



**Additional copies available from Abbey Gate Stores and Longford Stores or from the Editor, Cllr Margaret Smith**  
*Copïau ychwanegol ar gael oddi wrth Siop y Gât, Mynachlog Nedd a Siop Rhydhir 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 Cynghorwr lleol.*

## Message from the Chairman of the Community Council

My year of office has simply flown and I am very pleased to report that the work undertaken by the Council during that time is an indication of how effective community councils can be when all councillors pull together for the good of the community. It has been a pleasure for me to work with a great group of people who have given me the support I have needed to carry out my duties effectively.

You, the residents of Dyffryn Clydach, have also helped make my year a memorable one through your support for the many activities that are run for the community's benefit by the Community Council. For this, I give you my sincere thanks.



I should like to thank in particular those councillors who, in their own time and at their own expense have attended meetings of outside bodies on behalf of the Community Council.

Last, but by no means least, my grateful thanks go out to the Clerk of our Council, Mr D Randall Shopland, who has been a tower of strength to me during my year of office.

I wish my successor well, and hope that he or she will derive as much pleasure from serving the community of Dyffryn Clydach during the coming year as I have had during the year that has passed.

Gwyn Edwards  
*Chairman*

## Neges gan Gadeirydd y Cyngor Cymuned

Mae fy nghyfnod yn y swydd wedi hedfan ac mae'n bleser gennyf gallu adrodd bod y gwaith sydd wedi ei ymgymryd ag ef gan y Cyngor yn ystod yr amser hynny yn dangos pa mor effeithiol gall cynghorau cymuned bod pan mae'r holl gynghorwyr yn cyddynnu gyda'u gilydd er lles y gymuned. Mae wedi bod yn bleser i mi gael gweithio gyda grŵp gwych o bobl, sydd wedi roi'r cefnogaeth oedd eisiau arnaf i weithredu fy nyletswyddau yn effeithiol.

Rydych chi hefyd, trigolion Dyffryn Clydach wedi helpu i wneud fy mlwyddyn yn un cofiadwy trwy eich cefnogaeth i'r amryw digwyddiadau sydd yn cael eu cynnal gan y Cyngor er budd y gymuned. Am hyn, estynaf fy niolch yn ddiwyll.

Hoffwn ddiolch yn enwedig y cynghorwyr hynny sydd wedi, yn eu hamser eu hunain ac yn ddi-dâl, mynychu cyfarfodydd cyrff allanol ar ran y Cyngor Cymuned.

Yn olaf, ond nid lleiaf o bell ffordd, 'rwyn estyn fy niolchgarwch didwyll at Glerc y Cyngor, Mr D. Randall Shopland, sydd wedi bod yn gefn mawr i mi

yn ystod fy mlwyddyn yn y swydd.

Dymunaf yn dda i'm olynnydd, a gobeithiaf y caiff ef neu hi gymaint o bleser wrth wasanaethu cymuned Dyffryn Clydach ag y cefais i yn ystod y flwyddyn a aeth heibio.

Gwyn Edwards  
*Cadeirydd*

*At the time of going to press we have heard that Cllr Edwards is in hospital. We wish you a speedy recovery, Gwyn, and hope it won't be long before you are feeling better . . . and fit enough to be calling bingo again! Ed.*

*Wrth fynd i'r wasg rydym wedi clywed bod y Cyng. Gwyn Edwards yn yr ysbyty. Dymunwn gwellhad buan i chi, Gwyn, a gobeithiwn na fydd yn hir cyn i chi deimlo'n well - a digon iach i alw'r bingo unwaith eto! Gol.*

## Rhydhir School Site

After many years' speculation, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has announced that it will finally be closing Dŵr y Felin Comprehensive Lower School in the next couple of years, after which the whole school will be sited on the main campus at Dŵr y Felin Road. A new building is planned for this purpose, and could be operational by September 2012.

Built as a secondary modern school in 1950, the Rhydhir site has housed the first two years of the school since comprehensive schools were introduced in September 1973. Working with a split site school for nearly 40 years has presented difficulties for both staff and



pupils, but in many ways this has proved to be an advantage in that pupils have enjoyed the move from primary to secondary education in smaller and more intimate surroundings.

The buildings at Rhydhir are now in such a poor state of repair that it is considered unviable to do anything further other than to demolish them.

There has been much conjecture as to what will happen to the site after the Lower School has relocated, but as yet nothing has been determined.

It has been suggested that this presents an ideal opportunity to bring together the Neath Abbey Infants' School (which itself is uniquely operating as a split site school already at Rhydhir and New Road) and Mynachlog Nedd Junior School (from St John's Terrace). Initial enquiries to the governing bodies of both schools indicate that they are in favour of relocation to one site. It would be far better for the children to be together in a safer site, away from the busy main road and in new buildings specifically designed for today's education.

County Councillor Martyn Peters has had discussions with the Director of Education at this early stage and said, "This is an opportunity not to be missed, when we can advance our schools by having a new modern building, fit for our children's education in the twentyfirst century."

