



Additional copies available from Abbey Gate Stores or from the Editor, Cllr Margaret Smith.
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Er mwyn cynnwys eitemau o ddiddordeb lleol cysylltwch â'r Golygydd neu'ch Cyngorwr Lleol.

Message from the Chairman of the Community Council

I would like to thank the residents of Dyffryn Clydach for re-electing me to the Council and then as this year's Chairman. I see this as a great honour and one which I am only too pleased to fulfil.

I moved to Neath 35 years ago, most of which time has been spent in Neath Abbey. This is an area I feel happy to live in – close to all the local amenities and yet just a couple of miles away from the countryside of Dyffryn Woods and Drymmau Mountain. From here there are spectacular views, from the Gower over to March Hywel and the Vale of Neath.

What makes me feel at home here is the community spirit and the friendliness of the people. This is reflected in the way we can pull together on many issues affecting us all. Public meetings about the Council Tax rebanding resulted in over two hundred properties being

returned to their rightful tax bands. The campaign to retain our post office was well supported by both residents and local businesses and a very good case was put forward, but the decision was made to close it down. We are all sorry to lose this vital service to the community. Our thanks go to Jagtar Johal and his family for taking over the business for the last two years after Mike Faro left.

Again, we have a programme of exciting events over the festive season. I invite you all to join us in the many activities that are taking place in the Memorial Hall during the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. With very best wishes for the New Year 2009.

Margaret Smith



Photo courtesy of Philip Evans, Photographer
Llun trwy ganiatâd Philip Evans, Ffotograffydd

Neges gan Gadeirydd y Cyngor Cymuned

Fe hoffwn ddiolch i drigolion Dyffryn Clydach am fy ethol i'r Cyngor unwaith eto ac fel Cadeirydd am eleni. 'Rydw i'n ystyried hwn yn anrhydedd mawr ac un 'rydw ond yn rhy falch i'w gyflawni.

Symudais i Gastell-nedd 35 mlynedd yn ôl a threuliais y rhan fwyaf o'r amser hyn ym Mynachlog Nedd. Dyma ardal 'rydw i'n falch o fod yn byw ynddi – yn agos at yr holl gyfleusterau lleol ac eto o fewn ychydig filltiroedd at ardal wledig Coed Dyffryn a Mynydd Drymmau. Oddi yma ceir golygfeydd ysblennydd, o Fro Gŵyr draw at Farch Hywel a Chwm Nedd.

Beth sydd yn f'achosi i i deimlo'n gartrefol yma yw'r ysbryd cymdogaethol, a chyfeillgarwch y bobl. Adlewylchir hyn yn y ffordd 'rydym yn gallu cyddynnu ar nifer o bynciau sydd yn effeithio ar bob un ohonom. Canlyniad y cyfarfodydd cyhoeddus a gynhaliwyd ynglyn ag ailbrisio bandiau treth y cyngor oedd bod bandiau treth 200 o gartrefi'n cael

eu gostwng i'w lefelau cywir. Cefnogwyd yr ymgyrch i gadw ein swyddfa bost yn dda gan drigolion a busnesau lleol i'll dau a gosodwyd dadl gref gerbron ond y penderfyniad oedd i'w chau. 'Rydym yn flin o golli'r gwasanaeth bwysig hon i'r gymuned. Estynwn ein diolch i Jagtar Johal a'i deulu am gymryd y busnes wedi ymadawiad Mike Faro.

Mae gennym eto gyfres o ddigwyddiadau cyffroes dros y Nadolig. 'Rwy'n estyn croeso i bawb ohonoch i ymuno â mi yn y digwyddiadau niferus bydd yn cymryd lle yn y Neuadd Gymuned dros yr wythnosau nesaf.

Yn y cyfamser, ga'i gymryd y cyfle hwn i ddymuno Nadolig hapus a thangnefeddus i chwi i gyd.

Gyda phob dymuniad da am y Flwyddyn Newydd 2009.

Margaret Smith

Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Hall

Neuadd Goffa Dyffryn Clydach

Readers will be interested to see this photograph from the late 1940's. It shows Cllr David Poley Jones cutting the first turf before the building of the Hall. Also present are (from the left) Cllr Ken Owen (butcher), Cllr William John Griffiths, the Clerk to the Council (wearing a white shirt and a trilby hat), and Cllr Idris Jones.



Do you know the name of the clerk to the Council at this time?

Bydd diddordeb gennych yn y llun hwn o ddiwedd y 1940au. Mae e'n dangos y Cyng. Poley Jones yn torri'r dywarchen gyntaf cyn adeiladu'r neuadd. Yn bresennol hefyd (o'r chwith) mae'r Cyng. Ken Owen (cigydd), Cyng. William John Griffiths, Clerc y Cyngor (sy'n

gwisgo crys gwyn a het feddal), a'r Cyng. Idris Jones.

