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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

It gives me great pleasure to have been elected Chairman of Dyffryn Clydach Community Council for a second term. A number of things are different now to the more confident mood of 2007. Government spending cuts are on the way and many people are facing an uncertain future.

We, as your elected representatives, are conscious of this and are resolved to lighten the financial burden on council tax payers as far as possible. To this end, there has been no increase in the community council precept this year. At the same time, we think that Dyffryn Clydach is a pleasant place to live and we are determined to keep it so within the limits of our budget.

We are blessed with miles of footpaths and a lot



of work has been done this year on improving the surface of the dram road and providing new benches. The Memorial Hall continues to flourish and hosts a number of diverse interest groups. We look forward to the completion of the tapestry depicting various aspects of life in this community. It is pleasing to see that local youngsters now have access to the all-weather playing area.

On the 15th of September, it was a privilege to see the RAF ensign flying from the Memorial Hall flag pole to commemorate Battle of Britain Day, a reminder that our parents and grandparents faced odds far worse than ours and won. I am confident that whatever difficulties lay ahead, we too will win through.

Harry Thomas

Neges gan Gadeirydd y Cyngor Cymuned

Mae'n anrhydedd cael fy ethol yn Gadeirydd i Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach am yr eildro. Mae pethau yn wahanol 'nawr i'r cyfnod mwy hyderus fu yn 2007. Mae toriadau'r Llywodraeth ar y ffordd ac mae pobl yn gwynebu dyfodol ansicr.

Rydym ni, fel eich cynrychiolwyr etholedig, yn ymwybodol o hyn ac yn benderfynol o leihau'r baich ar dalwyr treth cyngor cymaint ag y medrwn. Gyda'r bwriad hwn mewn golwg, 'does dim codiad wedi bod yng ngofynion y Cyngor Cymuned eleni. Ar yr un pryd, rydym yn credu fod Dyffryn Clydach yn lle dymunol i fyw ynddo ac 'rydym yn benderfynol o'i gadw felly o fewn terfynau ein cyllideb.

Cawsom ein bendithio â milltiroedd o lwybrau troed ac mae llawer o waith wedi ei wneud eleni

i wella wyneb y dram road ac wrth ddarparu seddau newydd. Mae'r Neuadd Goffa yn dal i ffynnu ac yn croesawu nifer o grwpiau â diddordebau amrywiol. Edrychwn ymlaen at gwblhad y tapestri fydd yn portredu gwahanol agweddau o fywyd y gymuned hon. Mae'n bleser gweld fod yr ieuenctid lleol bellach yn defnyddio'r llain chwarae at bob tywydd.

Roedd yn ffrainc cael gweld baner y Llu Awyr Brenhinol yn chwifio uwchben adeilad y Cyngor Cymuned i goffau'r Brwydr Prydain, i'n hatgoffa bod ein cyndeidiau wedi gwynebu anhawsterau anos na ninnau ac wedi goroesi 'Rwy'n hyderus, er gwaethaf pob anhawster, y byddwn yn goresgyn.

Harry Thomas

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Following last year's successful Festival of Marriage at St John's Church, the Mothers' Union arranged a Festival of Baptism.

The old parish registers were available for all to see and were very popular with some visitors researching their family history and others who were interested in local history. The first entries in the very first baptismal register are dated December 1st 1850. William James and John Allen Taylor, both of Abbey Village; Margaret James of Cwmdau and George Beynon of Brithdir were all baptised on the first Sunday after the consecration of the church on November 28th 1850.

Also on display were a variety of different christening gowns covering quite a large timescale.

Taking pride of place was one magnificent gown worked with fine lace. It was over one hundred years old and had been worn by generations of the same family - Mrs Sherene Nichols, her aunt Mrs Glenys Stoneman and even her grandmother.



Mrs Pat Jones and Mrs Pat John admiring one of the oldest gowns on display

Mrs. Pat Jones a Mrs. Pat John yn edmygu un o'r gynau hynaf a arddangoswyd

GŴYL Y BEDYDD

Yn dilyn Gŵyl y Briodas llwyddiannus y llynedd yn Eglwys Sant Ioan, trefnwyd Gŵyl y Bedydd gan Undeb y Mamau.

'Roedd hen cofrestrîr plwyf ar gael i bawb eu gweld ac 'roeddynt yn boblogaidd gan rai ymwelwyr oedd yn hel achau ac eraill oedd â

diddordeb mewn hanes lleol. Mae'r cofnodion cyntaf yn y cofrestr bedydd cyntaf un yn dwyn y dyddiad Rhagfyr 1af 1850.

Cafodd William James a John Allen Taylor, y ddau o bentre'r 'Nachlog; Margaret James o Gwmdau a George Beynon o'r Brithdir eu bedyddio ar y Sul cyntaf wedi cysegrïad yr eglwys ar Dachwedd 28ain 1850.