## Safle Ysgol Rhydhir

Wedi blynyddoedd lawer o ddyfalu, mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot wedi datgan y bydd Adran Iau Ysgol Gyfun Dŵr y Felin yn cau ymhen flwyddyn neu ddwy a bydd yr ysgol gyfan yn cael ei lleoli ar y prif gampws ar Heol Dŵr y Felin. Mae cynllun ar y gweill i godi adeilad newydd at y pwrpas ac mae'n bosibl fe fydd hon mewn bodolaeth erbyn Medi 2012.

Er iddi gael ei hadeiladu fel ysgol uwchradd fodern ym 1950, mae safle Rhydhir wedi bod yn gartref i'r ddwy flynedd gyntaf o'r ysgol ers sefydlu ysgolion cyfun ym Medi 1973. Mae gweithio ar ddau safle am bron i 40 mlynedd wedi creu anawsterau i'r staff

a'r disgyblion, er mewn sawl ffordd mae hyn wedi profi'n fantais gan fod y disgyblion wedi profi'r trawsnewidiad o addysg gynradd i addysg uwchradd mewn amgylchedd sy'n llai a mwy chyfeillgar.

Mae adeiladau Rhydhir mewn siwd cyflwr gwael erbyn hyn fel 'does dim modd gwneud dim a nhw ond eu dymchwel.

Bu llawer o ddyfalu ynglyn â beth fydd yn digwydd i'r safle wedi i'r Ysgol Iau gael ei hailgartrefi, ond 'does dim byd wedi'i benderfynu eto.

Awgrymwyd bod y sefyllfa yn creu cyfle gwyh i ddod ag Ysgol Babanod Neath Abbey (sydd yn gweithio ar ddau safle yn barod sef Rhydhir a'r Heol Newydd) ag Ysgol Gynradd Mynachlog Nedd (o Deras Sant Ioan). Mae ymholiadau cynnar at gyrff llywodraethol y ddwy ysgol yn dangos eu bod o blaid symud i'r un safle. Byddai tipyn yn well i'r plant bod gyda'u giilydd ar safle mewn ardal ymhell o'r heol fawr brysur ac mewn adeiladau wedi eu cynllunio ar gyfer addysg gyfoes.

Mae'r Cyngorydd Bwrdeistref Sirol Martyn Peters wedi cynnal trafodaethau gyda'r Cyfarwyddwr Addysg yn barod a dywedodd, "Dyma gyfle ni ellir ei cholli, ble gallwn symud ein hysgolion ymlaen drwy gael adeilad fodern newydd, yn addas i addysg ein plant yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain."

## HELPING HANDS KNITTERS

The group has been incredibly busy since January and is very pleased that new members join practically every week. Up to forty members meet at the Memorial Hall and enjoy sharing time and skills together as well as helping many charities locally and nationally.

Recently *Support for Romania* has benefited from a transit van filled with adult and children's clothing, toys and household goods. The knitters worked hard to put together one hundred and thirty *Babypacks* for expectant mothers containing the very basics they need for their babies which prevent these children from being left at orphanages. Finally a huge amount of dried and tinned food and medical supplies was dispatched to the charity.

Many of the members had a great day out up in Cardiff recently when they visited the ice show at the Millennium Centre- so it is not all hard work! This was organised by Ann Doran, thank you Ann.

Ann was also responsible for a great deal of publicity for the group recently. She was contacted by an animal rescue centre with a very special request. They were nurturing a number of former battery chickens back to health but the birds were terribly cold as they had lost all their feathers due to stress and sickness. Ann and the knitting group ladies got out their needles and knitted a load of special tabard style jackets for the hens.

Ann's story was followed in the local and national press and on BBC Radio, making her quite a star. The knitters found this a great deal of fun but it served a humane purpose and showed that there is literally nothing these ladies cannot make out of wool.

A big event in the knitters' calendar is their group fact finding trip to the showground in Builth Wells. WonderWool Wales Exhibition takes place in April and is a huge source of inspiration. It really is an amazing show and the knitters' credit cards usually reach meltdown point as they load up their coach with so much yarn and patterns that it struggles to get over the Beacons on the way home.

Helping Hands Knitters would like to send their very warm wishes to Mrs Maureen Dixon who is not very well at the moment but who has a beautiful new granddaughter and also to Mr Dennis Berni, who helps such a lot with transport and tolerates his wife's enormous stash of wool and baby clothes. Dennis, we need you back on your feet.

If you would like to come along to the group they meet every Thursday between 12noon and 3pm for fun and laughter, cles and clickety-clicking. Ring Alyson for more information 01792528754 or 07719994991.



*Knitted tabard to keep warm a bald battery hen*

## Neath Abbey Early Years and Infants' School National Story Week

Cllr Mrs Alyson Thomas had a real treat when she visited the Early Years Unit in the Spring. It was a wonderful morning and she was surprised to find she was the only one not dressed like a favourite story character.

Cllr Mrs Thomas chose an exciting story to read to the Reception Class. *Class Two Goes to the Zoo* was funny and scary and she had to read it over and over to the class who are the best listeners ever ever ever. Among the teaching staff were Cinderella, Mog the cat, a Flintstone and a highly realistic cow from Jack and the Beanstalk.