Ydych chi'n gwybod beth oedd enw'r clerc y pryd hynny?

WHAT'S ON AT CHRISTMAS

The following events have been booked in the Memorial Hall over the Christmas period:

Christmas Fayre

Friday, 28 November at 5pm, followed by Bingo session at 7 pm.

Community Carol Evening

Wednesday, 10 December at 6.30 pm

Children's Disco

Saturday, 13 December, 2 - 4.30 pm



Hall users' and over 50's Tea

Saturday, 3 January at 2.00 pm

Times for these events can be confirmed with any of your local councillors or by consulting notices in the Memorial Hall or on our website.

DIGWYDDIADAU'R NADOLIG

Mae'r digwyddiadau canlynol yn cymryd lle yn y Neuadd Gymuned dros y Nadolig:

Ffair Nadolig

28 Tachwedd am 5, a sesiwn bingo i ddilyn am 7 o'r gloch

Noson Garolau i'r Gymuned

Mercher 10 Rhagfyr, 6.30



Disco I'r Plant

Sadwrn 13 Rhagfyr, 2 - 4.30

Tê i ddefnyddwyr y neuadd ac i'r rhai dros 50

Sadwrn 3 Ionawr, 2.00

Cewch ddod o hyd i amseroedd y digwyddiadau hyn drwy holi eich cynghorwyr lleol neu drwy wyllo'r hysbysebion yn y neuadd neu ar ein safle ar y wê.

PACT

Partnerships and Communities Together

PACT (Partnership and Community Together) meetings have recently been set up in Dyffryn Clydach. This is to allow local people to identify the issues that they would like the Police and Partners to address. The PACT meetings generate up to 3 priorities that will be dealt with by the Police and Partners. Local people are then encouraged to become involved in providing the solution to these identified priorities.

Previous priorities identified have concerned car parking issues in Stratton Way, anti social behaviour in Coed y Graig woodland, problems caused by traffic driving illegally through Hill Road and Monastery Road, and illegal parking in Heol Penlan during School drop off/pick up times.

Your Neighbourhood Policing Officer and Partners look forward to welcoming you at the next PACT meeting which will be held in the Committee Room of the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 3rd December at 6.30pm. Meetings are advertised by way of Posters/Flyers, local media, www.npt.gov.uk and www.ourbobby.com.

Alternatively, if you are unable to attend but wish to raise any issues, you can contact Front Line Support Officer Claire Rogers on tel 01639 640297, mob 07805 301545 or e-mail:

Claire.rogers@south-wales.pnn.police.uk.

Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness Club

Classes in Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Hall are fun, friendly and suitable for all levels of fitness and ability.

The class, held on Tuesdays from 9.30 – 11.00am, includes a private weigh-in, motivational chat and a 45 minute exercise session - taught by a professionally qualified Diet & Fitness Instructor.

For further details telephone Emma Shepherd on 01792 815100.

DYFFRYN CLYDACH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Winter Newsletter

The topic for this edition is INFORMATION, and there follows a list of very useful telephone numbers which readers might find handy to keep somewhere where they can be referred to quickly in an emergency.

COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM - 01639 889 161

Providing safety and security for older, disabled and vulnerable people in their own homes

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - 01639 889 162

Look out for our page on the Dyffryn Clydach internet web site

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT - 01639 889 709

Don't suffer in silence –

Witness Support Officer and Estate Rangers are at 01639 796 028

DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE - 0808 80 10 800

STREET LIGHTING (to report a faulty light) 0800 59 00 25

Give the operator the street name and either the number on the lamp post or the number of the nearest house

ABANDONED VEHICLES (to report for removal) 01639 764 325

CARE AND REPAIR - 01792 321 122

Small and minor repairs and advice for the elderly

CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111

To pass on information – *in confidence*

More helpline numbers will appear in future editions, meanwhile, support the group monthly meetings held in Longford Memorial Hall on the second Monday in each month, and also the PACT meetings which are arranged and run by the Police. Look out for the dates which are announced in the local press.

REMINDER – If you have a "Datalink" capsule, please ensure that you keep your details UP TO DATE. Blank forms are available at group meetings. Consider including a new repeat prescription in the pot.

Why do people litter?

Litter in the environment comes from people

- they will drop litter thinking others will clear up after them;
- they may think areas are already untidy and a bit more doesn't make any difference;
- if the bins are full;
- if there is nowhere convenient to dispose of their rubbish.

Litter can be dangerous

- sharp objects are harmful;
- plastic can suffocate plants and animals;
- it kills much of our plant life and destroys the habitats of our wildlife.

BIN IT!

