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Copiau ychwanegol ar gael oddi wrth Swyddfa Post Mynachlog Nedd neu'r Golygydd, Cyng. Margaret Smith

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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 Cyngorwr lleol.

Chairman's Message / Gair gan y Cadeirydd

Dear Friends

As we look forward to the next few years I feel we have moved on greatly in our community with the help of yourselves and the hard work of the community council.

As governor of both Mynachlog Nedd Junior School and Neath Abbey Infants' School I see the huge amounts of work put in by the two head teachers and their staff and I believe we will see the benefit of this as our youngsters mature.

When a community works together like this with care and commitment we can be sure that there is a very bright future for Dyffryn Clydach. It is a great place in which to live.

Thank you all for your input and continued support.

Martyn Peters



Annwyl Gyfaill

Wrth i ni edrych tuag at y dyfodol, dwi'n teimlo ein bod ni wedi symud ymlaen cryn dipyn gyda'n gilydd fel cymuned. Fe fu hyn yn bosib trwy eich gwaith caled chi a'r cyngor.

Fel llwyodraethwr dros Ysgol Iau Mynachlog Nedd ac Ysgol y Babanod Mynachlog Nedd, rwy'n gweld cymaint o waith drylwyr y mae'r ddwy prifathrawes a'u cyd weithwyr yn gwneud. Rydym yn siwr o weld ffrwyth eu gwaith yn helpu cryfhau ein cymdeithas i'r dyfodol.

Mae Dyffryn Clydach yn ardal ardderchog i fyw. Diolch yn fawr am eich cefnogaeth.

Martyn Peters



Sgwd Bach in March after heavy rain.
Sgwd Bach yn mis Mawrth ar ôl y glaw trwm.

WELSH

You may notice that there is a lot more Welsh in this edition of Ymlaen. This is to comply with the Welsh Language Act. The Council has adopted the policy that publications and official documents and notices appear bilingually.

If you have an interest in learning or improving your Welsh, then contact Helen Evans of Swansea University on 01792 295939 or Mari Edwards of Neath College on 01639 648058.

Some classes are held in the Longford Memorial Hall.

Y GYMRAEG

Mae'n siwr byddwch yn sylwi bod yna dipyn mwy o'r Gymraeg yn y gyfrol hon o Ymlaen. Gwneir hyn i gydymffurfio â'r Ddeddf Iaith. Mae'r Cyngor wedi mabwysiadu polisi sy'n sicrhau bydd cyhoeddiadau a dogfennau swyddogol ac arwyddion yn ymddangos yn ddwyieithog o hyn allan.

Os oes gennych diddordeb mewn gwella'ch Cymraeg, cysylltwch â Helen Evans ym Mhrifysgol Abertawe ar 01792 295939 neu Mari Edwards yng Ngholeg Castell-nedd ar 01639 648058.

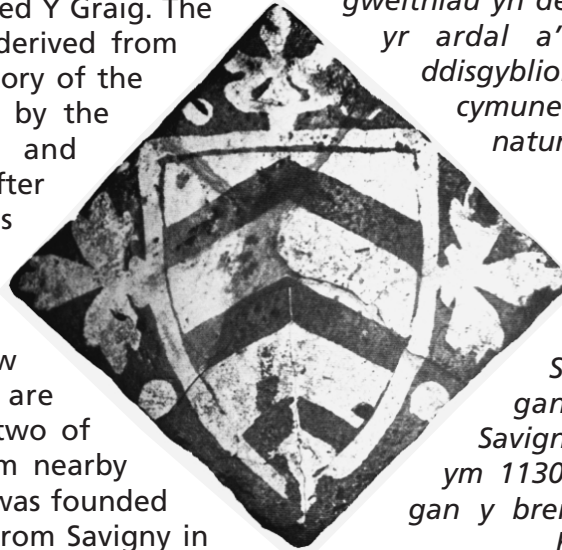
Mae rhai gwersi yn cael eu cynnal yn Neuadd Goffa, Rhydhir.

