



Additional copies available from Abbey Gate Stores and Longford Stores or the Editor, Cllr Alyson Thomas  
*Copïau ychwanegol ar gael o Siop y Gât, Mynachlog Nedd a Siop Rhydhir neu'r Golygydd, Cyng. Alyson Thomas*  
15 Graig Parc, Neath Abbey Tel: 01792 528754 E-mail: ladyalthomas@hotmail.co.uk

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

*Er mwyn cynnwys eitemau o ddiddordeb lleol cysylltwch â'r Golygydd neu'ch Cyngorwr lleol.*

Packed with all your very local news and neighbourhood information, pictures and Dyffryn Clydach Christmas events

## A tribute to Public Service

Dyffryn Clydach Community Council has seen many changes between 2008 and 2012. Councillors of long standing have left us and new ones have been elected. One thing is certain, they have all given of their best to our community. On Saturday, June 9th the council paid tribute to these outgoing councillors with an evening reception at Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Hall.

The event was hosted by our council Chairman Cllr. Jennifer Davies and the current council and was attended by representatives from several of our community groups and also the clerk, Mr Randall Shopland, JP.

Councillors are usually elected for a four year term of office. During this time they attend the monthly council meetings and committee meetings, run the Memorial Hall and its environs, the playgrounds and ten miles of footpaths in our countryside. They organise the five children's discos, community carol evening and the annual hall users' party. They also represent the community including terms of governorship at our local schools and at the county borough council Liaison

Committee. The Council also produces this bi-annual *Ymlaen* newsletter for the community and also web communications. All this work they undertake in this capacity is unpaid.

Former councillors recognised included Mrs Lyn Thomas who has given over 30 years of service to the council, Mr Hugh Thomas who has made a similar contribution and David Thomas, a councillor of long standing.

*Continued on page 2*



## Teyrnged i Wasanaeth Cyhoeddus

Mae Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach wedi gweld sawl newid rhwng 2008 a 2012. Mae Cyngorwyr o hir wasanaeth wedi ein gadael ac mae rhai newydd wedi eu hethol. Un peth sydd yn sicr, yw eu bod nhw i gyd wedi gwneud ei gorau dros ein cymuned. Ar ddydd Sadwrn, Mehefin y 9fed talwyd teyrnged gan y cyngor i'r cyngorwyr oedd yn ymadael mewn achlysur yn Neuadd Goffa Dyffryn Clydach.

Llywyddwyd y noson gan Gadeirydd ein cyngor y Cyngorydd Jennifer Davies a'r cyngor presennol ac fe'i mynychwyd gan gynrychiolwyr o sawl grŵp yn ein cymuned, yn ogystal â'n clerk, Mr Randall Shopland, Y.H.

Yn arferol mae cyngorwyr yn cael eu hethol am gyfnod o bedair blynedd. Yn y cyfnod hwn maent yn mynychu cyfarfod misol a chyfarfodydd pwyllgorau'r cyngor, yn rhedeg y Neuadd Goffa a'i hamgylchion, y llefydd chwarae a deg milltir o lwybrau troed yn ein cefn gwlad. Maent yn trefnu pum disco i'r plant, noson garolau i'r gymuned a'r parti blynyddol i ddefnyddwyr y neuadd. Maent hefyd yn cynrychioli'r gymuned fel llywodraethwr yn ein hysgion

lleol ac ar Bwyllgor Cyswllt y Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol. Cynhyrchir hefyd *Ymlaen*, y cylchlythyr newyddion chewmisol hon i'r gymuned yn ogystal â chyfathrebu ar y we. Mae'r holl waith maent yn ymgymryd ag ef yn y swyddi yma yn ddi-dâl.

Ymhlith y cyn-gyngorwyr a gydnabuwyd oedd Mrs Lyn Thomas a wasanaethodd am dros 30 o flynyddoedd ar y cyngor, Mr Hugh Thomas a roddwyd gwasanaeth cyffelyb a Mr David Thomas, cyngorydd dros gyfnod hir.

Diolchwyd i Mrs Margaret Smith, a wasanaethwyd dros y ddau dymor diwethaf a Mr Steven Absalom a wasanaethodd dros sawl tymor yn ystod yr ugain mlynedd ddiwethaf, a hefyd i Mr Gareth Thomas a Mr Jonathan Taylor a wasanaethwyd ill dau dros y tymor diwethaf. Rhoddwyd diolch i Gyngorydd Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot dros Ogledd Bryncoch, John Bryant am ei gyn gwasanaeth hir dymor fel cyngorydd yn Nyffryn Clydach.

*Parhad ar dudalen 2*

## A Tribute to Public Service (continued)

Mrs Margaret Smith, who served the last two terms and Steven Absalom who served for several council sessions over the last twenty years were thanked as were Gareth Thomas and Jonathan Taylor who both served during the last term. Current Bryncoch North County Borough Councillor, John Bryant was thanked for his previous lengthy service as community councillor in Dyffryn Clydach.

The late Mr Brian Hall and the late Mr Graham Phillips were warmly remembered and posthumously honoured for their dedicated and valued service with Mrs Carole Hall and Cllr Mrs Jennifer Phillips clearly moved by the Council's gesture.

Cllr Martyn Peters gave an entertaining and all-encompassing speech which included recognising the many residents of our area who also play their part in creating our vibrant community.

Council Chairman Mrs Jennifer Davies thanked the councillors warmly.

"Dyffryn Clydach is indebted to each of you for your unselfish service to the community and wishes you well for the future."