If you are removing your own waste from your house or garden, remember that the majority of household waste items can be taken to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Briton Ferry. The Council also offers a free bulky household waste service (for three items per collection).

Please contact Service First on 01639 686868 for information.



This is unsightly and unnecessary.
Mae hwn yn amhrydferth ac yn ddiangen.

Paham mae pobl yn taflu sbwriel?

Pobl sydd yn creu sbwriel yn ein hamgylchfyd

- *maent yn taflu sbwriel gan feddwl bydd eraill yn ei lanhau ar eu holau;*
- *maent yn credu os yw ardal yn flêr yn barod bydd ychydig mwy ddim yn gwneud llawer o wahaniaeth;*
- *os yw'r biniau'n llawn*
- *os nad oes rywle cyfleus iddynt gael gwared o'u sbwriel.*

Mae sbwriel yn gallu bod yn beryglus

- *mae pethau miniog yn niweidiol;*
- *mae plastig yn gallu mygu planhigion ac anifeiliaid;*
- *mae'n lladd llawer o'n planhigion ac yn difetha cynefinoedd bywyd gwyllt.*

Os ydych yn cael gwared ar sbwriel o'ch tŷ neu'ch gardd, cofiwch gallwch fynd â'r mwyafrif i'r safle Gwastraff ac Ailgylchu yn Llansawel. Mae'r Cyngor hefyd yn cynnig gwasanaeth di-dâl i gasglu eitemau mawrion (tair eitem ar y tro). Cysylltwch â 01639 686868.

RHOWCH E' YN Y BIN

JOSEPH TREGELLES PRICE - *continued*

1784 - 1854

Joseph Tregelles Price contributed greatly to the life of the locality in which he worked. When Neath Philosophical Society was formed in 1835, he was its Chairman. The object of this society was to encourage the Arts and Sciences. Other Quaker Friends also took an active interest in this society, such as E.O.Tregelles as its first secretary. Price was an ardent supporter of the Bible Society and was a firm advocate for the Abolition of Slavery. When slaves were emancipated by Britain at enormous cost his delight was great, and it was his most ardent desire to see America doing likewise. Price acted as clerk to the Half Yearly Meetings of the Friends Society for many years, and was trustee for many properties belonging to the society. He owned a number of farms where horses employed at the works were kept.

Six feet in height, and of powerful frame, the head of an engineering firm which was known over England and Wales for its rectitude in business, Joseph Tregelles Price towered above all his contemporaries from 1818 till he died unmarried in 1854. He was justly regarded as one of the noblest Quakers of his day. If he detected a flaw in any piece of machinery it was immediately scrapped. Thus he built up the reputation of his firm. The workmen of Neath Abbey firmly believed that the work of their hand, plus the inspection of their master, could not be surpassed anywhere, and their belief was correct, and readily acknowledged by engineers. Considering that the number of workmen employed at Neath Abbey was never more than four hundred, and that the site was not the most accessible for business, we marvel that Price achieved such success. The works contained two blast furnaces for making iron from ore, one iron foundry for casting the various parts of engines and mill work, and an engine manufactory. The engines of "The Glamorgan", the first steam packet for the Swansea – Bristol route, were constructed at Neath Abbey in 1823. The first iron ship to sail around Cape Horn was built there, as were the "La Serena" of 550 tons and "Ellen Bates" of 1750 tons. The Prices of Neath Abbey for several years turned out the largest ships in the country. As coal-owners, they were renowned for their adventurous attitude, and Welshmen were proud to say that they "worked under the Quakers". Bryncoch was the first deep pit in the country – about two hundred yards deep; it was a bold venture and its success encouraged others to exploit the riches of the local coal seams.

Joseph Tregelles Price died on Christmas Day, 1854, aged seventy-one years. His funeral was the largest witnessed in Neath in that generation. William Ball in "Memorials of Kindred" wrote of him:

*"The Friend of Peace. Mourners have wept today,
His bier attending: while the dread array,
Of siege and battle claim's the patriot's tear;
This heralding what doth it say,
Rough harbinger to usher in the year..." etc.*

He hazarded great things for the common good and we wonder that there is no monument to his memory at Neath Abbey.

Commenting in a leading article on the death of Joseph Tregelles Price the editor of "The Cambrian" said: "Mr. Price had been familiar to the public of South Wales during very many years, as a leading man of business and an indefatigable philanthropist. His character was one of singular energy, cool discrimination, and inflexible integrity. Few men could be so greatly missed in his own immediate neighbourhood; but his loss will be far more extensively felt, not only in the religious community of which he was a member, but in various associations for benevolent objects and moral progress. Over the deep sorrow of his family connexions we reverentially draw the veil, but the public need no other evidence of an emotion spreading far more widely than the countenance and language of his numerous subordinates and workmen, who tearfully solicit a last look at all that now remains of their long venerated employer. We understand the funeral will take place in the Friends' Burying Ground at Neath on Sunday forenoon." (December 31st, 1854).