NEATH ABBEY WOODS ARTWORKS

Local artist Brenda Oakes is currently working with members of the Dyffryn Clydach Environmental Group to create a series of artworks in The Cwm and Coed Y Graig. The ideas for the artworks are derived from the woodland itself, the history of the area and the work created by the pupils of Neath Abbey and Mynachlog Nedd schools after nature walks in the woods and a programme of workshops led by the Group.

Two of the works are now nearing completion. They are rock paintings based upon two of the medieval floor tiles from nearby Neath Abbey. Neath Abbey was founded by a small group of monks from Savigny in western Normandy in 1130 and dissolved in 1539 by King Henry VIII. The Abbey today is an extraordinary complex of monastic medieval ruins, the substantial remains of a grand Tudor residence, and fragments of 18th century industrial furnaces.

Brenda and the Group will continue to create the artworks in the woods until May, weather permitting. Why not pop along and the view the works in progress?



This tile, produced around 1340, shows a shield of arms belonging to the Fitzwalter family. Mae'r deilsen hon a wnaethpwyd tua 1340, yn dangos arfbais yn perthyn i'r teulu Fitzwalter.



'Rock Pillow' sits alongside the path just north of the wooden bridge over Nant yr Arian and shows a knight on horseback.

Saif "Carreg y Glustog" gyferbyn â'r llwybr i'r bont pren dros Nant-yr-Arian ac mae'n dangos marchog ar gefn ceffyl.

GWAITH CELF

Mae'r arlunydd Brenda Oakes yn gweithio ar hyn o bryd gydag aelodau Grŵp Amgylcheddol Dyffryn Clydach i greu cyfres o weithiau celf yn y Cwm a Choed y Graig. Mae'r syniadau am y gweithiau yn deillio o'r coetir ei hun, hanes yr ardal a'r gwaith a grewyd gan ddisgyblion ysgolion iau a babanod ein cymuned wedi iddynt gynnal troeon natur a rhaglen o weithdai.

Mae dau o'r gweithiau bron a'u cwblhau. Peintiadau ar garreg ydynt wedi'u selio ar ddwy deilsen o'r Fynachlog cyfagos. Sefydlwyd Mynachlog Nedd gan ddyrnaid o fynachod o Savigny yng ngorllewin Normandy ym 1130 a'i ddiddymwyd ym 1539 gan y brenin Harri VIII. Mae'r Abaty heddiw yn gymhlethdod hynod o adfeilion mynachaid canoloesol, gweddillion sylweddol hen gartref Tuduraidd, a darnau o ffwrneisi diwydiannol y 18ed ganrif.

Bydd Brenda a'r Grŵp yn dal i greu gweithiau celf yn y goedlan tan fis Mai, os bydd y tywydd yn caniatáu. Pam na ddewch i weld y gwaith celf?

YN GALW POB ARTIST IFANC

Mae'r Cyngor yn cynnal cystadleuaeth i bob plentyn sydd yn yr ysgol babanod, ysgol gynradd neu yn byw yn Nyffryn Clydach. Pob lwc i bawb. Fe fydd y lluniau yn cael eu harddangos yn y Neuadd Goffa ar y Diwrnod Mwynhad i'r Teulu, dydd Sadwrn 5 Gorffennaf.

Ffoniwch Alyson Thomas am fanylion, 01792 528754.

CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS

The council will be holding a competition for all children of infant or junior school age who live or attend school in the Dyffryn Clydach area. We wish you all good luck and the best entries will be displayed in the Memorial Hall during our Family Fun Day on Saturday July 5th.

For more details telephone Alyson Thomas, 01792 528754.