The councillors who were able to attend were presented with a token of thanks from the council, a Welsh Slate paperweight inscribed with the council's crest. It really was a memorable evening in the history of Dyffryn Clydach and we know you add your thanks to those who have made a real contribution to our community.



## Teyrnged at Wasanaeth Cyhoeddus (parhad)

Cofiwyd gyda chynhesrwydd y diweddar Mr Brian Hall a'r diweddar Graham Phillips ac fe'u cydnabuwyd hwy wedi eu marwolaeth am eu gwasanaeth ymroddedig a gwerthfawr ac yn amlwg fe gyffyrddwyd Mrs Carole Hall a'r Cyng. Mrs Jennifer Phillips gan gydabyddiaeth y cyngor.

Cafwyd araith ddifyr a holl gynhwysfawr gan y Cyng. Martyn Peters gan gynnwys cydnabyddiaeth o ymroddiad llawer o drigolion ein hardal sydd hefyd yn cyfrannu at ein cymuned fywiog.

Diolchodd Cadeirydd y Cyngor Mrs. Jennifer Davies y cynghorwyr yn wresog "Mae Dyffryn Clydach yn ddyledus i bob un ohonoch am eich gwasanaeth anhunanol tuag at y Gymuned ac yn dymuno'n dda i chi i'r dyfodol."

Cafodd y cynghorwyr oedd yn medru bod yn bresennol pwysau papur wedi ei wneud allan o Lechen Cymru gydag arfbais y cyngor arno fel arwydd o werthfawrogiad gan y Cyngor.

Roedd yn noson gofiadwy yn hanes Dyffryn Clydach ac rydym yn gwybod y gwnewch chi ategu eich diolch i'r rhai'n sydd wedi cyfrannu'n o iawn i'n Cymuned.

*Why are Xmas trees like bad knitters?  
They both drop their needles!*

## The Natural Gardener by Gareth Thomas

Time to buy new jumpers, switch on the heating, bring in the garden furniture and wake up in the dark!

Many of us just feel like going to sleep until the spring and we're not the only ones thinking of hibernating until the new growing season. Plenty of animals are doing it too. Frogs, toads, newts, slow worms, snakes, ladybirds, lacewings hedgehogs, bats and dormice all take it easy the during the winter months.

Some shut right down until the warmth of the spring gives them a reason to wake up while others simply reduce their activity and only feed when necessary. So, how can gardeners young and old help our dozy friends?

This is my big tip :

*BE LAZY- Don't be too tidy during the winter months. Leave clearing up the garden until the spring.*

- Hedgehogs look for a nice comfy pile of logs, sticks and leaves to snuggle up in. They also like to be under brush or brambles. Hedgehogs need to get their body weight up to survive the winter you could leave out dog food, chopped peanuts, crunchy peanut butter, dog food or muesli and a small amount of vegetables.
- Frogs and toads really do sleep off the winter. They bed right down in the mud at the bottom of ponds. If you have a garden pond you can really help your hibernators by floating a tennis ball in the water to



prevent it from freezing over. Other amphibians hibernate in piles of leaves, long grass or logs along with their insect prey, so again don't be too tidy.

- The compost heap is also a very attractive to hibernators. Slow worms, possibly even snakes and even hedgehogs might snuggle down in your compost. Take care not to disturb the heap.
- Here's your excuse for not trimming back those creepers until March. A lot of insects like to shelter in the gaps between walls and plant.
- Leave fallen fruit where it lands lots of birds including winter thrushes get a much-needed tasty treat.
- Bats will also be looking for a cosy spot though you will be very lucky to have them in your garden. Bats hibernate only venturing out occasionally to drink or feed. They roost in cool, humid places such as caves, tree hollows, sheds, outhouses and sometimes garages. Remember that bats are protected, so don't disturb them even if they roost in your attic. If you need any advice or help contact your local Wildlife Trust.
- One creature that has no intention of hibernating, is the slug. Don't use bait to kill them as they also kill frogs, birds and hedgehogs, all of which prey on slugs.
- Finally, get a good gardening book from the library, have a look on the net or order a seed catalogue and start to plan your natural garden for the New Year with plants to encourage more wildlife in to your little patch.

*Happy Gardening,*

**Gareth Thomas**



## Embrace the opportunity to develop your career

Developed by Chwarae Teg, Ascent is a complete programme of training and support that offers women the opportunity to develop in the workplace and build the confidence to take the next step in their career.

Ascent delivers real benefits including:

- A recognised Institute of Leadership and Management qualification
- Tailored one to one support, advice and guidance
- Mentoring sessions and networking opportunities
- Opportunity to apply for a training allowance
- Invitations to free events
- Access to further study modules
- Agile Nation 24/7 – your online career development resource

The Agile Nation Ascent Programme has already helped 2158 employed women to develop their skills and progress into supervisor, team leader and management positions. Already, they've increased their combined earnings by £250,000.

Ascent participant Lauren Hayes said: "The course gave me the confidence to apply for a new role and made me feel more comfortable about approaching new challenges in and out of work."

Ascent is free for employed women, subject to eligibility criteria. The programme is being run as part of Chwarae Teg's European Social Fund and Welsh Government funded Agile Nation project.

To check your eligibility and find out more, please contact me:

Gemma Littlejohns

07581 249940

gemma.littlejohns@chwaraeteg.com

www.thewayforwardforwomen.co.uk

*Many thanks to Gemma for submitting this very useful article to Ymlaen. There will be a further article in the next edition with further development opportunities for small businesses in the area.*

*Gemma is a new resident in Longford and a governor at Neath Abbey Infants School.*

*If you have any ideas for articles in any area please contact Alyson or any of your councillors with details.*

## Ascent Courses

### Free Training for Working Women

#### Are you interested in developing your career?

You may be interested in participating in Chwarae Teg's Agile Nation project. We offer the opportunity to undertake a FREE ILM Level 2 Award in Team Leading from the Institute of Leadership and Management in order for you to progress within the workplace. Level 3 is also available for qualifying participants.