Hefyd yn cael eu harddangos 'roedd amrywiaeth o gynau bedydd yn cwmpasu cyfnod eang. Yn

cymryd y lle blaenaf oedd un gŵn godidog wedi ei wneud o lés main. 'Roedd dros gant oed ac wedi cael ei wisgo gan genedlaethau o'r un teulu – Mrs Sherene Nichols, ei modryb Mrs Glenys Stoneman a hyd yn oed ei mamgu.

Welcome to the Council

Welcome to the newest member of Dyffryn Clydach Community Council, Gareth Thomas.

Cllr Gareth Thomas is no newcomer to the world of politics – he is currently working as a Community Development Officer for Bethan Jenkins AM in her local office.

He is particularly looking forward to serving on the Council and with arboricultural qualifications he will be able to make a valuable contribution to the Open Spaces Committee.

His contact details are: telephone 01639 643549.



Croeso i'r Cyngor

Croeso i'r aelod diweddaraf ar Gyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach, Gareth Thomas. Nid yw'r Cyng. Gareth Thomas yn ddieithr i fyd gwleidyddiaeth – mae'n gweithio ar hyn o bryd fel Swyddog Datblygu Cymunedol i Bethan Jenkins, AC yn ei swyddfa leol.

Mae'n edrych ymlaen yn eiddgar at wasanaethu ar y Cyngor a gyda'i cymwysterau mewn coeddyddiaeth fe fydd yn gallu gwneud cyfraniad gwerthfawr ar y Pwyllgor Lleodedd Agored.

HELPING HANDS KNITTERS

Alyson Thomas

During the summer the knitters held their regular birthday party at the hall. As well as a first rate lunch the knitters had a "show and tell" session. All the knitters had to bring along an item which was the oldest, most sentimental, or worst thing they ever had and tell everyone about it. Normally carried out by a much younger age group such as primary school children, this activity produced some awe inspiring and highly comical moments.

After play however comes work and the knitters certainly did just that very recently with a shipment of baby packs to Romania. The packs contain everything a new mum might need for a newborn baby and are very deeply appreciated by an impoverished section of the community in Romania. This time the knitters managed to knit, sew, buy or recycle enough for 468 such packs with much more shipped alongside. It is amazing to think that a group in Longford makes such a difference. The charity that ships the goods is called 'Support for Romania' and the driver of the transit van, Paul, really is Dr Who. We think this as he possesses a Tardis. What he can fit in that van is astonishing!

The knitters are working on producing knitted boobs for new mothers to learn how to breastfeed. The organisation responsible makes a donation to the knitters and then the knitters pass this on to good causes. Their most recent donations were to Longford Football team and also to Neath Schoolboys rugby team for kit.

Longford Over 50's assisted with the Handbag Project in which women filled over 80 handbags they no longer want with essentials for another woman in real need due to natural disasters or poverty.

In October the knitters held a Chinese Auction at the Memorial Hall which proved to be a great success. It was extremely well attended with representatives from many community groups including Longford Over 50's, Longford Mothercraft, St. John's Church, Friday Night Bingo Goers, Traherne Court Residents and many others. For a modest admission charge everyone enjoyed wonderful home baked cakes and tea whilst they chose the lots on which they wanted to bid. Few people went home empty handed and the quality of the lots was excellent. Many commented that it was very positive to have events like this in the community that bring everyone together in a good cause. The afternoon of fun and friendship raised a very respectable £400 which was donated to Tŷ Olwen in memory of Maureen, a very dear member of the knitters' group who passed away recently.

Neath Food Festival also proved an opportunity for the knitters to share their skills with children's workshops teaching finger knitting and weaving. Outreach work is also ongoing and Val Berni was responsible for getting the children in Blaenhonddan School to knit bricks for a model to mark their school's centenary.

The group meets every Thursday at the Memorial Hall between 12 and 3pm. New members are always made very welcome and no skill is needed as there is always someone on hand to help.

A big thank you goes out to everyone in Longford who has supported us by donating goods or cash to the cause.

If you would like to support the knitters it is their turn to host a charity bingo evening on December 3rd.

Scary happenings at the Memorial Hall during Halloween. The grim reaper and a creepy witch won prizes for Daniel and Ellie May, while the children enjoy a bit of magic at the party.



Digwyddiadau i godi gwallt eich pen yn y Neuadd Goffa at Nos Galan Gaeaf. Enillodd y Medelwr Mawr a'r Dewines Anymunol gwobrau i Daniel ac Ellie May, wrth i'r plant fwynhau tipyn o hud yn y parti.