DYFFRYN CLYDACH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Spring Newsletter

The community is being told that levels of serious crime in our area have fallen considerably, and we who are active in the Neighbourhood Watch movement are of the opinion that this is due, in no small part, to the influence of the various projects and schemes that we have been able to initiate in conjunction with the South Wales Police and the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

As well as the crime prevention projects – the provision of security lighting, door chains and anti intruder devices (mostly free of charge to vulnerable residents), we are justifiably proud to have been involved in the introduction of the "Datalink" scheme. This is now a nationwide scheme being backed by many fine organisations such as Rotary clubs and Lions International, and known as "Message in a Bottle". The user packs are always available from your street leader and at the monthly meetings of the group. We remind those residents who use the scheme to ensure that they keep their details (medication, family contacts, etc) up-to-date.

It is disturbing to realise, however, that the criminal fraternity do not stand still, and our message is to be vigilant and aware, and to be concerned for the more vulnerable among us. Unfortunately, there are recent instances of "Bogus Caller" crimes reported in the area. Elderly and lone residents are being targeted again, and the "Nominated Neighbour" scheme is aimed at dealing with this activity. Neath town centre is being targeted by "handbag grabbers" – Ladies Beware! Anti-social behaviour need not be tolerated - whatever the age of the persons concerned. Under-aged drinking is reaching serious proportions, and unacceptable behaviour by those "old enough to know better" has to be addressed. A department in the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is dedicated to dealing with this problem. Instances can be reported to your street leaders and action will be taken.

We will soon have regular PACT meetings in our community. These meetings are not intended to replace Neighbourhood Watch, but will provide all residents with the opportunity of putting their questions and concerns directly to the Police, and then getting answers at a follow-up meeting. Please support the PACT meetings when they start, as the Police no longer attend our Neighbourhood Watch meetings.

Our group is still active, and meets on the second Monday of each month at the Longford Memorial Hall committee room at 7.00pm. All are welcome.

ARCHIVE PHOTO Who is playing in the sand?

LLUN ARCHIF Pwy sy'n chwarae yn y tywod?



MYSTERY SOLVED!

The mystery picture in the last edition was taken during the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

Cymerwyd y llun dirgel yn y cylchgrawn diwetha tra'n dathlu Jiwibili Arian Y Frenhines.

Back Row/Rhes gefn: Sandra Michael, Heather Gleaves, Eileen Hopkins, Dawn Collins, Doreen Jarrett, Kath Evans, Joan Dunsford, Edwina O'Connor. Front Row/Rhes flaen: Annette Davies, Louise Friend, Marie Morgan and looking on/ac yn edrych - Tony Dunsford.

NEW HALL CHARGES PRISIAU NEWYDD Y NEUADD

Children's Party / *Parti'r Plant* £23.00-£25.00

Social Evenings / *Nosweithiau Cymdeithasol* £16.00
Jumble Sale / *Ffair Sbarion*

Meeting [Hall] / *Cyfarfod [Neuadd]*
£10.40 hourly / *am awr*

Committee Rooms / *Ystafelloedd Pwyllgor*
Meetings / *Cyfarfodydd* / Classes / *Dosbarthiadau* /
Seminars / *Seminarau* £8.60 per session / *am sesiwn*

For booking details contact Council Clerk Mr.
R. Shopland 01639 635787 *Cysylltwch â'r Clerc*

DIARY DATES ~ I'R DYDDIADUR

Memorial Hall, Longford ~ *Neuadd Goffa, Rhydhir*

Saturday 5th July / **Sadwrn 5 Gorffennaf**
Family Fun Day / *Diwrnod Mwynhad i'r Teulu*
1.30pm

Saturday 1st November / **Sadwrn 1 Tachwedd**
Halloween Disco / *Disgo Calan Gaeaf*

Check out the website for extra events not
yet planned

www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/DyffrynClydach
Gwyliwch y wefan am fanylion digwyddiadau
eraill

JOSEPH TREGELLES PRICE

1784 - 1854

The son of Peter and Anna Price, born Jan. 1st 1784, at Penryn, Cornwall. The eldest of ten children he was sent to a Boarding School at Compton, and later moved to Neath Abbey where his father was part-proprietor of the Iron Works and Coal Mines. In 1810 Joseph Tregelles Price was placed in charge of several small collieries in this area. Eight years later he became managing director of the Iron Works, where his genius found ample scope. Workmen spoke of the Quaker master with affection, and even "noisy fellows" conducted themselves with propriety as they passed his residence at Neath Abbey. Mindful of the spiritual needs of his workmen he encouraged them to attend the meetings of grace, to be sober and upright in all things. In spite of his great responsibilities he travelled in England and Ireland, and was accompanied by his sister Junia "beloved messenger of the Cross".