Once the story was over Cllr Mrs Thomas was invited by headteacher Mrs Newman to judge the art competition. All of the pictures were brilliant, colouring inside the lines was very careful and collage was bright and clever. After lots of careful thought the winner was announced. Emmie Jenkins of the Nursery Class won with her lively illustration of the stories of Meg and Mog. Well done, Emmie.

Cllr Mrs Thomas has promised to come back again next year as it is such fun.

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## The Neath Abbey and District Older People's Forum...

In the present volatile political debate on the funding of services and social care for the elderly it is necessary for our members to give a collective voice to their concerns and to support other forums which are campaigning for a fair and just recognition of the needs of our older citizens.

Too many elderly people are dying of neglect in our care homes. Not enough support is given to older people trying to maintain independence in their communities. Age discrimination is rife, especially in the NHS. It must change to a better system of care for our ageing communities. By 2026 it is estimated that one in five British people will be over 65.

To find out what is on the local agenda why not come along to the next meeting at 2pm on Friday 23rd April in the Memorial Hall? An open meeting has been arranged about safety in the home. This meeting, also held in the Memorial Hall, will be at 11am on Tuesday 18th May.

*Sheila Manning*

# Preparing for married life

*from a talk given by Mr R Rees in the early 1920s on everyday life in our area during the mid-Eighteenth Century*

Preparing for marriage is something more than just walking arm-in-arm and uttering sweet nothings to each other. Getting married means that a young couple are starting on the journey of life together prepared to face their responsibilities and take their place among the families of the world. It is to be hoped that love at the outset is but the start of a loving that will last purely and truly for the rest of time. On getting married you start life together and that life cannot be complete without a roof over your head and furniture for your comfort.

Now the plans and method for preparing for married life, or in other words setting up a home were far different from what they are now. Small wages were the order of the day at that time, and there were far fewer facilities for saving then than are available today – there was no Post Office Savings Bank, for example - so people had to adopt different ways of accumulating funds that were simple, safe and inexpensive in order to gather what was necessary to build the new nest. And you will learn that those methods were extremely simple. Some of you, with your abundance of wisdom, will no doubt describe them as very primitive, yet there are many today who would eagerly adopt the advantages of the old ways. It will be very difficult for you, a new generation, to understand completely the old ways, but I shall do my best to explain.

At that time, when a wedding was being planned, a "neithior" or "wedding feast" would be held - I shall explain fuller later on.

Now think of a mother, we'll call her Siân, who has two daughters and a son who will eventually be in the market for marriage. Siân as a thrifty, responsible person would be looking ahead to the possibility of John seeking a wife, or Jane or Marged seeking husbands.

Betty, Tŷ Draw, would be holding a wedding feast on the occasion of her daughter Sally's wedding. Siân would probably get an invitation to the feast and would go along and have an excellent meal, and would pay a "pwyth" - a loan of money - to Betty. This would normally be in the region of 3/6, 4/- or 5/, [*£15, £17 and £21 respectively in today's terms. Ed*]. Siân would do the same at other weddings, and this was how she invested her money. Of course, she would keep a detailed account of what she had given either in a book or chalked behind a door. By this method, Siân would have placed out a substantial amount of money.

Well, at last, the day arrives for Jane, Siân's daughter, to announce bashfully to her mother that she and Tomos have decided to enter into holy matrimony. Now I have the opportunity to

describe the system fully to you.

After hearing the news, and after the emotional moment has passed and everyone has wiped their tears in their aprons, the first thing Siân does is to employ a woman, usually a widow who is familiar with the work, to go around her own and nearby villages to invite people to attend the "neithior" (wedding feast) at such and such a date and time. She was free to invite anyone she pleased but would make sure that an invite would be extended to those who were likely to place a "pwyth". She would also have received special instructions to invite everyone who owed Siân a "pwyth".

Now the time for the neithior has arrived at Siân's house. Meat pie (pastai gig) is on the menu. It is called meat from the oven "cig o'r ffwrn". You must remember that in those days people used to cook their meat on a spit in front of the fire and that meat from the oven was a rarity. The rarity is the other way by now. A cook was especially employed for the neithior, and she would be present for the whole event – which usually lasted a week. It would be fashionable for young men to take their girlfriends to the "pastai" - as it was called, and to pay a shilling for their food. And this was the charge for all those who didn't pay a "pwyth".

The methods I have mentioned will sound very strange now, but the plan worked well in the old days and it raised a considerable amount of money that helped scores of young couples to start their married lives in comfort and abundance without having to pay a penny interest on the capital. As for the security of the scheme, I did not hear of a single complaint. The honour of every woman was dependant on her paying her "pwythion", and should one die with outstanding debt, one of her descendants would take on her "pwythion" either wholly or in part.

When it came to furnishing and equipping the home, there was a strict understanding as to what the bride and groom each had to buy. The groom was to buy the bedstead, kitchen furniture, a square table, a round table, chairs, a fender, fire irons and bellows, an eight-day clock, iron utensils - such as a boiler (for washing), saucepans, tea kettle, knives and forks – and nearly all the parlour furniture. The bride's contribution was the bed and bedclothes, all the upstairs furniture (I shan't name them all), a glass corner cupboard for the parlour, a chest of drawers with glass items to place on top of it, teacups, saucers and teaspoons and a tea pot and dinner crockery. Pictures for the wall were an open question, and the pair, when the time arrived would jointly purchase the rocking chair and crib.