L2065 Blancos Hotel Port Talbot

February 8, 15, 22, March 1 & 22 (Friday)

L2066 Ivy Bush Hotel, Carmarthen

February 26, March 5, 12, 19 & April 9 (Tuesday)

L2067 Bluebell Hotel, Neath

February 28, March 7, 14, 21 and April 11 (Thursday)



## Esgyniad

### Cofleidiwch y cyfle i ddatblygu eich gyrfa

Wedi ei datblygu gan Chwarae Teg, mae Esgyniad yn rhaglen gyflawn o hyfforddiant a chefnogaeth sy'n gyfle i fenywod ddatblygu yn y gweithle ac adeiladu ar eu hyder a chymryd y cam nesaf yn eu gyrfaedd.

Mae Esgyniad yn trosglwyddo buddiannau go iawn gan gynnwys:

- Ennill cymhwyster cydnabyddedig gan y Sefydliad Arweinyddiaeth a Rheolaeth (ILM)
- Cefnogaeth, cyngor ac arweiniad un i un wedi ei deilwro
- Sesiynau mentora a chyfleoedd rhwydweithio
- Y cyfle i ymgymryd â modiwlau astudio pellach
- Gwahoddiadau i ddigwyddiadau rhad ac am ddim
- Cyfle i ymgeisio am lwfans hyfforddi
- Mynediad i Genedl Hyblyg 24/7 - adnodd datblygiad gyrfaol

Mae'r Rhaglen Esgyniad eisioes wedi helpu 2158 o fenywod mewn swydd i ddatblygu eu sgiliau a symud ymlaen i swyddi goruchwylwyr, arweinwyr tîm a swyddi rheoli. Maent eisioes wedi cynyddu eu henillion cyfunol i ryw £250,000.

Dywedodd Laura Hayes, sy'n cymryd rhan yn Rhaglen Esgyniad, "Rhoddodd y cwrs yr hyder i mi geisio am swyddogaeth newydd ac fe wnaeth i mi deimlo'n fwy cyfforddus wrth wynebu sialensiau newydd y tu fewn a thu allan i'm gwaith."

Mae Esgyniad yn ddi-dâl i fenywod sydd allan o waith, yn amodol ar feini prawf cymhwyster. Mae'r rhaglen yn cael ei rhedeg fel rhan o brosiect Agile Nation sy'n cael ei ariannu gan Gronfa Cymdeithasol Ewrop a Llywodraeth Cymru.

Os am brofi eich cymhwyster neu am ragor o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â:

Gemma Littlejohns

07581 249940

gemma.littlejohns@chwaraeteg.com

www.thewayforwardforwomen.co.uk

L2068 Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli

March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 17 (Wednesday)

Courses run **one day a week for 5 weeks** which includes a 2 week break to allow for assignments to be completed. You will receive a training needs analysis and all the support and guidance you need to build your career.

All courses run from 9.00am to 4.30pm and lunch and refreshments are provided.

#### Find out more

For further information or details on additional dates and venues for Ascent courses contact the Chwarae Teg South West Wales

office on:

01554 770612

agilenationsww@chwaraeteg.com,

www.agilenation.co.uk

# INTRODUCING SEVEN OF YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

## **VIC JAMES: New Councillor**

Vic has lived in Penyard for 42 years and is now retired. He has worked for the National Trust as a Manager at Aberdulais Falls for 26 years having previously been employed by Duport Steel in production. He has a special interest in the environment and its history and has chosen to serve on the *Open Spaces* committee.



## **VIC JAMES: Cyngorydd Newydd**

Mae Vic wedi byw ym Mhenyard am 42 o flynyddoedd ac mae nawr wedi ymddeol. Gweithiodd i'r Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol fel Rheolwr yn Rhaeadr Aberdulais am 26 o flynyddoedd a chyn hynny cafodd ei gyflogi gan waith dur Duport yn yr adran gynhyrchu. Mae ganddo ddiddordeb arbennig yn yr amgylchedd a'i hanes ac mae wedi dewis gwasanaethu ar y pwyllgor *Mannau Agored*.

## **MARTYN PETERS: Returning Councillor**

County Borough Councillor Martyn Peters is Chairman of the *Open Spaces* Committee. He is a Governor of both Neath Abbey Infants' and Mynachlog Nedd Junior Schools and is also Chairman of the local PACT.



## **MARTYN PETERS:**

### ***Cyngorydd sy'n Dychwelyd***

Mae'r Cyngorydd Bwrdeistref Sirol Martyn Peters yn gadeirydd ar y pwyllgor *Mannau Agored*. Mae yn llywodraethwr ar Ysgol Babanod Mynachlog Nedd ac ar Ysgol Iau Mynachlog Nedd, ac hefyd yn gadeirydd ar y PACT lleol.

## **JENNIFER PHILLIPS:**

### ***Returning Councillor***

Jennifer has been on the Community Council for the last four years, serving on the *Finance and Open Spaces* Committees and is a governor of Neath Abbey Infants. She has a keen interest in environmental issues.