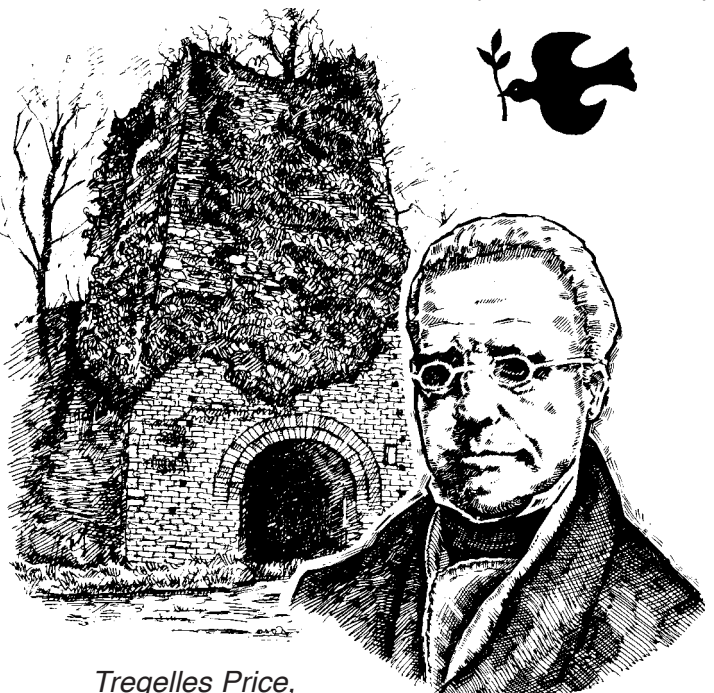
On May 28th 1814, in a letter to his sister, Junia, from London, he wrote: "I have yet to attend to the most important thing of all – that is to put things in train for establishing a Society for the sole purpose of aiming at such diffusion of light and knowledge as shall tend to the general and universal preservation of Peace. There are a host ready to join." On June 4th 1814, a meeting was held at Plough Court, Lombard Street, to discuss the project. This was the house of the notable William Allen; and those present were Joseph Tregelles Price, Frederick Smith, Basil Montague and others. In 1816 the Peace Society was founded. Anna Price, his mother, had reservations concerning the wisdom of this step, fearing it would lead to political complications. However, in principle she agreed with the determination to prevent war.

In 1819, Joseph Tregelles Price was journeying through Paris on his way to the south of France, accompanying his invalid sister Junia. He became aware of a sympathetic understanding which many distinguished Frenchmen were affording the cause of Peace, and commended to them the principle of forming a French Peace Society. At the time care had to be exercised not to give offence, so the movement was called "The Society for promoting Christian Morality". The first article of faith was Peace, then Abolition of

Slavery in French Colonies, and the reform of Laws respecting Capital Punishment. A certain Prince Polignac confessed that he owed his life to the visit of the Quaker, Price, to Paris, for the "Societe de la Morale Chretienne", mooted by him, exerted itself to remove the punishment of death for political offence. Fortunately for the Prince, the object had been attained before his trial, and thus his life was spared.

The principle and character of Joseph Tregelles Price, revealed itself in the interest taken by him in the sad case of two men, prisoners in Cardiff Gaol, who were condemned to death on a charge of having caused the death of a man named Black in the Merthyr Riots of 1831. Price felt impelled to visit the prisoners, and after conversation with one of them, namely Richard Lewis (Dic Penderyn) he became convinced of their innocence. He travelled to London and interviewed the Home Secretary, Lord Melbourne, and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Brougham. Referring to Dic Penderyn, Tregelles Price addressed Lord Melbourne thus: "His blood was on my head till I made this exertion. I now transfer its weight from my conscience to thee." A ten days' reprieve was granted by Lord Melbourne, but afterwards Lewis paid the extreme penalty by law and was hanged. Joseph Tregelles Price was later to see his action justified, when the real culprit confessed his crime.