He died of a pulmonary inflammation on December 25th 1854.

Ref: T. Mardy Rees, "The Quakers in Wales"

D. Rhys Phillips, "The History of the Vale of Neath"

*The Council would like to thank Mr Brian Davies of Tonna for permission to publish his article on Joseph Tregelles Price. Editor
Dymuna'r Cyngor ddiolch i Mr Brian Davies, Tonnau am yr hawl i gyhoeddi ei erthygl ar Joseph Tregelles*



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

YOUR COUNCIL

Dyffryn Clydach Community Council consists of thirteen members representing all areas of Dyffryn Clydach - Cwrt Herbert, Dyffryn, The Highlands, Longford, Neath Abbey and Penschanel. Uniquely, the councillors are not warded which means that any councillor can represent any resident of the area.

In the community council elections held last May the following were elected for the next four years:

Cllr Martyn Peters	Cllr Mrs Margaret Smith
Cllr Mrs Julie Arnold	Cllr Harry Thomas
Cllr Mrs Jennifer Phillips	Cllr Mrs Jen Davies
Cllr Gwyn Edwards	Cllr David Thomas
Cllr Brian Hall	Cllr Mrs Alyson Thomas
Cllr Stephen Absalom	Cllr John Bryant
	Cllr Mrs Lyn Thomas

The Council held its Annual General Meeting on 12th May during which it appointed its new Chairman, Cllr Mrs Margaret Smith. Council meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, excepting Bank Holidays, at 6.30pm in the Committee room at the rear of Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Hall. The public are always welcome to attend, as are the local press.

There are five committees which are able to look at various issues (affecting Dyffryn Clydach) in depth and then report back to the full Council when policy decisions are made.

Finance Committee

Chairman Cllr Brian Hall

Open Spaces Committee

Chairman Cllr Martyn Peters

Halls Committee, Chairman

Cllr Mrs Lyn Thomas

Social Events Committee

Chairman Cllr Mrs Jen Davies

Communications Committee

Chairman Cllr Mrs Margaret Smith

Randall Shopland is the Council's respected and capable clerk. He prepares the Council's agenda, minutes and correspondence prior to every monthly meeting. He also undertakes research into planning and legal matters and handles the business of hall bookings and remittances.

If you need any information, contact the clerk (telephone 01639 635787) or any of the elected councillors who will be pleased to help you.

For Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council matters contact

Cllr Martyn Peters (telephone 01792 813174)

CYNGOR CYMUNED DYFFRYN CLYDACH

Mae'r Cyngor wedi ei gyfansoddi o dri aelod ar ddeg sydd yn cynrychioli pob ardal o Ddyffryn Clydach – Cwrt Herbert, Dyffryn, Yr Highlands, Rhydhir, Mynachlog Nedd a Phensiannel. Beth sydd yn unigryw yw nad yw'r cynghorwyr wedi eu gosod mewn wardiau ac oherwydd hynny gall unrhyw gynghorydd gynrychioli unrhyw ran o'r ardal.

Yn etholiadau'r cyngor cymuned a gynhaliwyd mis Mai y llynedd dewiswyd y canlynol am y bedair mlynedd nesaf:

Cyng Martyn Peters	Cyng Mrs Margaret Smith
Cyng Mrs Julie Arnold	Cyng Harry Thomas
Cyng Mrs Jennifer Phillips	Cyng Mrs Jen Davies
Cyng Gwyn Edwards	Cyng David Thomas
Cyng Brian Hall	Cyng Mrs Alyson Thomas
Cyng Stephen Absalom	Cyng John Bryant
	Cyng Mrs Lyn Thomas

Cynhaliwyd Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blyneddol y Cyngor ar y 12fed o Fai, pan etholwyd Mrs. Margaret Smith fel y Cadeirydd newydd. Mae'r Cyngor yn cwrdd ar ddydd Llun cynta'r mis, ag eithrio Gwyliau'r Banc, am 6.30pm yn yr ystafell bwyllgor yng ngefn Neuadd Goffa Dyffryn Clydach. Mae croeso bob amser i'r cyhoedd ac i'r wasg lleol i fynychu'r cyfarfodydd.

Mae gan y Cyngor bump pwyllgor sydd â'r hawl i edrych yn fanwl ar amryw o bynciau (sydd yn effeithio Dyffryn Clydach) cyn paratoi adroddiad arnynt i'r Cyngor llawn lle mae penderfyniadau polisi yn cael eu gwneud.