The Wedding

The second part of a talk given by Mr. R. Rees in the early 1920s on everyday life in our area during the mid-Nineteenth Century

The way people got married in the old days varied somewhat from what it is today. Of course, tying the knot was the same then as it is now, but the customs associated with the ceremony were different. To begin with, the wedding took place at that time without exception in the Parish Church - the chapels, as yet, had not awoken to their rights in this matter. Marrying in the Parish Church, as you know, meant that the marriage of every young couple would be known throughout the neighbourhood weeks beforehand. What advantage this practice had, I don't know; however, nobody could get married quietly, "on the sly", in those days. Invitations would be sent out and every wedding at that time would cause great excitement in the village with a dozen or so young couples marching in procession towards the Parish Church. These young couples were not engaged to each other except for the day, but I think I can safely say that many became engaged as a result of the company they enjoyed on that particular day. When I gave this talk some years ago, an elderly lady in the audience told me that she remembered once being in a wedding where there were thirty couples present.

At weddings nowadays you enjoy showing off your fineries - but remember, weddings in the old days were also smart affairs. Each and everyone involved would turn out in their best kit. I often saw young men turn out in white trousers that had been washed and ironed for the occasion - like the snow, a plush (or some similar material) waistcoat, a tail coat and a top hat. And the ladies in their paisley shawls and satin or straw bonnets along with a wealth of ribbons. Neat dresses of alpaca, or similar, with the white petticoat daintily showing along its edges - the dress being lifted lightly at the front so that the work of the smoothing iron and the pleats and tucks were prominently displayed. Embroidery had barely come into fashion at this time.

But now the wedding begins. The

mischievous youths of the village would ensure that a dirt-covered (or sometimes tar-covered) rope would be held across the road at a particular spot and the groom would be obliged to pay a toll before being allowed to pass. (I cannot recall the services of a "best man" being required in those days).

It is worth noting here that it was their own two feet that carried young people to their weddings in those days and not the feet of horses or the wheels of taxis that we have today. Of course, to have hired carriages for a wedding in those days would have meant that many a bridegroom would have started married life in a Bankruptcy Court!

Here we are at the door of the church, and then to the altar, through the ceremony and signing, and out again to the road with two of the number at least a newlywed couple.

On now to the local hostelry, with the old vicar in attendance. To him the bridegroom would offer the first toast, and the vicar would toast the gathering with the words: "Good health to you, ladies and gentlemen - drink like an ox." Don't misunderstand what the vicar was saying. If many people in our locality, and further afield, followed the example of the ox they and their families would be in a far better condition. What the vicar meant was: Drink to quench your thirst and then be off. And he would follow his own advice to the letter after giving his toast. The wedding party would also follow his example, for dinner (not breakfast) was awaiting them on their return.

They fell in love, they prepared a place to live in and they married. If I follow them further to see how they lived afterwards - well, I would probably keep you here all night!

Check out our website

www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/DyffrynClydach

Gwylwch ein gwefan

ROMEO & JULIET

Although the summer was a wet washout, we were lucky that it was fine when the *Taking Flight Theatre Company* visited Neath Abbey in August.

This professional theatre company comprises a strong cast of physically disabled, sensory impaired and non-disabled performers. Their aim is to make theatre accessible to everybody.

With funding from Cadw and the Welsh Assembly Government, a very appreciative audience enjoyed a fine performance of *Romeo and Juliet* using familiar lines but with a light modern approach. Different scenes were set in different parts of the abbey ruins.



Anja Conti and Samuel Bees perform "the balcony scene" in a perfect setting

Anja Conti a Samuel Bees yn perfformio golygfa'r "balconi" mewn lleoliad perffaith

Er i'r hâf fod yn drychinebus o wlyb, buom yn ffodus i gael tywydd braf pan ymwelodd y "*Taking Flight Theatre Company*" â Mynachlog Nedd ym mis Awst.

Gyda chymorth gan Cadw a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, mae'r cwmni theatr proffesiynol hwn yn cynwys cast cryf o berfformwyr sydd ag anabledd corfforol, anabledd synhwyraidd yn ogystal â pherfformwyr heb anabledd. Eu nod yw gwneud y theatr yn fan sydd o fewn cyrraedd i bawb.

Gwerthfawrogodd y gynulleidfa perfformiad ardderchog o *Romeo a Juliet* oedd yn defnyddio'r llinellau adnabyddus ond â thriniaeth fodern ysgafn.

Perfformiwyd y golygfeydd mewn gwahanol rhannau o adfeilion y fynachlog.

ROYAL VISIT AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

Queen Victoria drops in unexpectedly for tea. Longford Old Age Pensioners were graced by a visit from some amazing characters recently.

Pictured are Greta Morgan and Louisa Davies. Greta is in deepest mourning dress whilst Louisa is wearing dark shades of green and black, suitable for wearing six months after bereavement.



Yn y llun mae Greta Morgan a Louisa Davies. Mae Greta mewn dillad galar dwys tra bod Louisa yn gwisgo lliwiau tywyll o wyrdd a du, yn addas at wisgo chwe mis wedi'r brofedigaeth.