(To be continued)



*Tregelles Price,
Neath Abbey Furnaces and the Dove of Peace*

PRESENTATION GWOBRWYO



Congratulations to Mrs Margaret Thomas who received her award from Dyffryn Clydach Community Council Chairman, Councillor Martyn Peters.

Awards are presented to people who have made a contribution to local society and it is appropriate that it was Cllr Martyn Peters who made the presentation, because he was one of her former pupils.

Not only did Mrs Thomas teach for many years in Rhyddir and later Dŵr y Felin schools, but she has been actively involved in St John's Church, the Women's Institute and other local organisations.

Llongyfarchiadau i Mrs Margaret Thomas sydd yn derbyn ei thystysgrif gan Gadeirydd Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach, y Cynghorydd Martyn Peters.

Mae'r cydnabyddiaethau yn cael eu cyflwyno i'r rhai sydd wedi gwneud cyfraniad i'r gymdeithas leol, ac mae'n briodol mai'r Cynghorydd Martyn Peters wnaeth y cyflwyno gan ei fod yn un o'i chyn-disgyblion.

Nid yn unig dysgu am nifer o flynyddoedd yn ysgolion Rhyddir ac yn hwyrach Dŵr-y-Felin a wnaeth Mrs Thomas, ond y mae wedi bod yn ymwneud yn weithredol yn Eglwys Sant Ioan, Sefydliad y Merched a nifer o fudiadau lleol eraill yn ogystal.

HANDS THAT KEEP HELPING

March started well for the knitters with a visit from Briton Ferry Inner Wheel Officers, Pat Keen and Joan Richards who spoke on the overseas work of their organisation. The knitters had amassed a great amount of baby clothes, shawls and blankets to be donated to the Inner Wheel which they will now use to supply charities such as Feed the Children.

There is so much need in Africa, India and Bangladesh that the knitters will continue to work together for the foreseeable future, targeting specific areas with particular needs.

Also in the last month the knitters have dispatched a parcel of tiny clothes to BLISS- the premature baby charity. The Falconer Orphanage in Zambia has received several large parcels of baby goods. We have also sent pink knitted squares to a knitting group in London called 'Stitch and Bitch' who are making an enormous pink blanket to raise awareness of breast cancer.

All hands are on the needles, knitting bags which we will sell in Margam Craft Fair and also at Pontardawe Festival to raise money for shipping goods.

On April 22nd we will be holding a Crafty Afternoon Tea over in Skewen. This event is still in the planning stage so look out for further details in the local columns or on the council's website.

WonderWool Wales - The knitters are running a trip to the Royal Welsh Showground on April 26th to a show that features everything Welsh and Woolly. They are looking forward to workshops and demonstrations and the opportunity to sample Welsh produce in the food fair – Food and Wool – What more can we ask for?

There are over a hundred people working with us now, many in nursing homes, and some with disabilities. Some knit at home and forward their work such as Mary from Baglan and Nan - a lovely friend from Seven Sisters who being laid up after a bad fall had help from her two and three year old grandchildren in knitting squares for blankets!

The Helping Hands are now meeting fortnightly at the Memorial Hall, normally between 12-3pm. Feel free to drop in or stay for the whole session for only £1. Beginners and improvers are most welcome. For more information ring Alyson on 01792 528754 or 07719994991 or

email: ladyalthomas@hotmail.co.uk

Happy Knitting!

Get Gardening

Margaret Smith

With a mixture of sunshine and showers in the spring the ground is beginning to warm up. It is an ideal time for sowing seeds, but beware planting out tender seedlings if there is any chance of frost which might harm them.