*to be continued*

## Council Groundsman is kept busy

To keep the open spaces and footpaths of Dyffryn Clydach clear and tidy is a big undertaking and one that keeps Council Groundsman Harry Davies busy throughout the year.



*Cutting back overgrowth along the Dram Road  
Torri gordyfiant ar y Dram Road*

The playgrounds at Lon Glynfelin and by the Memorial Hall are all maintained by Mr Davies, and he regularly checks the equipment there to ensure that it can be used safely.

Looking after the footpaths and bridleways throughout Dyffryn Clydach is quite a task. There are well over twelve miles to be seen to. Registered footpaths have to be waymarked and the network of paths covers from Drymmau Mountain right down to Neath Abbey Business Park. The surfaces have to be well drained and even and the side growth has to be cut back to allow easy access for all.

Dyffryn Clydach Community Council is justifiably proud of its footpaths maintenance scheme which is supported by the county borough council. Our paths, so greatly appreciated by the public, are the envy of many authorities.



*Checking the paths are clearly waymarked  
Sicrhau bod y llwybrau wed'u cyfeirbwyntio'n gywir*

## Tirmon y Cyngor yn cadw'n brysur

Mae cadw mannau agored a llwybrau troed Dyffryn Clydach yn glir ac yn daclus yn dipyn o gamp ac mae'n cadw tirmon y Cyngor Harry Davies yn brysur drwy gydol y flwyddyn.



*Laying new scalplings on the Dram Road where the path was washed away by excess surface water  
Gosod cerrig mân ar y Dram Road lle golchwyd y llwybr i ffwrdd gan lifogydd*

Mae'r lleoedd chwarae, yn Lôn Glynfelin a ger y Neuadd Goffa ill dau hefyd yn cael eu cynnal gan Mr. Davies, ac mae e'n archwilio'r offer chwarae yno er mwyn sicrhau y gellir eu defnyddio'n ddiogel.

Mae edrych ar ôl y llwybrau troed a'r heolydd ceffylau ar draws Dyffryn Clydach yn dipyn o orchest. Mae tipyn dros deuddeg milltir i'w gofalu amdanynt. Mae'n rhaid cyfeirbwyntio llwybrau cyhoeddus ac mae'r rhwydwaith o lwybrau yn ymestyn o Fynydd Drummau i lawr at Barc Busnes Mynachlog Nedd. Mae'n rhaid i'w gwynebau fod yn llyfn ac wedi eu draenio'n dda, ac mae'n rhaid torri'r tyfiant sydd ar eu hymylon er mwyn i bawb gael eu defnyddio.

Mae Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach yn haeddiannol falch o'u cynllun cynnal llwybrau sydd yn cael cefnogaeth gan y cyngor bwrdeistref sirol. Mae ein llwybrau, sy'n cael eu gwerthfawrogi'n fawr gan y cyhoedd, yn achos cenfigen i sawl awdurdod arall.



*Replacing rotten handrails  
Ail-osod canllawiau powdr*

# *Dyffryn Clydach Community Map Project*

Our community arts project has gone through all the planning stages and is now well underway. Many community members have enjoyed the last few months and the challenges and new skills they have been able to try and develop, sometimes with brilliant and hilarious results.

In December we had an afternoon session at the Memorial Hall in which we worked with drop spindles to spin yarn that we will be able to use in the tapestry itself. Everyone had great fun with some more successful at their first attempts than others. Some of us had to resort to restraining our spindles in teacups as they were rather wayward.

We followed this with a fact finding mission to Swansea, firstly to the Mission Art Gallery at the Marina to look at the work of acclaimed contemporary weaver Muriel Clement. We then travelled to the Gower Heritage Centre where we had a tour of some of the machinery displayed there which was originally from the Neath Abbey Woollen Mill.

We are being guided on our project journey by Deb Reid, Chairman of "The Tawe Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers" which is based at the Cross Community Centre in Pontardawe. We have had to learn the language of the craft, new words and phrases such as "heddles, lark's heads, warps, wefts and sheds" and many new techniques as we prepared the looms for working the tapestry. Chris Sorokin, a local businessman has helped us greatly in that his firm, Sorokin Joinery at Monastery Road has actually made and donated free of charge, the four looms that the tapestry is being woven on.

Through Deb Reid we were lucky enough to source spun wool which came from the old Neath Abbey Mill and we are also weaving cloth with this wool on which to mount the tapestry. Former community councillor Hugh Thomas has contributed hugely to the tapestry with his local historical knowledge and Cllr Mrs Alyson

Thomas has been responsible for the artistic design. The project group has had a hard job deciding what to include or omit as the area is so rich geographically and historically, but the picture is now finally forming.

Most recently the group worked sample tapestries on small sections of card and experimented with design, yarn type and stitch techniques. Members like Cllr Mrs Lyn Thomas got quite carried away with this and now

can't stop creating these mini masterpieces. Two local ladies who are very welcome on the project are Phyllis Griffiths and Mair Axtell, both of whom took part in the Skewen tapestry displayed at the Carnegie Hall and are able to share their skills with the group. As Ymlaen went into press the group had commenced working on the grass bank of the River Neath, moving up through the canal and into Neath Abbey.