YMWELIAD BRENHINOL Â'R NEUADD GYMUNED

Y Frenhines Fictoria yn galw yn ddirybudd am ddysglaid o de. Anrhydeddwyd Clwb Dros yr Hanner Cant Dyffryn Clydach gydag ymweliad gan rai cymeriadau rhyfeddol yn ddiweddar.

Yn y llun mae Greta Morgan a Louisa Davies. Mae Greta mewn dillad galar dwys tra bod Louisa yn gwisgo lliwiau tywyll o wyrdd a du, yn addas at wisgo chwe mis wedi'r brofedigaeth.

Welly Wanging Champ

This year's annual Family Day produced a new Welly Wanging Champion.

Georgia Rees of Heol Esgyn took the coveted trophy cheered along by friends and family.

Congratulations, Georgia, from all at the Community Council.



Pencampwr Taflu'r Welintonsen

Cafwyd Pencampwr Taflu'r Welintonsen newydd yn y Diwrnod i'r Teulu blynyddol eleni. Enillwyd y tlws chwenychedig gan Georgia Rees tra'n cael ei chymeradwyo gan ei ffrindiau a'i theulu.

Llongyfarchiadau, Georgia, oddiwrth bawb ar y Cyngor Cymuned.

NEATH ABBEY

RICHARD DE GRANVILLE, THE NORMAN HOLDER OF THE LORDSHIP OF NEATH, FOUNDED THE ABBEY IN 1129. AT FIRST IT WAS DEDICATED TO THE GREY FRIARS OF SAVIGNY, BUT LATER IT BECAME CISTERCIAN. IT WAS PROBABLY BUILT ON, OR NEAR, THE SITE OF THE FIRST NORMAN CASTLE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE RIVER NEATH. NONE OF THE WORK IN THE SKELETON THAT REMAINS OF THE ONCE GREAT ABBEY IS EARLIER THAN THE 13TH CENTURY.

IN THE 16TH CENTURY LELAND DESCRIBED THE ABBEY AS "THE FAIREST IN ALL WALES"

ONE OF THE FOUR GREAT PILLARS WHICH SUPPORTED THE CENTRAL TOWER



THIS IS A CONJECTURAL RECONSTRUCTION OF WHAT THE NORTH FRONT OF THE CHURCH LOOKED LIKE. THIS FRONTAGE IS 224 FEET LONG AND IS 140 FEET ACROSS THE TRANSEPTS. THE BUILDING HAD A STONE TILED ROOF.



IN THE LEAN-TO CLOISTER WALKS, WORKED THE MONKS AT THEIR DESKS

THIS TABLE RECORDS THE FACT THAT 4000 TONS OF DEBRIS WERE REMOVED FROM THE CHURCH BY A BAND OF VOLUNTEERS

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF
GLEN ARTHUR TAYLOR ESA
LEADER OF THE
NEATH ABBEY RESEARCH PARTY
1972-1983
PLACING THIS PERIOD SOME 4000
TONS OF DEBRIS WERE REMOVED
FROM THIS CHURCH REVEALING
THE BEAUTIFUL STONEWORK
COVERED OVER 600 YEARS AGO.
THIS TABLE IS ERECTED BY
LORD SPENCER AND THE MEMBERS
OF THE RESEARCH PARTY WHO
LABOURED WITH HIM IN THIS WORK
AS A LASTING MEMORIAL TO A
REDAEMED SCOTLAND AND TREND

EVERY ABBEY AND MONASTERY SITE WAS ENCLOSED BY A WALL OR DYKE. THE ONLY REMNANT OF NEATH ABBEY WALL IS THIS PORTION OF A GATEHOUSE NEAR THE ABBEY ON THE NEATH TO SWANSEA ROAD



THE NIGHT STAIRS, USED BY THE MONKS AFTER SUNSET. THE BUILT-IN STONE HANDRAIL IS THE ONLY ONE IN EXISTENCE IN A CISTERCIAN ABBEY

ORIGINALLY THE WHOLE FLOOR OF THE ABBEY WAS COVERED WITH THESE DECORATED TILES



PRESBYTERY

HIGH ALTAR

NORTH TRANSEPT

THIS WAS PROBABLY PART OF THE INFIRMARY

THE DORTER SUB-VAULT, BELOW THE MONKS QUARTERS, WITH ITS STONE GROINED AND VAULTED CEILING, WAS PROBABLY USED AS A WORKSHOP, STORE ROOM OR BARN.

THE WARMING ROOM WAS THE ONLY ROOM EXCEPT THE KITCHEN WHICH HAD A FIRE

IN 1731 THE SITE WAS CONVERTED FOR COPPER SMELTING AND THE MANOR HOUSE WAS OCCUPIED BY THE COPPER WORKERS.