You can prepare your runner bean trenches for sowing (in May) or planting out (in June). This will save you time later. Beans need a lot of nutrients, and these can be provided cheaply and easily by the use of kitchen waste such as fruit and vegetable peelings. Vacuum cleaning dust can be added as well as lawn mowings. Cover each layer lightly with soil. You will find that a good base layer of compost will reduce the need for watering, as the compost will help to retain moisture later on for the growing plants.

If you fancy growing your own runner beans but do not have sufficient ground for a trench, you will be able to successfully grow them in a very large deep container with a wigwam frame of bamboo canes as support. Remember to ensure they have a good compost base.

Lawn care

Check that your lawn mower is in good working order.

If the weather is mild enough and the grass needs cutting, mow it lightly with the blades set higher than the usual cutting height.

Bare patches can be resown or patched with turf cut from elsewhere in the garden. If you need to even out bumps and dips in the lawn, make an "H" shaped cut in the lawn and either remove the soil or refill as necessary. Relay the turf, pressing it back into position.

Nitrogen fertiliser can be applied in late March to encourage good growth. Sometimes this can be combined with a moss and weedkiller.

Vegetables

By now if the soil is dry and warm enough you may be able to plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes. You will get a better crop of potatoes if they have been chitted before planting out. Do not be tempted to use old potatoes from the kitchen, but buy in virus free seed potatoes. Stand them on end in trays in a cool light frost free place and after about a month they will develop short stocky shoots. When the shoots are an inch long, then the potatoes are ready for planting out.

If the weather and conditions are suitable many vegetable crops can be sown this month, following the guidance on the seed packets. Seeds to be sown now include beetroot, broad beans, carrots, lettuce, leeks, parsnips, radish, peas, spinach, and turnips.

Flowers

Early spring is an ideal time to plant herbaceous perennials, including geranium, astrantia and oriental poppies. Check that your plants have strong, green shoots and plant them into well prepared soil.

For gardening supplies remember to visit Longford Gardening Club. The shop is to be found in the garage compound off Heol Penlan and is open on Sundays between 10.00am and 12.30pm. For supplies at other times ring 01792 814850.

RECIPE ♦ RECIPE ♦ RECIPE

PLUM BETTY

This recipe is so quick and easy to make. It can be made with any fruit as the base - fresh, canned or frozen and the spicy topping is made with breadcrumbs, so it is a good way of using up those left over bits of bread.

- 3 cups stoned plums
- 3 tbsp margarine
- 3 cups soft breadcrumbs
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground cloves

Put the fruit in a deep buttered pie dish. Melt the butter, combine with the remaining ingredients and put on top of the fruit. Bake in a moderate oven for about 30 minutes until the fruit is tender and the betty is brown on top.

RYSAIT ♦ RYSAIT ♦ RYSAIT

PWDIN EIRIN

Mae'r rysait hwn yn rhwydd i'w wneud. Gellir defnyddio unrhyw ffrwyth fel sylfaen – ffrwyth ffres, o dun neu wedi rhewi ac mae'r haen uchaf sbeislyd wedi'i wneud o friwsion bara, mae'n ffordd dda o wneud defnydd o weddillion y bara.

- 3 chwpan o eirin wedi'u glanhau o gerrig
- 3 llwy ford o farjarin
- 3 chwpan o friwsion meddal o fara
- ½ cwpan o siwgr gronynnog
- 1 llwy dê o sinamon wedi'i falu
- ½ llwy dê o glofs wedi'u malu

Rhowch y ffrwythau mewn disgl darten wedi'i daenu ag ymenyn. Toddwch y menyn a'i gymysgu â'r cynhwysion sydd yn weddill a'i rhoi ar ben y ffrwythau. Pobwch mewn gwres cymedrol am ryw 30 munud nes bo'r ffrwyth yn dyner a'r haen ar yr wyneb yn frown.

Local youngsters are now benefiting from twice weekly sessions held on the Artificial Pitch run by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Youth Services.