## **JENNIFER PHILLIPS:**

### ***Cyngorydd sy'n Dychwelyd***

Mae Jennifer wedi bod yn aelod o'r Cyngor Cymuned ers pedair mlynedd. Mae'n gwasanaethu ar bwyllgorau *Cyllid a Mannau Agored* ac yn llywodraethwr ar Ysgol Fabanod Mynachlog Nedd. Mae ganddi ddiddordeb mawr mewn materion amgylcheddol.

## **COLIN POWELL, JP:**

### ***New Councillor***

Colin is former school governor and also served as a magistrate. He is treasurer of Neath and District Older People's Forum. He is now a member of the *Open Spaces* and *Finance* committees and will assist at events.



## **COLIN POWELL, YH:**

### ***Cyngorydd Newydd***

Mae Colin yn gyn-lywodraethwr ysgolion ac mae wedi gwasanaethu fel ynad hefyd. Ef yw Trysorydd Fforwm Pobl Hŷn Castell-nedd a'r Cyffiniau. Yn aelod o bwyllgorau *Mannau Agored a Chyllid*, ac fe fydd hefyd yn cynorthwyo gyda digwyddiadau.

## **ALYSON THOMAS:**

### ***Returning Councillor***

Alyson is the new *Ymlaen* editor and is on the *Hall's and Social* Committee. She was project leader for the Dyffryn Clydach Community Map, which created the wonderful tapestry on display in our Hall. She is keen to source grant funding to develop further community projects.



## **ALYSON THOMAS:**

### ***Cyngorydd sy'n Dychwelyd***

Alyson yw golygydd newydd *Ymlaen* ac mae hefyd ar y pwyllgor *Neuadd a Chymdeithasol*. Hi oedd arweinydd prosiect Map Cymunedol Dyffryn Clydach, a greodd y map rhyfeddol sydd i'w weld yn ein Neuadd. Mae hi'n awyddus i ddarganfod ffynonellau cyllid er mwyn datblygu prosiectau cymunedol pellach.

## **KEN THOMAS:**

### ***New Councillor***

Ken is a former South Wales Police officer who has volunteered with our council for many years. He is currently Wales Co-ordinator for LV-SOS-KITAID a rugby and cricket kit recycling charity. He is on the *Hall's and Social* committee and the *Communications* committee ensuring that Dyffryn Clydach thrives.



## **KEN THOMAS:**

### ***Cyngorydd Newydd***

Mae Ken yn gyn plismon gyda Heddlu De Cymru sydd wedi gwirfoddoli gyda'r Cyngor am flynyddoedd. Ar hyn o bryd mae'n gydlynnydd dros Gymru i LV-SOS-KITAID – elusen sy'n ail-gylchi ddillad rygbi a chriced. Mae ar bwyllgor y *Neuadd a Chymdeithasol* ac ar y pwyllgor *Cyfathrebu* i ddiogelu ffyniant Dyffryn Clydach.

## **HARRY THOMAS:**

### ***Returning Councillor***

Harry has been a Council Member for 8 years and is on *Open Spaces* and *Finance* Committees. He has served on Neath Port Talbot Standards and One Voice Wales Area Committees and is our representative on Neath Port Talbot Forum. He is a volunteer case worker for SSAFA/Forces Help and is a Governor of Mynachlog Nedd Junior School.



## **HARRY THOMAS:**

### ***Cyngorydd sy'n Dychwelyd***

Mae Harry wedi bod yn aelod o'r Cyngor am wyth mlynedd ac mae ar bwyllgorau *Mannau Agored a Chyllid*. Bu'n gwasanaethu fel aelod o bwyllgor *Safonau Cyngor Bwrdeistref Castell-nedd Port Talbot* ac ar bwyllgor cylch *Un Llais Cymru*, ac ef yw ein cynrychiolydd ar Fforwm Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot. Mae'n wirfoddolwr yn helpu gydag achosion i'r SSATA/Forces Help ac yn llywodraethwr ar Ysgol Gynradd Mynachlog Nedd.

## Skewen Craft and Produce Fayre

Craft, food and farmers' markets and fayres have become established throughout Wales in the last few years and we have one right on our doorstep.



**Sarah Gaffney, Sara Gemine and stallholders**

Two years ago two enterprising Dyffryn Clydach residents embarked on a venture to create a monthly opportunity for local craftspeople to sell their wares and for charities to benefit.

Sarah Gaffney and Sara Gemine of St John's Terrace and The Highlands host the Fayre on the first Saturday of each month in the Memorial Hall in Skewen Parc, Wern Road, Skewen between 10am and 2pm.

Artisan breads, cooked meats and cheeses sit side by side with handmade crystal jewellery, cupcakes, cards and fabric crafts.

"We simply wanted to give these creative people an opportunity and to do something for the community too. We don't benefit personally and we are so delighted that our regular stallholders have become like a little family," Sarah Gaffney told *Ymlaen*.

Sara Gemine added, "Over the last two years we have supported over one hundred charities in their fundraising efforts, many of them very local such as Skewen Salvation Army and Pollstone of Old Road, Neath Abbey. It is also keeping more money in the local economy which we all need to do more."

The women agreed that their venture has been very rewarding and they invite everyone to come along and support the Craft and Produce Fayre's continued success. The next fayre is Saturday Dec 1st so you will have the ideal chance to purchase some unique gifts.

Further information phone 07952638816 or join our group facebook group. Skewen craft and produce fayre <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/148005408561302/>

## St John's Church Upcoming Events

by Ann Doran

Hello and Christmas joy and peace to everyone. St John's has a jam-packed month ahead but the church is busy all year round with a variety of activities in Neath Abbey. We would love you to join us for worship in the Advent period and if your New Year resolution is to find time for spiritual sustenance then you will find our congregation very welcoming.