LATER AN IRON FOUNDRY WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE OLD MONASTIC KITCHEN

THIS BRIDGE CONNECTED THE MONKS' QUARTERS TO THE RERE DORTER

LAY BROTHERS QUARTERS

HERE STOOD THE CHAPTER HOUSE WHERE THE WHOLE CONVENT MET DAILY AND THE ABBOT ANNOUNCED THE DAYS ROUTINE

BOOK ROOM

MONKS REFECTORY

KITCHEN

LAY REFECTORY

ENTRANCE

KITCHEN CHIMNEY

PORTERS LODGE, STILL FINELY STONE VAULTED

IN 1542 THE ABBEY AND ITS POSSESSIONS WERE PURCHASED BY SIR RICHARD WILLIAMS, AN ANCESTOR OF CROMWELL, FOR £731-0-7½. HIS DESCENDANTS SOLD THE BUILDING TO SIR JOHN HERBERT ABOUT 1600 AND THIS PART OF THE ABBEY, WHICH WAS THE LIVING QUARTERS OF THE MONKS, WAS CONVERTED INTO A MANOR HOUSE AND WAS USED AS SUCH UNTIL ABOUT 1700



MONKS DAY STAIRS ONLY THIS HANDRAIL REMAINS

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

South Wales Police

In an emergency dial 999

In a non emergency dial 101

Help us deal with doorstep crime in Wales and get our message to people who may be targeted by ruthless rogue traders or distraction burglars.

Our message is simple - if in doubt, keep them out. Also don't be afraid to report anyone who is suspicious to the police. You should call them on 101 to let them know about a suspected rogue trader or call 999 if a rogue trader has taken money from you and is in your home or still in the local area. You should also call 999 if you think someone is a distraction burglar.

We all need to report this activity. Just because a cold caller leaves your doorstep, it doesn't mean that they won't target other people in your community. Please always tell the Police about any 'suspicious characters'.

Dealing with unwanted cold callers

Unfortunately these days, not everyone who calls at your door is who they seem. So, you should always be on your guard. The person stood on your doorstep could be a legitimate caller, a rogue trader, or even a distraction burglar. But don't worry. If you read on and always follow our three step plan, you'll know exactly what to do. And remember genuine callers won't mind waiting whilst you make the appropriate checks.

Together we can crack down on cold callers

If a cold caller doesn't get into your house, they will continue knocking on doors in your neighbourhood until they find someone more vulnerable than you.

And if the police don't know about them - they can't do anything. So, if someone does call at your door, always report it and call 101 to help safeguard your community.

If you do happen to get caught off guard and a cold caller does manage to get into your house, let us know about it as soon as possible. There's nothing to be embarrassed about, and the sooner we know about it, the better chance we have of catching them and recovering your property.

The three step plan

Remember genuine callers will not mind waiting. It's your home. You don't have to let anyone in!

One: If in doubt, keep them out

It sounds simple, but if you don't let someone in - they will go away. Don't let them pressure you into opening the door.

Two: Be prepared. Be in control

Think about what to say to doorstep cold callers in advance. And keep a list of key contact numbers near your phone so you can check out legitimate callers. Ask all other unwanted callers to go away.

Three: Call a neighbour or the police

Contact a local relative or nominated neighbour who can help verify a cold caller. If you think someone is a rogue trader call us on 101. To report a distraction burglar or rogue trader who has taken your money and is still in the area - call 999.



PCSO

Cheri Davies
telephone:

07805 301569

This number is provided so that you can speak to your local officers about local issues, not for reporting crimes and incidents.

Community Map Project Alyson Thomas

The Community Map is progressing really well and many people now have contributed towards it. Our regular team of weavers has been joined recently by many of the young people of Dyffryn Clydach. Presently Dŵr-y-felin pupils are now contributing regularly during their lunch hours. The children of Neath Abbey Infants are working on the frames on Tuesday mornings in school. Brownies and Guides from Skewen are taking part and shortly the children of Mynachlog Nedd are about to begin their contribution.

It really is a community project and the central panels are more than half woven. The design



Work is progressing on woven Panel no. 4, Cwrt Herbert to Taillwyd with a view from Afon Nedd looking up to Mynydd Drymau

includes a surround consisting of many small panels using different techniques to represent groups present in the community. Local volunteer Adrian Williams is developing a website specifically for the project which will enable us to include a lot more photographs than the council's own website can currently support. A link will be added to our site leading directly to it.

Everyone is looking forward to the party being planned to celebrate the completion of the project and seeing the artwork displayed up at the hall.

If you would like to take part it is not too late. No skill is needed just enthusiasm and a willingness to have a try.



An 8x8 inch stitched tapestry worked for Longford Yoga Class, one of the small social group panels that will make up the surrounding frame of the tapestry when it is completed.