Pwyllgor Cyllid

Cadeirydd Cyng Brian Hall

Pwyllgor Lleoedd Agored

Cadeirydd Cyng Martyn Peters

Pwyllgor y Neuadd

Cadeirydd Cyng Mrs Lyn Thomas

Pwyllgor Digwyddiadau

Cadeirydd Cyng Mrs Jen Davies

Pwyllgor Cyfathrebu

Cadeirydd Cyng Mrs Margaret Smith

Clerc medrus a mawr ei barch y Cyngor yw Randall Shopland. Fe sydd yn paratoi agenda, cofnodion a gohebiaeth y Cyngor cyn pob cyfarfod misol. Yntau hefyd sydd yn gwneud ymchwil ar faterion cynllunio a chyfreithiol yn ogystal â delio ag archebu'r neuadd a thaliadau.

Rhif ffôn Randall Shopland: 01639 635787

Rhif ffôn Martyn Peters: 01792 813174

Check out our website
www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/DyffrynClydach
Gwylwch ein gwefan

How Do They Do It?

We thought last year's weather was a washout, but the "summer" of 2008 broke all records in being not only wetter and colder, but also in having far less sunshine hours since records began.

Chairman of Dyffryn Clydach Community Council, Cllr Mrs Margaret Smith, congratulated award winning residents in beating the weather conditions to put on wonderful garden displays. Gardeners and their immediate neighbours were able to enjoy their summer displays and the whole of Dyffryn Clydach benefited from their efforts. Because of this, the Council was pleased to recognise the work put in by residents, and certificates of merit were awarded as below:

Sut Mae'n Nhw'n Llwyddo?

Roedd tywydd y llynedd yn drychinebus, ond fe dorodd haf 2008 bob record, nid yn unig am ei fod yn wlypach ac yn oerach, ond hefyd am i ni weld tipyn llai o heulwen nag yn yr un flwyddyn ers dechrau cadw cofnodion.

Cafodd y trigolion a enillodd wobrau eu llongyfarch gan Gadeirydd Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach, y Cyngorydd Mrs. Margaret Smith, am faeddu'r tywydd gwael a sicrhau arddongosfeydd pen i gamp yn eu gerddi. Roedd y garddwyr eu hunain a'u cymdogion agos yn gallu mwynhau'r arddangosfeydd hyn ac fe elwodd Dyffryn Clydach gyfan o'u hymdrechion. Oherwydd hyn, 'roedd y Cyngor yn falch o gydnabod y gwaith a wnaethpwyd gan y trigolion, ac fe roddwyd tystysgrifau teilyngdod iddynt fel a ganlyn:

David Evans	The Highlands
Aldwyn Price	The Highlands
Angela Power	The Highlands
Hilary Pugh	Darran Park
Glyndŵr Gough	Darran Park

Mr and Mrs Davies	Longford Road
Mrs Bewsher	Longford Road
Mrs Radford	Longford Road
Brian Thomas	The Drive
Mr and Mrs Francis	New Road

Mrs Claire Beck	Heol Esgyn
Alan Elwell	Rhydhir
Mr Broughton	Rhydhir
Mrs Saunders	Rhydhir
Mrs Muriel Jones	Tregelles Road
Marlene Smith	Heol Penderyn
Mr and Mrs Cledwyn Jones	Heol Heddwch

Mrs Cook	Abbotts Walk
Mr and Mrs Bryan	Stratton Way
Mrs Griffiths	Abbotts Walk
Mr Colin Evans	Stratton Way

Nature notes *Sheila Manning*

It has been a wet summer with little opportunity to enjoy our gardens and the countryside. However, the trees have benefited from the heavy rainfall - the autumn leaf colour will be richer and more varied especially on the oaks and beeches. The river Clydach, with the waterfalls in Coed Bach and the Cwm, have been in full spate throughout the summer, providing a spectacular sight as well as sound. It is a good time to take a walk to enjoy the ambience of the autumn woodlands.

New legislation now introduced means that any householder who wishes to concrete over their front garden to create a car parking space will need planning permission. This law is necessary to lessen rain drainage and storm overflows that could flood our houses and to safeguard our declining urban wildlife - birds and other creatures. It will not only protect our urban surroundings from becoming a concrete jungle, but also improve the environment of our towns. It should be noted that where a householder uses permeable materials to make such a car parking space, this will allow rainwater to seep through and for plants to grow - then planning permission would not be needed.

Plants provide a valuable food resource for birds and insects. Familiar birds like the house sparrow and the starling are now on the endangered species list. During the winter months you can help the birds by putting out food for them - there is a good selection of bird feeders on the market for both seed and peanuts.

At this time of the year many gardeners are preparing their gardens for the winter. Any garden waste should either be composted or put in the green bags provided by the council and put out for their recycling service to collect.



