Sector Representative. Alyson has long been involved with many charities throughout Neath Port Talbot and so she is very pleased to serve the community in a wider capacity.

Offering her services, Alyson said, "I will be attending the Disability and Elderly Forums organised by the NPT Council for Voluntary Services and one of my priorities is acting as a channel between these and the Board. If you are part of a health related voluntary group not represented on these forums and would like me to speak with you and your group I will be very pleased to do so."

Alyson can be contacted on 01792 528754 or 07719994991 or email: ladyalthomas@hotmail.co.uk

NEATH ABBEY INFANTS' SCHOOL

Now, its official. What we knew all along – our children are getting a really good education in Neath Abbey.

At the recent Estyn inspection the school scored excellent in six key areas and very well in the seventh. The inspection team paid the school a compliment by saying that, unusually for a split site urban school, it had the feel of a “village school” because of its caring and nurturing environment.

Congratulations are due to Mrs Newman and the entire staff. One of the best tributes was paid by a pupil who wrote in green chalk, “Best school Ever,” followed by three big ticks!

Y GOLOFN GYMRAEG

Gwyddom mai ar gyfer batiau criced a gwneud dolenni at offer garddio y defnyddir yr helygen yn bennaf heddiw. Ond roedd gan y pren ddefnydd arall yn y gorffennol. Yn y llyfr, “Y Llusieu-lyfr Teuluaidd” gan R. Price, Cwmllynfell ag E. Griffiths, Abertawe, a gyhoeddwyd yn “Abertawy” yn 1869, cawn y cyngor canlynol ar sut i edrych ar ôl ein dannedd:

“At barhau y dannedd, da fyddai eu golchi yn fynych â dŵr oer a rhygl bychan, i’r diben i symud ymaith y tartar oddiarnynt. Os byddwch am ddefnyddio ryw bowdr i lanhau y dannedd, cymerwch yr un canlynol, ni chewch ei well am arian: Llosgwch bren Helygen yn y tân oni byddo yn goch trwyddo, a gadewch ef i oeri; chwythwch y lludw oddiarno, maluriwch ef mor fân ag y galloch; cedwch y powdr hwn mewn costrel wydr, a chorciwch hi yn dynn, a phan y byddoch am ei ddefnyddio, arllwyswch gymaint ag y fyddo eisiau allan, a gofalcwch osod y cork yn ôl yn ddioed, fel nad elo yr awyr ato. Trwy gymorth rhygl bychan, dwfr oer, a’ch llaw chwithau, gellwch wneud eich dannedd mor wyn â’r eira yn Salmon.”

KITAID update



Cllr. Alyson Thomas sends her congratulations to husband Ken Thomas and to fellow Longford volunteer Alan Jarrett and Cilfrew volunteer Ralph Herdman. Together this team embarked on a weekend-long tour of the rugby clubs in the South West Wales area and collected a formidable 8,000 items of kit to be forwarded to developing countries. They have already beaten the total amount collected last year in just three days which took a lot of organisation, dedication and stamina. Many thanks to the clubs who took part. Boys, I think you all deserve a pint!

Your Website News

Visit

www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/DyffrynClydach

Do you have a community event that needs publicity? Why not let us know and we will list it in the diary on our website?

- As well as displaying diary dates, the website has many other functions in the community. If you are interested in having a free website or a page on our website then please contact our web editor Alyson Thomas, through the site or email ladyalthomas@hotmail.co.uk. She will be happy to help you decide what you need.
- Some new links have been added this month. The first is about the democratic process and with the 2008 community and county borough council elections due in May we have included a link to The Electoral Commission’s website. To find it, go on to our website and in the links column click on www.aboutmyvote.co.uk. You will find all the information you need on registering and the process of voting but don’t leave it too late or you may miss out on having your say.
- The Council is hoping that before long the Minutes of its meetings will be available to read online. This is very much part of its policy on openness and transparency and the website will be a great way to assist in this.
- Mr. Alan Davies of Hill Road, Neath Abbey is a keen compiler of code word puzzles and has offered us a link to his site. Alan is a retired head-teacher whose hobby is computers and we would like to thank him for his generosity and co-operation so that you can all challenge your grey matter for ten minutes or so each month.

REMEMBER

- THIS IS YOUR WEBSITE -

**HELP US REFLECT WHAT IS GOING ON
AND WHAT WE NEED TO SEE!**

It is thirty years since this photograph was taken as part of the celebrations of the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Do you know these ladies? Who is cutting the cake? Who is the trendy young man watching proceedings?

Please contact your local councillor or the editor if you are able to identify anyone.

The photograph in the last issue showing residents of Longford Road, Danygraig Road and Graig Parc caused a lot of interest. Although it had been suggested this might have been taken in 1951 for the Festival of Britain, it actually shows the Coronation celebrations of 1953. The photograph was taken in Penyard and it is interesting to note that at that time the road had not yet been surfaced.

Residents identified so far include Mrs. Sally Davies, her son and daughter Malcolm and Mair, and Mrs. Edna Poole. If you are able to identify any other person present in the photograph then please inform one of your councillors so that we can build as accurate a record as possible for our community archive.



Good news for young people in Dyffryn Clydach – after several meetings in recent months it has eventually been agreed that the astroturf pitch in Longford be opened for local use.



The pitch has been a source of controversy ever since it was installed, but now that it will officially be in regular use it is expected that the problems will be resolved. It is used by Dŵr y Felin School as well as other clubs and there will be frequent policing after the users leave.

Should anyone be aware of any problems with the astroturf pitch, then please report them.

Trained youth workers will be helping to establish the use of the pitch on two evenings each week from 5.00pm to 7.00pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There are plans for coaching and then to start a league, playing 5 a side or 6 a side.

Good luck, boys!

For up to date information follow the link on our community council webpage

www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/DyffrynClydach

WINTER DIARY DATES 2007 AT DYFFRYN CLYDACH MEMORIAL HALL

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12th
COMMUNITY CAROL EVENING
6.30pm for 7.00pm start

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14th
CHRISTMAS FAIR 6.00pm
CHRISTMAS BINGO to follow

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15th
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
2-4.30pm

SATURDAY JANUARY 5th, 2008
SENIOR HALL USERS PARTY 2.00pm

Please check the website in between Ymlaen editions for further events or see the local press.

PHOTOGRAPH MYSTERY

*Something
exciting is
happening in our
woods*

COSTIROEDD I SAWB
CYDCOED
WOODLANDS FOR ALL


Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru
Forestry Commission Wales



A start has been made to the proposed work in Coed y Graig, Coed Bach and the Cwm. The project is financed by Cydcoed - Woods for All, the £18 million Forestry Commission Wales grants programme funded by the European Union (Objective One) and Welsh Assembly Government.

The children from Neath Abbey Infants' School and Mynachlog Nedd Junior School have already started working on art projects with local sculptor Brenda Oakes. They have visited the woods, making sketches and notes. Back in the classroom they have made creative sculptures and these will be the inspiration for more permanent artwork which will be installed in the woods.

It won't be long now before we can expect contractors to be moving in through the winter months to carry out tree work, mainly the removal of dead wood and invasive species. Any felling of trees will be kept to an absolute minimum and will only involve diseased trees which are causing problems.

There will also be maintenance work throughout the area to improve the footpaths.

The woods will remain open to the public, but certain areas may well be restricted while work is being carried out. Everyone will be reminded to be particularly vigilant during this time.

All are welcome to join in this exciting project. Details available from Margaret Smith, 01639 681112.