The sessions follow on from discussions between Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive School, Neath Port Talbot CBC, the Police and Dyffryn Clydach Community Council to encourage positive community use in a supervised environment and to reduce vandalism of the facility. The involvement of the Community Council in partnership with the School has enabled it to be supervised during community hours and will lead to increased use by other local community based sporting clubs in the future.

The sessions are now going from strength to strength resulting in a recent Sports Council for Wales Community Chest grant to purchase kit and equipment to establish two new teams.

If anyone is interested in taking part, the sessions are free of charge and run between 5pm-7pm every Tuesday and Thursday.

Mae ein pobl ifainc yn elwa o'r sesiynau sy'n cael eu trefnu ddwywaith yr wythnos ar y Cae Artiffisial gan Wasanaethau Ieuenctid Cyngor Bwrdeistref Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot.

Mae'r sesiynau wedi tarddu o drafodaethau a gafwyd rhwng Ysgol Gyfun Dŵr-y-felin, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot, yr Heddlu a Chyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach er mwyn hybu defnydd positif o'r cyfleuster mewn amgylchedd trefnus er mwyn gostwng y fandaliaeth yno. Mae ymrwymiad y Cyngor Cymuned mewn partneriaeth â'r Ysgol wedi sicrhau y bydd yn cael ei arolygu yn ystod yr amser y bydd yn cael ei ddefnyddio gan y gymuned ac fe fydd yn arwain at ddefnydd pellach gan glybiau chwaraeon yn y gymuned yn y dyfodol.

Mae'r sesiynau yn mynd o nerth i nerth, ac o ganlyniad cafwyd grant gan Gyngor Chwaraeon Cymru i brynu dillad ac offer er mwyn sefydlu dau dîm newydd.

Os oes gan unrhyw un ddiddordeb mewn cymryd rhan, mae'r sesiynau yn rhad ac am ddim ac yn cymryd lle rhwng 5pm a 7pm bob Dydd Mawrth a Dydd Iau.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE / SEFYDLIAD Y MERCHED

Neath Abbey Women's Institute, which has been established for over 50 years, has received a cash boost from the National Lottery. Members are seen here with Dr Dai Lloyd AM who presented the cheque. They plan to visit the Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan in Cornwall.

Mae cangen Mynachlog Nedd o Sefydliad y Merched, sydd wedi bod yn weithgar ers dros 50 o flynyddoedd, wedi derbyn hwb ariannol o'r Loteri Cenedlaethol. Dyma lun o'r aelodau gyda Dr. Dai Lloyd, AC a gyflwynodd y siec iddynt. Maent yn bwriadu ymweld â Phrosiect Eden a Gerddi Coll Heligan yng Nghernyw.

NEW DEPUTY HEAD

Congratulations to Mrs Julia Lewis on being appointed deputy head at Neath Abbey Infants' School. It is great to know we have such a winning team with Mrs Newman and her staff.

DIRPRWY BENNAETH NEWYDD

Llongyfarchiadau i Mrs Julia Lewis ar gael ei hapwyntio yn ddirprwy bennaeth ar Ysgol Babanod Mynachlog Nedd. Mae'n brâf gwybod bod gennym dîm mor llwyddiannus ym Mrs Newman a'i staff.

Longford Ladies' Social Club

After more than fifty years since they first met as a social group the ladies have decided it was time to close the club. Sadly, in recent years their numbers have been falling.

Their first chairman was the late Mrs Nan Sanders of Longford Road and it wasn't long before the club was regularly attracting up to seventy members from across Neath - Cimla, Crynant, Cadoxton, Tonna, Skewen, Neath Abbey and Bryncoch as well as Longford. They met socially on a weekly basis originally in the old wooden hut.

They were a talented group, performing concerts and panto's, entertaining different groups and raising money for local charities. One of their panto's made enough money to provide curtains for the new hall. While Joyce Parish and Jean Saunders were the main singers in the group, the late Betty Rees was the pianist and Pat Browne and Dorothy Griffiths were the comediennes who kept everyone entertained.