Photo of residents displaying their certificates courtesy of Philip Evans, Photographer
Copies available, tel: 01639 642641
Llun o'r trigolion gyda'u tystysgrifau trwy ganiatâd Philip Evans, Ffotograffydd.
Copiau ar gael drwy ffonio: 01639 642641

WOMENS' LAND ARMY MEDAL FOR LIL SAUNDERS

by Robert King

Mrs Lil Saunders of Rhyddir recently was awarded her medal for serving during the Second World War in the Women's Land Army.

'I wasn't going to bother requesting it,' said Mrs Saunders, 'but my grandson said I should. We waited quite a while for it to arrive, but it was nice when it did, together with a signed letter from the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.'

Mrs Saunders was working in the offices of the United Welsh in Neath when she received her call up papers in 1943. She joined the Land Army and was sent to Felin Wen in Ceredigion to be trained as a rat catcher. That section of the Land Army was called the Pest Department.

'After the initial training in Felin Wen we were sent to Bridgend to complete it. And then, together with ten other girls I was detailed to work on the Gower.

'I lodged with another of the girls at her mother's house in St.Thomas in Swansea and we travelled out to the Gower every day.

'We would be given a list of different farms each week to deal with the rats. On Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays we would bait the infected areas, encouraging the rats to feed. Then on Fridays we would mix the bait with poison, I can't quite remember the poison but it was potent and very effective.

'On the Saturday we would go from farm to farm, and on



Mrs Lil Saunders proudly displaying her certificate and medal awarded in recognition of her time spent in the Women's Land Army during the War

some occasions the aerodrome at Fairwood, we dealt with the rabbits there, collecting up the corpses.

'We weren't given gloves to handle the dead rats or the poison. But you do get used to it. Vermin was a huge problem.

'Our boss would gather up the piles of rats and dispose of them in a pit.

'The authorities didn't tell us anything at all about the diseases we could have caught. So different from today. We had to be very careful about laying the bait so that other animals wouldn't eat it. If that did happen the blame would have been ours and we would have been disciplined.

'On one occasion we were sent to work in the abattoir in Neath Abbey, it was located where Cwrt Herbert housing estate is today. That wasn't as nice as working on the Gower. All in

all I thoroughly enjoyed working in the Land Army. Hard, but very different work. But some of the friends I made during that time have lasted a lifetime.

'I haven't got the badge depicting the Land Army girls. I lost it. Nor have I a single picture of myself during that time.'

Understandably Mrs Saunders said she has never been bothered with dealing with rats or mice since. 'Once, someone I knew in Cardiff had a rat problem in their garden,' she said. 'I was there when the pest control officer came. I was able to tell him the best place to set the bait.

"You know more about this game than I do," he said.'

ARCHIVE PHOTO

Who are these little Indians and where are they now?

LLUN ARCHIF

Pwy yw'r Indiaid bach hyn a ble maen nhw nawr?

The mystery picture in the last edition, "Who is playing in the sand?" shows Martyn Peters, Kevin O'Connor, Wendy Williams and Siân Williams.



Mae llun dirgel yn y cylchgrawn diwetha, "Pwy sy'n chwarae yn y tywod?" mae Martyn Peters, Kevin O'Connor, Wendy Williams a Siân Williams.



Get Gardening

Margaret Smith

Drought or Deluge, Confused?

While climatologists debate global warming, they warn gardeners to face the practicalities of parched lawns, scorched flowers, failing vegetable crops and hosepipe bans. But, yet again, we have had another exceptionally wet summer to contend with and this has proved a greater challenge to gardeners. We have experienced sodden lawns, flowers that have struggled to bloom and vegetables that have failed miserably.

Next year we would be better advised to consider using well established plants in our gardens and sowing familiar varieties of flowers and vegetables.

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 30th November.

LAWN CARE

Remove fallen leaves and if you haven't done it already now is your last opportunity to scarify your lawn. This involves raking out all the moss and dead vegetation.

For the grass to thrive, water must be allowed to drain away through the soil. On compacted lawns and areas which receive most wear you may need to aerate your lawn. The simplest way to do this is by using a garden fork inserted 4 inches deep every foot or so.

Worms are really beneficial in the garden. In a lawn they greatly assist drainage with their burrows. Worms live on decaying vegetation and are part of the vital process of retuning nutrients to the soil.

Try not to go onto the lawn when it is wet (or frosty). Cut the grass as necessary, and 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. Containers and tubs should be raised on to pot feet to assist drainage and a layer of chippings on the surface will reduce any surface puddling caused by excessive rain.

Lift and divide overgrown clumps of herbaceous perennials to give them a better shape and to improve the plants by encouraging more flowers for 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 when it becomes much colder.