### St John's Christmas Services

*Christingle Service* ~ Sunday 16th December at 3.30pm..

*Christmas Eve* ~ Family Carols around the Crib at 4pm  
11.30pm Holy Eucharist Midnight Service.

*Boxing Day Service* at 9.30am

### Year round events

MESSY CHURCH~The last Saturday of every month at St John's Church, MESSY CHURCH is held for younger children 3pm to 5pm with craft themes, stories, messy fun and refreshments together.

COFFEE MORNING ~ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10.15am. Why not come along for a bit of a chat and a cuppa?

MOTHER'S UNION at ST JOHN'S ~ we are a very friendly bunch and we meet at 2pm during the winter months and 7pm for summer months.

NEATH ABBEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ~ Longford Memorial Hall on the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Speakers and activities for women of all ages and interests.

## Tinsel and Treasure Chwarae Teg

*Come and join us for our winter fayre*

**5.30pm to 8.30pm**

*on*

**27th November 2012**

*at*

**Towers Hotel and Spa**

*Jersey Marine, Swansea, SA10 6JL*

**FREE entry**

*Experience the delights that our local traders have to offer. Enjoy samples, demonstrations and grab that opportunity to buy those one off gifts not found on the high street!*

*Enter our raffle for the luxury spa treatment at The Towers Hotel and Spa!*

## Tinsel a Thrysor

**5.30pm i 8.30pm ar**

**27 Tachwedd 2012**

*yn*

**Ngwesty'r Towers Hotel and Spa**

*Jersey Marine, Abertawe, SA10 6JL*

**Mynediad AM DDIM**

*Ymunwch â ni yn ein ffair aeaf*

*Dewch i fwynhau rhyfeddodau ein masnachwyr lleol. Cyfle i fwynhau samplau, arddangosiadau a phrynu'r anrhegion arbennig hynny na welwch ar y stryd fawr!*

*Rhowch gynnig ar ein raffl i ennill triniaeth sba foethus yn The Towers Hotel and Spa!*

# Welsh Christmas Traditions

As in many countries throughout the world, Christmas and its celebrations are a favourite time of the year in Wales, and there are many traditions connected with it.

**Christmas Day** The “Plygain” (daybreak service) managed to survive in many country areas, and because of its simplicity and beauty is being revived in other areas. Between 3am and 6am men gathered in rural churches to sing, mainly unaccompanied, three or four part harmony carols in a service that went on for three hours or more. After the service, a day of feasting and drinking would begin.

## St. Stephens Day; Boxing Day - December 26th

The day after Christmas Day was celebrated in a way unique to Wales and included the tradition of “holly-beating” or “holming.” Young lads would beat the unprotected arms or legs of young females with holly branches until they bled. In others areas it was the custom to beat the last person to get out of bed in the morning.



## The Wassail

To *wassail* means to be whole and healthy, and both Christmas and New Year were marked here by wassailing, which included both drinking and singing. The custom seems to have begun as a way of wishing the farmer successful harvests from his fields and the increase of his livestock during the coming year. The wassail bowl itself, which had twelve handles, was filled with cakes, baked apples and sugar into which was poured warm beer and spices. Friends and neighbours gathered round in a circle in front of a blazing fire and passed around the bowl until the beer was consumed. The remaining food was then shared out and eaten. On Twelfth Night, the wassail bowl was taken to the house of newlyweds or to a family which had recently come to live in the district, songs were sung outside the house door. Those inside the house would recite or sing special verses, to be answered by the revellers outside.

## New Years Eve - First Footing

In Wales the custom of letting in the New Year was slightly different in that if the first visitor in the New Year was a woman and the male householder opened the door, then it was bad luck. If the first man to cross the threshold in the New Year was a red haired man, that was also bad luck.

New Year was an opportunity for securing good luck in many ways. Welsh people would make certain that they would:

*Never lend anything to anyone on New Years Day else they would have bad luck.*

*That all existing debts were paid.*

*That no cleaning of the house or washing of clothes was done on New Year's Day*

*And... they kept watch on each other as the behaviour of an individual on this day was an indication of how they would behave all year!*

## The Grey Mare

A pre-Christian custom associated with the end of the Christmas season, formerly carried out in all parts of Wales but now almost disappeared, is that of the **Mari Lwyd**.

A horse's skull with false ears and eyes attached, along with reins and bells, covered with a white sheet and colourfully decorated with ribbons, is carried around on a pole. The Mari Lwyd is carried from door to door and is accompanied by a party of people. At each door, poems are recited in Welsh. Those inside the house reply also in verse refusing to let the Mari Lwyd in until this battle of verse and insults (or *pwnco*) is won.

The Mari Lwyd parties gained a bad reputation for drunkenness and vandalism as they roamed the villages. This was unacceptable behaviour especially with the rise of the Chapel and Methodism in Wales, and so the custom was changed. Christmas carols were sung at the doors and the battle of insults and verse disappeared. In some areas the Welsh language gave way to English. By the 1960s the custom of the Mari had almost died out but there are still groups who keep the tradition alive in Glanaman, Maesteg and other areas.

You can watch these recent examples of it in the upper Swansea Valley

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZu8lcuEUMY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZu8lcuEUMY)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToG7l38GIeU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToG7l38GIeU)



**The Calennig** was a small decoration with a great history. The word itself is thought to have been derived from the Latin *calends* and some think the custom dates back to pagan times. An apple (or latterly perhaps an orange) was supported on a tripod of twigs and studded with cloves. A sprig of box (from a nearby hedge) was inserted at the top as shown in my drawing. In later years, the Calennig might



be decorated with gold foil and also with raisins made to appear as though they grew from the sprig. The resulting Calennig would then be displayed in the home or perhaps delivered to friends as a symbolic gift. It was held to be a token of good crops in the coming year

In other parts of Wales groups of young boys would visit all the houses in the village carrying evergreen twigs and a cup of cold water drawn from the local well. The boys would then use the twigs to splash people with water. In return, they would receive the Calennig, usually in the form of copper coins.