Throughout the coming months local children and many interest groups will also be involved in a variety of techniques including felting, appliqué, cross stitch and embroidery, recording progress on the council's website as they do so. The project is also being recorded by the National Needlework Archive based in Swindon which will document the work for posterity. It is also important that the stories of the people who take part in the process are recorded and as the group works they chat and exchange memories and experiences of life past and present in our wonderful area.

You are very welcome to join in at any stage of the process. Drop in to the committee room at the rear of the Memorial Hall on any Tuesday between 12noon and 3pm where you will be warmly welcomed. Cllr Mrs Alyson Thomas will be pleased to answer any enquiries you have by email – [ladyalthomas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ladyalthomas@hotmail.co.uk), 01792 528754 or 07719994991



Val Berni, Jan Thomas, Mair Axtell, Deb Reid, Gretta Morgan, and Pat Jones concentrating hard in the drop spindle workshop.

*Val Berni, Jan Thomas, Mair Axtell, Deb Reid, Gretta Morgan a Pat Jones yn canolbwyntio'n galed yng ngweithdy'r gwerthdy llaw.*

# Prosiect Map Cymundebol Dyffryn Clydach

Mae ein prosiect celfyddydau cymunedol wedi gorffen pob cam cynllunio ac yn mynd yn ei flaen yn hwylus. Mae aelodau o'r gymuned wedi mwynhau y misoedd diweddaf ynghyd â'r heriau, a'r sgiliau mae nhw wedi bod yn ceisio datblygu, weithiau gyda chanlyniadau gwych ac weithiau rhai doniol iawn.

Ym mis Ragfyr cawsom sesiwn yn y Neuadd Goffa lle buom yn gweithio gyda gwerthydau llaw i nyddu gwlân i'w defnyddio yn y tapestri ei hun. Cafwyd hwyl gan bawb gyda rhai yn fwy llwyddiannus gyda'u hymdrechion cyntaf nag eraill. Bu'n rhaid i rai ohonom osod ein gwerthydau mewn cwpan gan eu bod mor chwit-chwat.

Yn dilyn hyn aethom ar daith ymchwiliol i Abertawe, yn gyntaf at Galeri Celf y Mission yn y Marina i edrych ar waith y gwehydd cyfoes Muriel Clement. Yna fe aethom at Ganolfan Treftadaith Gŵyr lle cawsom ein tywys o amgylch y peiriannau oedd yn o gan gynnwys rai oedd yn dod yn wreiddiol o Felin Wlân Mynachlog Nedd.

Cawn ein tywys drwy'r project gan Deb Reid, Cadeirydd "Urdd Gwehyddion a Lliwyddion Cwm Tawe" sydd a'u canolfan yng Nghanolfan Gymunedol y Groesffordd ym Mhontardawe. Fe fu'n rhaid i ni ddysgu iaith y grefft, gyda geiriau ac ymadroddion fel "heddles, lark's head, warps, wefts a sheds", ynghyd â nifer o dechnegau newydd tra'n paratoi y fframiau gwau i wneud y tapestri. Bu Chris Sorokin, dyn busnes lleol wedi ein cynorthwyo'n fawr gan mai ei fusnes ef, sef Sorokin Joinery, Monastery Road, a wnaeth y pedwar ffram y bydd y tapestri yn cael ei wehyddu arnynt, a'u rhoi yn ddi-dâl i ni.

Buom yn digon ffodus drwy gymorth Deb Reid i ddod o hyd i wlân oedd wedi'i nyddu yn Felin Wlân Mynachlog Nedd ac rydym yn nyddu brethyn gyda'r gwlân hyn er mwyn mowntio'r tapestri arno. Mae'r cyn-gynghorydd cymuned Hugh Thomas wedi cyfrannu tuag at y tapestri gyda'i wybodaeth o hanes lleol ac mae'r Cynghorydd Alyson Thomas wedi bod yn gyfrifol am y dylunio. Mae'r grŵp wedi ei chael

hi'n anodd i benderfynu ar beth y dylid ei gynnwys a pha beth y dylid ei adael allan gan fod yr ardal mor gyfoethog yn ddaearogol ac yn hanesyddol, ond mae'r darlun yn dechrau ffurfio o'r diwedd.

Yn ddiweddarach mae'r grŵp wedi gweithio

ar sampleri ar ddarnau bach o gerdyn i arbrofi cynlluniau, gwahanol mathau o ddefnydd a thechnegau gwnïo. 'Roedd aelodau fel y Cynghorydd Mrs. Lyn Thomas wedi colli ar eu hunain gyda hyn ac ni allent atal ar greu'r campweithiau bychain yma. Dwy ddynes a groesawyd yn wresog i'r project yw Phyllis Griffiths a Mair Axtell oedd i'w dwy wedi helpu creu tapestri Sgiwen sydd i'w weld yng Nghanolfan Carnegie ac maent felly yn gallu rhannu ei sgiliau gyda'r grŵp. Wrth i Ymlaen fynd i'r wasg mae'r grŵp wedi dechrau gweithio ar y glaswellt wrth ymyl yr afon Nedd, gan symud i

fyny drwy'r gamlas i Fynachlog Nedd.