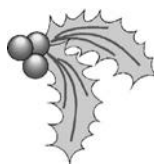
For gardening supplies and up to 50% reduction on Dobies seed catalogue orders remember to visit Longford Gardening Club. This is to be found in the garage compound off Heol Penlan and is open on Sundays between 10.00 am and 12.30pm. It will be closing for the winter period on Sunday 30th November and reopening on Sunday 8th 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.

RECIPE ♦ RECIPE ♦ RECIPE

SPICY FAT-FREE MINCEMEAT

Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness Club
Makes 1.5kg (3lb)

225g (8oz) mixed dried fruit
150g (5oz) cooking apples peeled
and grated
½ teaspoon mixed spice
150ml (½ pint) sweet cider



2 teaspoons rum

METHOD

Place the dried fruit in a saucepan.

Add the grated apple, mixed spice and cider.

Simmer for 20 minutes or until the mixture has formed a pulp and most of the liquid has evaporated.

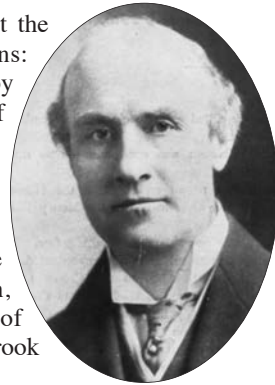
Stir in the rum.

Pack in sterilised jars and store in the refrigerator until required.

SIR SAMUEL EVANS

A service was conducted recently at the grave-side of Sir Samuel Evans: Skewen's most distinguished son, by Father Mark Williams, Vicar of Skewen, on Saturday 13th September to commemorate to the day 90 years following Sir Samuel's death.

The subject is of note to this area because St John's Church is in the community of Dyffryn Clydach, indeed the ecclesiastical parish of Skewen's northern boundary is the brook near Glynfelin Lodge in Longford.



Cllr Keith Davies, who had arranged for the service to take place said: 'Any book on the history of Neath could not fail to include reference to one of its most distinguished sons in the realm of law and politics. A plaque on the wall of where George Brown's Insurance Office once stood in New Road, Skewen, records the birthplace of Samuel Thomas Evans. His parents kept a grocer's shop on the site.

'He graduated with a law degree and entered politics as the Liberal member of Parliament for the constituency of Mid Glamorgan (of which the Neath area was a part) and embraced many issues such as temperance, education, home rule and tithe reform. His legal acumen and brilliant debating powers in the House of Commons impressed friends and foes alike and he was regarded by some as a worthy potential leader of the Liberal Party. In 1908 he was appointed Solicitor-General.

'He did not neglect local affairs and through the good offices of his second wife, the American, Blanche Rule, he was instrumental in establishing Coedffranc Free Library.

'In 1910 he left politics and was offered one of the highest offices in the legal world, the Presidency of the Admiralty, Probate and Divorce Division of the High Court. He declined a peerage, was made a Freeman of both Neath and Swansea and Lord Birkenhead once remarked that if he had remained in politics he would have become not only Lord Chancellor, but a very good one.'

The chair of Coedffranc Community Council, Cllr Janet Jones laid a floral tribute at the grave. Also present was the vice-chairman of the community council, Cllr Charles Fletcher.

May 4th 2009 is the 150 anniversary of Sir Samuel Evans' birth. Cllr Keith Davies is already making plans to celebrate the event.

One wonders if there are any surviving relatives of Samuel Evans in the Skewen or Neath area. If there are and they read this please give me a ring on 01639-711480.

Robert King

SOS IRB KITAID

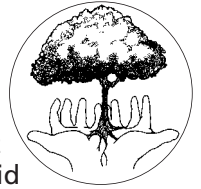


BRYNCOCH RFC made a generous donation of five full rugby kits to the charity SOS IRB KITAID.

Wales co-ordinator, Ken Thomas, thanked the club warmly for the gesture and told them that the charity had recently made its one hundredth overseas delivery of kit to underprivileged young people in Swaziland.

Any sports clubs wishing to follow Bryncoch's example and recycle their old kit whilst spreading the sporting message are welcome to contact Ken on 01792 528754 or 07966193170.

Dyffryn Clydach Environmental Group



One advantage to all this rain is that we are experiencing wonderful vivid colours in the autumn leaves. Now is a particularly good time to see the waterfalls at Sgwd Bach and Sgwd Clydach against the backdrop of autumn colours.

Recently the woods at Coed y Graig, Coed Bach and the Cwm have benefited from a major grant funded by Cydcoed which is part of the Forestry Commission. Work has been done to remove dead and dangerous trees, and invasive species such as sycamore and rhododendron. Access has been improved with renewed flights of steps, better drainage and surfaces provided to the footpaths and new handrails provided where necessary. An exciting element of the grant work involved the work of children from both Neath Abbey Infants' School and Mynachlog Nedd Junior School. They worked with local sculptor, Brenda Oakes, who designed work inspired by the children and by the nature and history of the area itself.