## Hunting the Wren

Another Welsh custom associated with Twelfth Night. A group of young men would go out into the countryside to capture a wren. The bird would be placed in a small, decorated cage and carried around from house to house and shown in exchange for money or gifts of food and drink (if a wren could not be found then a poor unfortunate sparrow would have to undergo the ritual).

### Feast of the Epiphany

On January 6th, the **Feast of the Epiphany** was an important celebration in Wales. In **Glamorganshire**, a huge loaf or cake was prepared, which was then divided up into three parts to represent Christ, the Virgin Mary and the three Wise Men. A large company of neighbours was invited to be present at the dividing of the cake in which rings were concealed. Whoever discovered a ring in his piece of cake (or bread) was elected as King or Queen of Misrule and presided over the day's festivities. January 6th, of course, was the date of the old-calendar Christmas Day, and many of the festivities connected with it lasted well over a century after the new calendar was introduced in 1752.

### Dyffryn Clydach Tradition

Here in Dyffryn Clydach, the community council has created our own tradition, our community carol evening,

which takes place in the Memorial Hall. Many residents join us there to share an evening of readings, the music of the *Skewen Salvation Army Band* and *Songsters*, the words of Mr Gerard Pollard of Cwrt Herbert. Everyone is very welcome along to enjoy the evening and to share mince pies and refreshments afterwards. We wish you all a Merry Christmas however you celebrate.

### A Traditional Welsh Christmas - Christmas celebrations in Wales

[www.historic-uk.com/.../HistoryofWales/Welsh-Christmas-Traditions/](http://www.historic-uk.com/.../HistoryofWales/Welsh-Christmas-Traditions/)

### Old Christmas customs in Wales.

[www.data-wales.co.uk/xmas.htm](http://www.data-wales.co.uk/xmas.htm)

### Wales on Britannia: Welsh Culture & Traditions

[www.britannia.com/wales/culture2.html](http://www.britannia.com/wales/culture2.html)

# Traddodiadau Nadolig Cymru

Fel yn amryw o wledydd y byd, mae'r Nadolig a'i thraddodiadau yn gyfnod poblogaidd o'r flwyddyn yng Nghymru, ac mae yna lawer o draddodiadau yn gysylltiedig ag e.

**Dydd Nadolig** Fe lwyddodd y Plygain (gwasanaeth cyn toriad dydd) i oroesi mewn sawl ardal wledig, ac oherwydd ei symrlwydd a'i brydferthwch mae'n cael ei adfywio mewn llawer ardal. Rhwng 3yb a 6yb ymgasglu dynion mewn eglwysi gwledig i ganu, yn ddigyfeiliant, mewn cytgordd dair neu phedair rhan carolau mewn gwasanaeth oedd yn parhau am ryw dair awr neu mwy. Wedi'r cyfarfod, bydd diwrnod o wleda ac yfed yn cychwyn.

### Trannoeth y Nadolig; Gŵyl San Steffan - Rhagfyr 26ain

Dathlwyd drannoeth y Nadolig mewn ffyrdd unigryw i Gymru gan gynnwys y traddodiad o "Curo â chelyn". Byddai'r dynion ifainc a bechgyn yn curo breichiau neu goesau diamddiffyn menywod ifainc gyda changhennau'r gelynnen nes pery iddynt waedu. Mewn ardaloedd eraill yr arferiad oedd curo'r sawl oedd diwethaf allan o'r gwely yn y bore.



### Y Wasel

Mae'r gair *wasel* yn golygu i fod yn "holliach", ac fe ddathlwyd y Nadolig a'r Flwyddyn Newydd yma drwy wasel, oedd yn cynnwys yfed a chanu. Mae'n debyg i'r arfer gychwyn fel modd i ddymuno'n dda i'r ffermwr am gynaeafau llwyddiannus o'i gaeau a chynnydd yn nifer ei da byw yn y flwyddyn i ddod. Roedd y bowlen wasel ei hun, a chanddi deuddeg dolen, wedi ei llenwi a theisennod, afalau pôb a siwgr gyda chwrw twym a sbeisiau wedi



eu harllwys iddi. Byddai cyfeillion a chymdogion yn ymgynnull mewn cylch o flaen coelcerth o dân a phasio'r bowlen o amgylch nes i'r cwrw gael ei yfed. Wedyn fe rannwyd a bwytywedd gweddill y bwyd. Ar y Ddeuddegfed Noson, aed â'r bowlen wasel at dŷ'r sawl oedd newydd briodi neu at deulu oedd newydd ddod i fyw yn yr ardal ac fe ganwyd caneuon y tu allan i ddrws y tŷ. Byddai'r sawl oedd y tu fewn i'r tŷ yn adrodd neu yn canu penillion arbennig, i'w hateb gan y dathlwyr y tu allan.

### Nos Galan - Yr Ymwelydd Cyntaf

Yng Nghymru roedd y traddodiad o groesaw'r flwyddyn newydd ychydig yn wahanol, sef os byddai'r ymwelydd cyntaf yn y Flwyddyn Newydd yn fenyw a gŵr y tŷ yn agor y drws, yna fe fyddai'n golygu anlwc. Pe bai'r dyn cyntaf i groesi'r trothwy yn y flwyddyn newydd â gwallt coch, roedd hynny hefyd yn golygu anlwc.