Yn ystod y misoedd nesaf fe fydd plant lleol a nifer o gyrff sydd â diddordeb yn y cynllun yn ymgymryd â nifer o ddulliau sy'n cynnwys ffeltio, appliqué, croesbwytho a brodwraith, gan gofnodi'r datblygiad ar wefan y Cyngor fel y mae'n symud ymlaen. Mae'r project hefyd yn cael ei gofnodi gan yr Archif Genedlaethol Gwniadwaith yn Swindon sydd yn mynd i gadw cofnod o'r gwaith at yr oesoedd i ddod. Mae'n bwysig bod storïau y bobl sy'n cymryd rhan yn y broses yn cael eu cofnodi a phan mae'r grŵp yn gweithio maent yn ymgomio ac yn rhannu atgofion a phrofiadau o fywyd fel y mae ac fel y bu yn ein hardal dymunol.

Mae yna groeso i chi ymuno â ni yn unrhyw ran o'r broses. Galwch heibio i'r ystafell bwyllgor yng nghefn y Neuadd Goffa ar unrhyw ddydd Mawrth rhwng canol dydd a thri o'r gloch lle y cewch croeso twymgalon. Fe fydd y Cyng. Mrs. Alyson Thomas yn falch o ateb unrhyw ymholiadau sydd gennych ar e-bost: ladyalthomas@hotmail.co.uk, neu teleffon: 01792 528754 neu 07719994991.

Harry Thomas



Clr Mrs Julie Arnold at a carding and spinning session.

Cyng. Mrs. Julie Arnold mewn sesiwn cribo a nyddu gwlân.

## Nature notes Kay Fern

The word BIODIVERSITY was coined by Edward O. Wilson, an American professor who was one of the first people to warn of the threat of mass extinction if man's exploitation of the environment was not brought under control. It is made up from the words "biology" and "diverse". There is no single standard definition for the word, and some attempts are quite complicated, although the Compact Oxford English Dictionary's version is a good basic starting point: "The variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat."

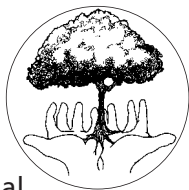
The United Nations has recognised that something needs to be done to draw everybody's attention to the world's biodiversity and has declared 2010 The International Year of Biodiversity as a "celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives."

Because of our actions as humans, biodiversity is under threat. The International Union of Conservation of Nature predicts that one-fifth of mammals' and a third of amphibians' futures are in jeopardy, with one

bird out of eight, one mammal out of four, one conifer out of four, one amphibian out of three and six marine turtles out of seven all being threatened with extinction. As well as the above, three quarters of the world's fish stocks are fully or over exploited; one third of the reef-building corals around the world are perilously close to being lost and every second an area of rainforest the size of a football field disappears.

As individuals, we all have a contribution to make, however small, to help sustain planet Earth. Recently, for example, Greenpeace, in order to protect the endangered orang-utan asked people to e-mail *Nestlé* to ask them to stop using palm oil in *Kit Kat* and many other products which are bought from suppliers that destroy rainforests in Indonesia to grow their plantations. Let's hope that this protest is as successful as some of the organisation's other initiatives to save our planet. Look out in the press for other initiatives, too, and if you have a computer there are excellent sites on-line to keep you informed on what is being done at local, national and international level to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity.

## Dyffryn Clydach Environmental Group



The cold winter has been long, the daffodils slow to give their usual display by St David's Day. It has also meant that planned work for the group has had a delayed start. However, litter picks have been carried out when the weather proved congenial. The woods are beginning to show life with yellow hazel catkins and gorse and birdsong and buzzard cry showing that spring is not far off with better weather ahead.

One of our planned activities is to improve the appearance of the road traffic island by St Matthew's Church. This has become degraded with illegal parking by car users who mainly attend the nearby church. It is proposed to tidy the area by erecting suitable barriers to deter this improper use and to replant the flower beds. This will enhance what is a very attractive area within our community. Hopefully, drivers will be more considerate when parking so that others may safely pass this hazardous junction.

A pair of swans has recently taken up residence on the pond by Cwrt Herbert. Mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) are protected wild birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to intentionally injure, take or kill a swan. The Act also protects the nest and eggs of the swan, it is an offence to take an egg or to damage or destroy a nest, even when a swan is building it. The male bird can be aggressive during the breeding season. Swans feed on aquatic



plants, their long necks enabling them to reach to the bed of a pond, river or canal. They will also feed on molluscs, small fish, frogs and worms. The birds will seek out their own natural diet. It is only in extremely cold weather that they will need extra feeding. It is best not to encourage them to feed on bread and other household scraps, an excess of which will attract rats and other vermin. The birds on the pond have found it favourable here. It will be interesting to see whether they will stay or move elsewhere.

The group welcomes all people to join in our work to conserve the environment and its rich flora and fauna. Please contact the Secretary on 01639 681112.