The accompanying photograph of the "Really, Really Big Leaf" was taken by Megan Collison. It shows the sculpture of a 9ft leaf. Back in the classroom, the children thought of some really imaginative uses for it:

as a swing; as a bed or hammock; as a hat; as a bridge; as a boat; as a surfboard; as a skateboard; as a chair; as a gigantic umbrella, even as a clothes airer

Perhaps the best idea came from Alisha Jenkins who would like to "lie down on it and sunbathe, eating chocolate cake".

If you are interested in helping to improve our local area, then why not contact Dyffryn Clydach Environmental Group? Margaret Smith, (telephone: 01639 681112), the group's secretary, said, " All volunteers are welcome! We work in the local woodlands by taking out invasive species and improving access. As well as litter picking throughout Dyffryn Clydach, we also plant trees, shrubs and bulbs and we work with other local groups to improve the environment for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of the community at large."

HELPING HANDS KNITTERS

Butterfly Tea Party - 25th September 2008

Over 70 people joined with the Helping Hands Knitters for a traditional tea with fun and laughter to celebrate the lives of the children of Tŷ Hafan Children's Hospice.

UK children's hospices have adopted the symbol of a butterfly to represent the short, fragile yet beautiful lives of the children they care for.



L to R: Christine Chandler, Community Co-ordinator Tŷ Hafan, Sam member of Ty Hafan staff, Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr and Mrs Gunter, Chair of Helping Hands Knitters Evana Morgan of Cadoxton.



Mother and daughter Effie Lewis and Carolyn Edwards of Cwmgwrach, behind them Mags O'Connor of Port Talbot and Madelene Richards.



Val Williams of Baglan and Caroline Parry of Cadoxton join two Helping Hands members, Jean Saunders and Julie Davies of Skewen and Bob Phippen of Cartref, Skewen.

Chair Evana Morgan hosted the afternoon where everyone had wonderful fun, good food and great company. Terrific entertainment was provided by Neath playwright Celia Thomas offering insights into her own vivid childhood memories while Skewen poet Jean Saunders focussed on her teenage years during

the 50's and 60's. Mayor and Mayoress of Neath, Cllr. and Mrs. Mal Gunter, attended and the Mayor spoke movingly about Tŷ Hafan's work and the huge role that volunteers play in South Wales society. Christine Chandler and Sam from Tŷ Hafan spoke about the work of the hospice and the loving care and support that families receive there. Their next great fundraising feat will be in creating 'Y Ddraig Goch', The Welsh Flag big enough to cover the pitch of Cardiff's Millennium Stadium. This will be stitched, sewn, embroidered, quilted and crocheted by 110,000 craftspeople and will raise £110,00 in the process.

The Helping Hands Knitters presented Christine and Sam with a cheque for £400 and Longford Short Mat Bowls Club Chairman Greta Morgan presented the charity with a cheque in the sum of £100.

The knitters also presented the charity with two beautiful works of art, the Little Mouse Big Top and the Alphabet Blanket which were created by Margaret Neyton and Evana Morgan. These will be used by Tŷ Hafan to raise further funding. The hospice costs £2.5 million annually and so these gifts were very much appreciated.

Founder member Alyson Thomas told us, "The event was a run-away success. Many people commented that there is a spirit of community in Longford seldom found elsewhere. The reason for this is that we work with all other groups in the community, from schools, council, churches and chapels through to residential homes. "So many people do so much good, but when we join together we can move mountains.

"When we started out with the Baby Pack project there was an amazing amount of good will and we have kept this and continue to develop it with the help of wool and needles!"

If you would like to join the group and make new friends while helping others or make a donation of wool, needles or anything useful, please contact Val on 01792 423359. The group meets on alternate Thursdays at Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Hall, Longford, Neath Abbey.

PUBLIC MEETING

Welfare Rights

A public meeting has been called by Cllr. Martyn Peters to help everyone understand the new changes to the pensions system and how this will affect us all.

Advisors will be present to see people privately.

Thursday, 13th November, 2008 at 2.30pm at Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Hall.

CYFARFOD CYHOEDDUS Hawliau Lles

Mae'r Cynghorydd Martyn Peters wedi galw cyfarfod cyhoeddus er mwyn helpu pawb i ddeall y newidiadau i'r system pensiynau a sut y byddant yn effeithio arnynt.

Fe fydd ymgynghorwyr yn bresennol i weld pobl yn breifat.

Dydd Iau, 13 o Dachwedd am 2.30pm, Neuadd Goffa Dyffryn Clydach.