"It was a pleasant thing to do, not a chore. In the 1950's there wasn't much around, so we made our own entertainment," said Mrs Mair Smith, one of the founding members, and what fun they had. They held quizzes and



Pantomime fun, raising money to provide curtains for the Memorial Hall.

Hwyl y pantomeim, yn codi arian i brynu lleni tuag at y Neuadd Goffa.



Longford Ladies Social Club inaugural dinner, with founding Chairman Mrs Nan Sanders in the centre of the photograph.

Cyfarfod sefydlu Clwb Cymdeithasol Gwragedd Rhydhir.

indoor sports, beetle drives and bingo sessions, whist drives, bonnet parades and much, much more. Events were organised for the children, with trips to Barry Island, whatever the weather. They visited London when they went to the shows and every year there was a trip to Blackpool. There was never a job in filling two buses with eager members all looking forward to a few days' holiday. Later on in the 1970's and 80's they ventured farther afield and holidayed in Majorca.

Although the club is now closed, it is good to see that the remaining ladies still meet socially on a monthly basis. What happy memories they must have, reminiscing over the years and remembering their old friends and all their many activities.

Clwb Cymdeithasol Gwragedd Rhydhir

Wedi mwy na hanner can mlynedd ers iddynt gyfarfod yn wreiddiol fel grŵp cymdeithasol mae'r gwragedd wedi penderfynu rhoi'r ffidil yn y tô a rhoi terfyn ar eu gweithgareddau. Yn anffodus maent wedi gostwng mewn rhif yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

Y Cadeirydd cyntaf oedd y ddiweddar Mrs Nan Saunders, Heol Rhydhir ac mewn fawr o amser roedd y clwb yn dynfa i ryw saithdeg o aelodau o bob cwr o Gastell-nedd – Y Cimla, Creunant, Llangatwg, Tonnau, Sgiwen, Mynachlog Nedd a Bryncoch yn ogystal â Rhydhir ei hun. Roeddent yn cyfarfod yn gymdeithasol yn wythnosol yn yr hen gaban pren.

Roedden nhw'n grŵp talentog, ac yn cynnal cyngherddau a phantomeimiau, yn diddanu gwahanol grŵpiau ac yn codi arian at elusennau lleol. Fe wnaeth un bantomeim ddigon o arian i brynu lleni i'r neuadd newydd. Tra roedd Joyce Parish a Jean Saunders yn brif unawdwyr, y ddiweddar Betty Rees yn gyfeilyddes, Pat Brown a Dorothy Griffiths oedd y dwy gomedienne a ddifysai'r dorf.

"Roedd e'n waith pleserus. Yn y 1950au 'doedd dim llawer yn digwydd yn gymdeithasol, felly fe wnaethon ni greu adloniant ein hunain," meddai Mrs Mair Smith, un o'r aelodau sylfaenol, a chawsom hwyl wrthi. 'Roedden nhw'n cynnal cwisiau a mabolgampau dan dô, 'beetle drives' a sesiynau bingo, gyrfaoedd chwist a sioeau hetiau a llawer mwy. Fe drefnon nhw ddiwyddiadau i'r plant, gyda gwibdeithiau i Ynys y Barri beth bynnag bo'r tywydd. Fe ymwelson nhw â Llundain lle yr aethon nhw i'r sioeau, ac yn flynyddol 'roedd yna wibdaith i Blackpool. Doedd e byth yn anodd llenwi dau fws gyda'r aelodau yn edrych ymlaen yn awchus at ychydig o ddyddiau o wyliau. Yn ddiweddarach, yn y 1970au a'r 1980au mentrason nhw ymhellach i ffwrdd gan gymryd gwyliau ym Majorca – a chael amser bendigedig!

Er i'r clwb ddod i ben, mae'n dda gweld bod y gwragedd sydd ar ôl yn dal i gyfarfod yn gymdeithasol yn fisol. Mae siwr o fod ganddynt atgofion melyn am y llu o weithgareddau a ffrindiau a wnaethon nhw yn y dyddiau cynt.