## AWARD WINNING COUNCILLOR

Cllr Mrs Alyson Thomas was recently honoured in a celebrity black tie event organised by *Swansea Bay Radio* and *Admiral Insurance*. Alyson was nominated and won her category for her contribution to the community in the Swansea Bay area. The evening was hosted by Helen Enser Morgan, compered by Ruth Madoc and wonderful entertainment was provided by Paul Potts, Mal Pope and the Phoenix Choir.

The award was presented by footballer John Hartson and in her acceptance speech Alyson thanked all the people of our area who "whenever I get one of my big ideas, roll their eyes and then roll up their sleeves and ask how they can help".

Alyson also spoke of how the community spirit surrounding her inspires her to embark on innovative projects. Through Ymlaen, she would like to particularly thank all those involved in three of her recent projects - The Helping Hands Knitters, The Community Map Project Group and Caewathan Community Centre - for their support and commitment. "I am just the one who points the way, they are the people who make some very important journeys. Thank you all so much."



Councillor Mrs Alyson Thomas at the award ceremony with John Hartson

*Y Cyngorydd Mrs Alyson Thomas yn y seremoni gwobrwyd gyda John Hartson*

## CYNGHORYDD YN CAEL EI GWOBWRWYO

Anrhydeddwyd y Cyng Mrs Alyson Thomas yn ddiweddar mewn achlysur tei du o fri a drefnwyd gan Radio Bae Abertawe a chwmni Yswiriant Admiral. Cafodd Alyson ei henwebu ac enillodd ei chategori am ei chyfraniad i gymdeithas yn nalgylch

Bae Abertawe. Llywyddwyd y noson gan Helen Enser Morgan, y compere oedd Ruth Madoc a chafwyd adloniant rhagorol gan Payl Potts, Mal Pope a Chôr Phoenix. Cyflwynwyd y wobwr gan y pêldroediwr John Hartson ac wrth dderbyn y wobwr diolchodd Alyson bawb yn ein hardal sydd "pan fyddaf i'n cael un o'm syniadau mawr, yn rollo'u llygaid ac yn torchi'u llewys ac yn gofyn sut y gallant helpu".

Siaradodd Alyson hefyd ar sut mae'r ysbryd cymdogol yn ei sparduno i ymgymryd â phrojectau dyfeisgar. Trwy gyfrwng Ymlaen, hoffai ddiolch yn arbennig y rhai hynny sydd yn gysylltiedig â thri o'i phrojectau diweddaraf - Gwewyr Estyn Cymorth, Project y Map Cymunedol a Chanolfan Cymuned Caewathan - am eu cefnogaeth a'u hymroddiad. "Dim ond y sawl sy'n cyfeirio ydw i 'nhw yw'r bobl sydd yn ymgymryd â theithiau pwysig. Diolch yn fawr ichi i gyd."

## DYFFRYN CLYDACH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Spring Newsletter

Residents kindly note that the local Neighbourhood Watch group has changed the starting time of the monthly meetings.

Meetings are held in the Longford Memorial Hall Committee room on the second Monday of the month (provided it is not a Bank Holiday). In future meetings will start at 2pm.

The relevant dates for the remainder of this year are as follows:

|                   |                   |                     |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>April 12</b>   | <b>May 10</b>     | <b>June 14</b>      |
| <b>July 12</b>    | <b>August 9</b>   | <b>September 13</b> |
| <b>October 11</b> | <b>November 8</b> | <b>December 13</b>  |

Meetings are open to all residents, but at present only 9 streets in this Community Council area (plus Brookfield) are represented.

Residents who may have serious issues to address are advised to attend the PACT meetings, held in the same venue - on dates published by the Police - when, supported by their neighbours, they will have the opportunity of speaking directly to a Police Office and an officer of the County Borough Council.

### Once again our Spring Message -

When working in the garden, remember to lock the house door and have the keys with you.

Remember to keep your gardening tools in a securely locked shed - consider marking them boldly with your postcode.

Be vigilant and report anyone behaving suspiciously by "viewing up" your property or your neighbours'.

Beware of the seasonal rogues - gutter cleaners or odd jobbers (who happen to be passing and notice a loose slate). Do not pay "up front" for them to go and get materials. Use reputable tradesmen, there are many of them in our area who will be recommended and who will do a good job at a fair price.

# Get Gardening

Margaret Smith

After the long cold winter at last we have been enjoying some dry sunny weather. The garden centres are full of promising young plants and it looks as if we shall be having some busy days ahead. Beware, however, putting out young and tender plants too early. The sunshine can be deceptive, because temperatures may actually be quite cold and frosty overnight, especially if there is no cloud cover. Cold winds can also damage young and tender plants if they have not been hardened off first.

## LAWNS

Mow lawns weekly and to give the grass a boost apply a combined lawn feed, weed and moss killer. Rake out any dead material and moss and sow seed to repair any bare patches.

## FLOWERS

If you haven't done it already, now is the time to prune rose bushes, as they start growing and before the new leaves start to unfurl. Cut back any old

weak and diseased shoots, shortening all other stems to just above an outward growing shoot. This will keep the centre of the bush open.

Lift and divide overgrown perennials and pick off dead flower heads to tidy up spring flowering bulbs. Continue sowing summer bedding annuals and prepare beds ready for planting out.