Roedd y Flwyddyn Newydd yn gyfle i sicrhau lwc dda mewn sawl ffordd. 'Roedd y Cymry yn gwneud yn siŵr:

*Na fyddent yn benthyca unrhyw beth i neb ar Ddydd Calan rhag ofn iddynt gael anlwc.*

*Bod pob dyled yn cael ei ad-dalu.*

*Na fyddai neb yn glanhau'r tŷ nac yn golchi dillad ar Ddydd Calan.*

*Y byddant hefyd yn gwyllo'i gilydd gan fod ymddygiad unigolyn ar y diwrnod hwn yn arwydd o sut fyddai'n ymddwyn drwy gydol y flwyddyn!*

### Y Fari Lwyd

Arfer cyn-Gristnogol yn gysylltiedig â diwedd gŵyl y Nadolig, a gymerodd le yn flaenorol ym mhob rhan o Gymru ond sydd wedi bron a diflannu erbyn hyn, yw'r Mari Lwyd.

Cariwyd penglog ceffyl gyda chlustiau a llygaid ffug, ynghyd â llinynnau ffrwyn a chlychau, a

orchuddiwyd â lliain gwyn wedi ei addurno â rhubanau, o amgylch ar ben polyn. Mae'r Fari Lwyd yn cael ei chario o ddrws i ddrws yng nghwmni grŵp o bobl. Wrth bob drws, mae pennill yn cael ei adrodd yn Gymraeg. Mae'r sawl sydd y tu fewn i'r tŷ yn ateb, hefyd mewn barddoniaeth, yn gwrthod mynediad i'r Fari Lwyd nes i'r frwydr farddonol a sarhadau (neu pwnc) yn cael ei hennill.



Enillwyd enw drwg gan bartïon Mari Lwyd am feddwod a fandaliaeth tra buont yn crwydro'r pentrefi. 'Roedd hyn yn ymddygiad annerbyniol yn enwedig gyda thwf y Capel a Methodistiaeth yng Nghymru, ac felly newidiwyd y drefn. Canwyd carolau wrth y drysau a diflannodd y brwydro geiriol a sarhau. Mewn rhai ardaloedd disodlwyd y Gymraeg gan y Saesneg. Erbyn y 1960au 'roedd yr arfer bron a diflannu ond mae eto grwpiau sy'n cadw'r traddodiad yn fyw yng Nglanaman, Maesteg ac ardaloedd eraill.

Gallwch wyllo ar esiamplau ohoni ym mhen ucha' Cwm Tawe ar  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZu8lcuEUMY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZu8lcuEUMY)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZu8lcuEUMY>  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToG7I38GleU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToG7I38GleU)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToG7I38GleU>

Addurn bach oedd y **Calennig** a chanddo hanes mawr. Credir i'r gair ei hun deillio o'r Lladin *calends* ac mae rhai yn credu bod yr arfer yn deillio o'r oes baganaidd. Byddai afal (neu oren efallai yn ddiweddarach) wedi ei orchuddio â chlofs yn cael ei gynnal ar drybeth o frigau. Rhoddwyd sbrigyn o bren boc (o berth gyfagos) ar ei ben fel y gwelir yn fy narlun. Rhai blynnyddoedd yn ddiweddarach, addurnwyd y Calennig â ffoil aur ac arno resins wedi eu trefnu i edrych fel petaent wedi tyfu allan o'r brigyn. Byddai'r Calennig wedyn yn cael ei arddangos yn y cartref neu yn cael ei drosglwyddo at ffrindiau fel rhodd symbolaidd. Credir iddo fod yn arwydd o gnydau da yn y flwyddyn i ddod.



Mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru byddai grwpiau o fechgyn ifainc yn ymweld â holl dai'r pentref yn cario brigau o goed bythwyrdd a chwpan o ddŵr oer wedi ei godi o ffynnon gyfagos. Byddai'r bechgyn wedyn yn defnyddio'r brigau i dasgu dŵr dros bobl. Fel ymateb, byddent yn derbyn Calennig: arian mwy na thebyg.

### Gŵyl yr Ystwyll

Ar Ionawr 6ed, 'roedd Gŵyl yr Ystwyll yn ddathliad pwysig yng Nghymru. Yn Sir Forgannwg, paratowyd torth o deisen enfawr, a dorwyd wedyn i dair rhan i gynrychioli Crist, y Forwyn Fair a'r tri Gŵr Doeth. Gwahoddwyd nifer fawr o gymdogion i fod yn

bresennol tra rhannwyd y deisen oedd a modrwyon wedi eu cuddio ynddi. Etholwyd y sawl a ddaeth o hyd i fodrwy yn ei darn o deisen (neu bara) yn Arglwydd neu Arglwyddes Anrhefn ac fe lywodraethodd dros rialtwch y dydd. Ionawr 6ed, wrth gwrs, oedd Dydd Nadolig yn ôl yr hen galendr, ac fe barhaodd nifer o'r dathliadau a gysylltwyd ganddo am bell dros ganrif wedi i'r calendr newydd gael ei gyflwyno yn 1752.

### Hela'r Dryw

Arferiad arall yn gysylltiedig â Gŵyl yr Ystwyll. Byddai grŵp o ddynion ifainc yn mynd allan i gefn gwlad i ddal dryw. Rhoddwyd yr aderyn mewn caets addurnedig neu elor a'i gario o gwmpas o dŷ i dŷ a'i arddangos yn gyfnewid am arian neu roddion o fwyd a diod (os na fedrwyd dod o hyd i ddryw yna byddai'n rhaid i aderyn y to druan ddiodef y ddefod).