Nature notes

The Badger *Kay Fern*

Anyone who has read Kenneth Graham's "The Wind in the Willows" will not be surprised to learn that the badger is Britain's favourite mammal. There are approaching fifty thousand badger setts in the UK with a large number situated in Wales and the west of England. Because of its nocturnal habits, very few of us have seen a badger in the wild but, thanks to the many films, photographs and articles relating to badgers, we are all pretty familiar with the animal and its habits. Weighing in at an average weight of ten kilos and length of between 65 and 80 centimetres, badgers live in large underground burrows called setts. As many as fifteen individuals can occupy a sett at any one time and the same sett is used for generations. Badgers are omnivorous enjoying a diverse diet that includes frogs, earthworms, birds, eggs, small rodents, insects, seeds and berries. Contrary to popular belief, badgers do not hibernate but they are far less active during the winter.

Badgers have no natural predators except man, and as a result of road traffic deaths, badger baiting and other actions against them it is estimated their normal life expectancy of fifteen years is reduced to only two or three years. Such has been the persecution of badgers over the years that successive acts of Parliament have been passed to protect them. The Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 and the



Protection of Badgers Act of 1991 made interfering with badgers and their setts a serious offence, and in June of this year a former High Sheriff of Dyfed found himself £3000 worse off after appearing before Swansea magistrates on a charge of trapping and shooting a badger that had been digging up his garden at Stackpole in Pembrokeshire.

Badgers are not everybody's favourite, though. Evidence shows that they play a significant role in spreading bTB (bovine tuberculosis) – a disease of cattle where thousands of animals have to be slaughtered every year, that has already cost the U.K. governments millions upon millions of pounds without any effective means having been found to date of eradicating it. Over the past decade the Welsh Assembly Government alone has spent over £100 million merely trying to keep it under control. We know transmission of bTB occurs from badger to badger, from badgers to cattle, cattle to badgers and cattle to cattle, but what can be done to eradicate it?

A proposed cull of badgers in north Pembrokeshire, where the disease is prevalent, was stopped following a legal challenge from the Badger Trust. Proposals to license farmers to shoot badgers in England could well meet the same fate.

This costly dilemma, given the stance of the majority of farmers on the one hand and the pro-badger lobby on the other, is causing a lot of headaches for both governments and looks to continue for some time yet. What is the answer? What would you do if you were in the ministers' shoes?

Dyffryn Clydach Environmental Group

Sheila Manning



Despite the promise of fine early spring weather, the summer proved wet and windy with only occasional sunny periods. Nevertheless, the Group kept a weather eye open on Coed Bach and the Graig. When the opportunity arose, we cleared litter and removed invasive plants such as Himalayan Balsam. The steps and paths were cleared of soil and debris washed down by the heavy rainfall. In Coed Bach the icon tree on the upper path was regilded and replacement information discs for the fallen log near the waterfall have been ordered.

At the Memorial Hall overgrown shrubbery was cut back where it had obscured the hall's nameplate and more car parking space was freed up by pruning. Cineraria (senecio) silver leafed plants were donated by the Group and planted in the border. They gave a brave show throughout the summer months, a welcoming and pleasing sight for visitors to the hall.

The woods are now in good shape for people to enjoy the autumnal tree colour. The river is in full spate, the waterfall a spectacular sight and sound. If you look carefully, fungi, especially beefsteak fungi, can be seen growing on some of the trees. Once the seasonal leaf fall is over it will be necessary to

maintain the paths to keep access open. The Group applied to the Woodland Trust for a pack of trees and hedging shrubs. When received, they will need planting before next spring. To work in the woods is an enjoyable experience, each season bringing its own colour and character. Why not consider joining our Group? We meet on Thursday mornings, weather permitting! For further details contact Margaret Smith on 01639 681112.

A timely reminder to gardeners clearing their plots for winter – remember that the disposal of garden plants and waste into the country is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 legislation, so please be careful and use the council kerbside recycling service. Thank you.



Group members working in Coed Bach

WELSH LEARNER OF THE YEAR

As part of Neath Port Talbot Learning Festival Julie Arnold received the Adult Welsh Learner of the Year Award in a ceremony at Margam Orangery.

Learning Welsh has given Julie the confidence to go on to take part in local affairs and she is now a Community Councillor.

"Well done, Julie!"



DYSGWR Y FLWYDDYN

Fel rhan o Wyl Dysgu Castell-nedd Port Talbot derbyniodd Julie Arnold wobwr "Dysgwr y Flwyddyn Oedolion" i bobl mewn oed mewn seremoni yn Orendy Margam. Mae dysgu Cymraeg wedi rhoi hwb i hyder Julie ac mae'n cymryd rhan mewn materion lleol ac yn Gynghorydd Cymuned erbyn hyn.

"Da iawn, Julie!"

LDP, The Local Development Plan

The site of Dŵr y Felin Lower School (Rhydhir) at Heol Penlan has been submitted to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for inclusion in the Local Development Plan as a candidate site for a new build primary school.