## VEGETABLES

Sow indoors tomatoes, courgettes, marrows, sweet corn and French beans in pots ready for planting out in May. Other vegetable and salad crops may be sown directly outside now following the guidance on the seed packets.

***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 10am and 12.30pm. For supplies at other times telephone 01792 814850.***

## RECIPE ♦ RECIPE ♦ RECIPE

### Rosemary Conley's Spicy Lamb with Sweet Potatoes

#### Serves 4

Per serving 334 calories 9.5g fat

Prep time 15 mins

Cook time 2 hours

#### Ingredients

2 red onions, chopped  
2 garlic cloves, crushed  
450g (1lb) lean diced lamb  
1 tbsp medium curry powder  
1 tbsp flour  
450ml (¾ pint) vegetable stock  
450g (1lb) sweet potatoes, peeled and chopped  
1 x 400g can chopped tomatoes  
salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 180C, 350F, Gas Mark 4. Preheat a non-stick frying pan.

Dry-fry the onions and garlic in the pan until soft.

Add the lamb and continue cooking, turning the meat to seal on all sides. Sprinkle the curry powder and flour over and "cook out" for 1 minute.

Gradually stir in the stock. Add the potatoes and tomatoes and bring the sauce to a simmer. Season with salt and black pepper and transfer to a casserole dish.

Cover and cook in the oven for 1½ – 2 hours until the meat is tender. Serve from the pot with a selection of freshly cooked vegetables.

Aerial view  
of  
Neath  
Abbey

Awrylun o  
Mynachlog  
Nedd



# Brian Hall

It is sad to record the passing of Cllr Brian Hall who died on 26th December last year aged 72 years after courageously fighting a long illness.

Brian was elected to Dyffryn Clydach Community Council at a by-election in 1991 and served continuously until his death.

He was brought up in Roman Way and on leaving Neath Grammar School he worked for the Co-operative Society; on his conscription in 1955 he joined the Army serving in the Pay Corps. Shortly after completing his conscripted two years he joined Metal Box where he spent the next twenty or so years before leaving to manage a double glazing company in Briton Ferry.

Brian's interest in financial matters was of particular benefit to the running of the community



council and soon after becoming a member he was elected on to the Finance Committee serving there for the duration of his time as a councillor. He had chaired the body for a number of years.

His interests outside those of council activities extended to local history, cricket and to rugby. He had been a member of Plaid Cymru since 1958, joining the party soon after

his conscription ended. His membership continued without a break for 51 years.

He had lived in The Sinnatts, Cwrt Herbert, with his wife, Carol, to whom our condolences are sincerely extended.

R.K.

Mrs Louisa Davies receives her well deserved award for long service to the community from Council Chairman Cllr Gwyn Edwards

*Mrs. Louisa Davies yn derbyn ei gwobr haeddiannol am hir wasanaeth i'r gymuned oddi wrth Cadeirydd y Cyngor Cymuned y Cyngorydd Gwyn Edwards.*



## Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness Club

Classes in Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Hall are fun and friendly. They are held on Tuesdays from 9.30 to 10.45am. All ages and all fitness abilities are most welcome.

Classes include 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.

**Extra copies of Ymlaen will be available in Abbeygate Stores and Longford Stores. Thank you to Jagtar and Jan for helping with this. Remember to support your local shops.**

*Bydd copi'au ychwanegol Ymlaen ar gael mewn Siop y Gât a Siop Rhydhir. Diolch i Jagtar a Jan am helpu gyda hwn. Cofiwch cefnogi eich siopau lleol.*

Check out our website

[www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/DyffrynClydach](http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/DyffrynClydach)

Gwylwch ein gwefan

## ARCHIVE PHOTO LLUN ARCHIF



This photo was taken in the Memorial Hall, probably in the late 1950's.

Can anyone let us know what was the occasion, and who you can recognise?

If you have any information that can throw further light on the photograph, then please contact the Editor or any other community councillor.

Details of what we find out will be included in the next edition of *Ymlaen*.

Cymerwyd y llun hwn yn y Neuadd Goffa, tua diwedd y 1950s mwy na thebyg.

All unrhyw un ddweud wrthym beth oedd yr achlysur, a phwy ydych chi'n eu hadnabod?

Os oes gennych unrhyw wybodaeth all ddaflu mwy o oleuni ar y llun, a wnewch chi cysylltu â'r Golygydd neu unrhyw gynghorydd cymuned arall.

Cynhwysir manylion ynglyn â beth ddaeth i law yn y rhifyn nesaf o *Ymlaen*.

### **ANGELA'S AUCTION**

**Skewen Rugby Club**

**Thursday 20th May**

This popular annual event in aid of St. John's Church has an oriental theme this year.

Angela tells us that it will be a Chinese Auction which gives it a different twist.

Viewing is from 6pm with the auction starting at 7pm including light refreshments.

Come along and join the fun or if you have any items to donate please contact Angela on

**01792 812170**

### ***Diary Dates***

Family Fun Day

17th July

Longford Memorial Hall

Owain Glyndfir Celebration

Longford Memorial Hall

Halloween Disco

30th October

Longford Memorial Hall

*For details closer to the date please check the hall noticeboard, Longford Stores or the website  
[www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/DyffrynClydach](http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/DyffrynClydach)*