The closure of Dŵr y Felin Lower School provides an ideal opportunity to bring together Neath Abbey Infants' School and Mynachlog Nedd Junior School on one site.

"It would be better for the children to be together in a safer site, away from the busy main road in Neath Abbey and in new buildings designed for today's education. There would be ample room here for recreational and play facilities," said Councillor Mrs Margaret Smith. She added that it would not substantially affect those living nearby because currently many children are bussed or driven to the site. Some car parking could be planned, although the need for this would be lessened because children could walk to school together and families would avoid having to travel to as many as three different sites at peak times.

CDLI, Y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol

Mae safle Ysgol Dŵr y Felin Isaf (Rhydhir) ar Heol Penlan wedi ei gyflwyno i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot i'w gynnwys yn y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol fel safle arfaethedig at adeiladu ysgol gynradd newydd.

Bydd cau Ysgol Dŵr y Felin Isaf yn cynnig cyfle gwyh i ddod ag Ysgol Babanod Mynachlog Nedd ac Ysgol Gynradd Mynachlog Nedd at eu gilydd ar un safle.

Dywedodd y Cyng. Margaret Smith, "Byddai'n well i'r plant bod gyda'i gilydd ar safle diogel, ymhell o'r heol fawr brysur ym Mynachlog Nedd ac mewn adeiladau newydd wedi eu cynllunio ar gyfer addysg heddiw. Byddai digonedd o le ar gyfer yma cyfleusterau chwarae a gweithgareddau adlonianol." Ategodd na fyddai yn effeithio ar y trigolion lleol gan fod nifer o blant ar hyn o bryd yn teithio i'r safle mewn bws neu yn cael eu gyrru yno. Gellid trefnu ar gyfer rywfaint o barcio, er byddai'r galw am hyn yn lleihau gan byddai'r plant yn gallu cerdded i'r ysgol gyda'i gilydd a byddai teuluoedd yn osgoi gorfod teithio i gymaint â thri wahanol safle ar yr amser prysuraf.

RECIPE ♦ RECIPE ♦ RECIPE

POT AU CHOCOLAT

Serves 4

Per serving: 117 calories. 0.6g fat

Prep time 5 minutes

Cook time 10 minutes



Ingredients

1 x 75g packet instant chocolate custard

2 tsps Green & Black's cocoa powder

Zest of 1 orange

150g 0% fat Greek-style yogurt

1 tbsp caster sugar

2 egg whites

A few sprigs fresh mint, to decorate

Method

Make up the custard with boiling water as per the packet instructions. Stir in the cocoa powder and orange zest, and allow to cool.

When cool, fold in the yogurt and caster sugar.

Whisk the egg whites until stiff. Carefully fold into the custard mixture, using a metal spoon.

Spoon into serving glasses and decorate with fresh mint

Go ahead with healthy living and spoil yourself with tasty home-prepared food.

These recipes appear in Rosemary Conley's Gi Hip & Thigh Diet book.

Get Gardening

Margaret Smith

LAWN CARE

Remove fallen leaves because they block out light and moisture from the grass. In milder weather grass will still continue to grow and you may need to lightly trim the lawn. Set the cut slightly higher than normal.

Before putting it away for the winter, thoroughly dry and clean your mowing machine, oiling all moving parts and, if necessary, sharpen the cutting blade.

November is the perfect time for laying turf and this is an ideal opportunity for repairing worn areas of lawn.

VEGETABLES

Finish harvesting vegetable crops, potatoes and carrots, for winter store. Clear the ground of old crops and dig it roughly. At the same time mix in well rotted manure or garden compost to improve the soil.

Plant garlic cloves now. Hardy varieties of peas and broad beans can be sown, but will need added protection from cloches throughout the winter.

FLOWERS

Lilies can be planted in pots now. They can be left outside to flower naturally in the summer, or brought inside next spring to force them into an early display.

Tulips can be planted out throughout November when the ground is cooler.

Wallflowers, winter pansies, spring forget-me-nots and other spring bedding plants can be planted out now.

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.

Prune roses and shrubs 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.

To prevent waterlogged containers, ensure they are raised on pot feet or bricks. To give them extra protection from frost cover them in garden fleece or bubble wrap for the winter.

PLANT A TREE

Container grown trees and shrubs can be planted out at most times of the year, but from November to April is the best time to plant new bare-rooted plants.

Prepare a planting hole by breaking up the soil with a fork in an area no deeper than the roots and up to three times their spread.

Put the plant in the hole and replace the soil between and around the roots carefully eliminating any air pockets.

With container grown plants the point where the roots flare out should be at the soil surface.

Firm in the soil gently, but avoid compacting it into a dense mass.

A common cause of tree death is planting too deep, so aim to plant at the same depth the plant was growing in the nursery.

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 10.00am and 12.30pm. It will be closing for the winter period on Sunday 28th November and reopening on Sunday 6th 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.

Seed orders should be received before Sunday 28th November.

More members are needed to help run both the gardening club and the shop.

If you are able to help, please contact the Secretary, as above.

For access only?

Motorists hoping to take a short cut have long been causing problems on Hill Road and the Croft and worried residents have petitioned for something to be done.

To solve this problem the Police and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are looking at the possibility of installing a barrier.

In the meantime the police are monitoring the situation regularly.



Mynediad yn unig?

Mae modurwyr sydd yn mynnu cymryd y llwybr byrraf wedi bod yn creu problemau ers amser ar Hill Road a'r Croft ac mae'r trigolion pryderus wedi deisebi i ddod a'r broblem i ben.

I geisio datrys y broblem mae'r Heddlu a Chyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot yn edrych ar ffordd i godi rhwystr mynediad rywle ar yr hyd y ffordd.

Yn y cyfamser mae'r heddlu yn monitro'r sefyllfa yn gyson.

Community Skips

Alan Powis, Tidy Towns Officer, Keep Wales Tidy

Community Skips are part of the Tidy Towns Initiative funded by the Welsh Assembly and implemented by Keep Wales Tidy in partnership with NPTCBC.

One of the fundamental principles of the initiative is to empower residents to do things for themselves. Skips can be provided on a regular basis provided residents organise, advertise and supervise the event.

Residents are expected to deposit their rubbish themselves unless physically unable to do so. In this instance help can be enlisted from other residents or Keep Wales Tidy staff. Anything put out by residents in the hope that someone will move it for them will be left.

Skips are booked for 2 hours or until full. To date, the average time taken to fill a skip to a capacity of 1 tonne is 30 minutes. **So come early to avoid disappointment!**

There are some items which cannot be deposited in skips. These include TV's/monitors, tyres, asbestos and plasterboard. A comprehensive list is usually included on advertising flyers.

The benefits of regular skips are many: potential fly-tipping is

lessened; residents become more intolerant of littering/fly-tipping; the process of implementing and organising skips has developed social interaction and an increased sense of a pride in the community.

A relatively simple activity like this can have enormous, positive social repercussions for a clean, tidy safe local environment and is unquestionably the cornerstone of all community re-generation.



This skip was filled in just 40 minutes

Residents receive certificates for outstanding garden displays

Pictured here are: Clive Phillips, Stan Thomas, Mr and Mrs Ken Jenkins, Cllr Harry Thomas, Denise Gregory, Stephen Robson, Veronica Davies and Peggy Radford.

Other recipients were: Myra Thomas, Brian Thomas, Thomas Glyn Thomas, Rhys Jeffreys, Stuart Davies, David Evans, Mark Beck, David Kriescher, Colin Evans, Mr and Mrs C. Jones, Alan Jarrett.

Trigolion yn derbyn tystysgrifau am erddi prydfferth

Dyma Clive Phillips, Stan Thomas, Mr and Mrs Ken Jenkins, Cyng. Harry Thomas, Denise Gregory, Stephen Robson, Veronica Davies and Peggy Radford yn derbyn eu tystysgrifau.

Derbyniwyd tystysgrifau hefyd gan Myra Thomas, Brian Thomas, Thomas Glyn Thomas, Rhys Jeffreys, Stuart Davies, David Evans, Mark Beck, David Kriescher, Colin Evans, Mr a Mrs C Jones, Alan Jarrett.





Following the interest in the photo of children playing in the school sand tray in the last issue, here is another. Who do you recognise here?

O ganlyniad i'r diddordeb a ddangoswyd yn y llun o'r plant yn chwarae ym mlwch tywod yr ysgol yn y rhifyn diwethaf, dyma un arall.

Ydych chi'n adnabod un o rhain?

What's on at Christmas

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

Saturday 4 December, 2.00 – 4.00pm
Children's Party and Disco

Wednesday 15 December, 7.00pm
Community Carol Evening

Saturday 8 January, 2.00pm
Hall users' and over 50's Tea

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:

Sadwrn 4 Rhagfyr, 2.00 – 4.00yp
Parti a Disco i'r Plant

Mercher 15 Rhagfyr, 7.00yp
Noson Garolau i'r Gymuned

Sadwrn 8 Ionawr, 2.00yp
Tê i ddefnyddwyr y neuadd ac i'r rhai dros 50

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.

Extra copies of *Ymlaen* will be available at Abbeygate Stores and Longford Stores. Thank you to Jagtar and to Jan for their support. Remember to support your local shops and businesses.

Bydd copïau ychwanegol Ymlaen ar gael yn Siop y Gât a Siop Rhydhir. Diolch i Jagtar a Jan am eu cymorth. Cofiwch gefnogi eich siopau a busnesau lleol.