### Traddodiad Dyffryn Clydach

Yma yn Nyffryn Clydach mae'r Cyngor Cymuned wedi creu ei draddodiad ei hun, ein noson gymunedol o garolau, sydd yn cael ei chynnal yn y Neuadd Goffa. Mae nifer o'n trigolion yn ymuno â ni yno i rannu noson o ddarlenniadau, miwsig gan fand a Chantorion Byddin yr Iachawdwriaeth Sgiwen, geiriau Mr Gerard Pollard o Gwrt Herbert. Mae croeso i bawb ddod i fwynhau'r noson ac i rannu'r tartennau Nadolig a'r lluniaeth wedyn.

Dymunwn i chwi Nadolig Llawen pa fodd bynnag y byddwch yn dathlu.

### Nadolig Traddodiadol Gymreig - Dathliadau Nadolig yng Nghymru

[www.historic-uk.com/.../HistoryofWales/Welsh-Christmas-Traditions/](http://www.historic-uk.com/.../HistoryofWales/Welsh-Christmas-Traditions/)

### Hen Draddodiadau'r Nadolig yng Nghymru

[www.data-wales.co.uk/xmas.htm](http://www.data-wales.co.uk/xmas.htm)

### Cymru ar Britannia: Diwylliant a Thraddodiadau Cymreig

[www.britannia.com/wales/culture2.html](http://www.britannia.com/wales/culture2.html)

## Community Council Christmas Events at the Memorial Hall

### Children's Christmas Party-

Saturday 15 December 2012, 2 pm to 4 pm

### Parti Nadolig Y Plant

Community Carol Evening

Wednesday 12 December 2012 at 7 pm

### Noson Carolau Cymunedol

Senior Hall Users' Party-

Saturday January 5th, 2pm

Parti Prifddefnyddwyr y Neuadd Goffa



## ARCHIVE PHOTO

## HEN LUN

1945 Longford  
Road Street  
Party.

What was the  
occasion?



The photo we published in the last edition of *Ymlaen* (left) was of Longford and Skewen Scouts and Guides taking part in the Skewen Carnival in the early 1970's

## HELPING HANDS KNITTERS

We have had a very busy few months and our knitting group goes from strength to strength. Most recently we took part in packing shoeboxes for Romania full of Christmas gifts for children of all ages and we also sent over 100 baby packs for new mothers there. We know from the responses we get that both these projects are desperately needed and eagerly anticipated. Once again we were overwhelmed with the support we received from the community in helping us to achieve our aims.



*Helping Hands fundraisers, Val Berni, Evana Morgan and Gladys Williams.*

Over the summer we took part in a number of fundraising events which has enabled us to make a donation of £600 to Bangla Cymru. This organisation works in Bangladesh to correct cleft palates in children whose lives would otherwise be a misery as they grow

into adulthood. Each surgical procedure costs £150 and is carried out by a doctor from Wales who travels to Bangladesh and gives his services to the charity so we have therefore provided four of these operations.

At the end of September we ran a Macmillan Tea Party and bingo session which enabled us to make a donation of £500 to that organisation. We try to ensure that whatever money we make as a group is divided equally between the UK and overseas.

Our group took a trip to the Swansea Grand Theatre in the Autumn to watch the production of *Calendar Girls* which was enjoyed by all. For some reason the ladies of the group are not keen to repeat the fundraising activities of the WI in that story though.

So much is planned over the next couple of months: fundraising stalls at local events, shopping in Carmarthen and our annual dinner which this year is at the Riverside restaurant at Aberdulais. Life is never dull with the Helping Hands Knitters. Why don't you join us in the New Year? We meet every Thursday between 12 and 3pm.

Merry Christmas to you all,

Val Berni

## Macmillan gains again

As well as the Helping Hands fundraiser, Treharne Court hosted a coffee morning raising nearly £200, as did Cllr Jen Davies and members of Friday Night Bingo who raised another £150 and Mrs Mary Soper ran a charity bingo session raising another £180. Almost £1,000 was raised for this wonderful cause in Dyffryn Clydach to our knowledge. Well done everyone.

## Best Garden Competition

### Best Garden Competition

Congratulations and thanks to our annual garden award winners who make our area so pleasant with their hard work. They were presented with their certificates on November 5th, 2012 at the Memorial Hall.

Mr Alan Jarrett, Graig Parc; Mr Gwyn Morgan, Graig Parc; Mr Stephen and Mrs Bethan Hill, Graig Parc; Mr Alan Jarrett, Graig Parc; Mr C and Mrs P Jones, Heol Heddwch; Marlene Smith, Heol Penderyn; Denise Gregory, Heol Penderyn; Mrs Sylvia Elwell & Mr Alan Elwell, Rhydhir; Mrs L M Saunders, Rhydhir; Mr Alan & Mrs Beryl Mellin, Rhydhir; Richard M & James M Kearns, Rhydhir; Mrs Pat Davies, Longford Road; Gaynor & William Jones, Longford Road; Mr D Evans and Mr K Paul Jarrett, Dyffryn; Mr Stuart Davies, The Highlands; Mr David Evans, The Highlands; Mr Lance & Gloria Curtis, The Highlands; Mr Arthur Pidgeon, The Highlands; Nicola Jones, Highland Close; Mr Michael & Mrs Sharon Jones, Highland Gardens; Mrs Tessa Milford, Highland Gardens; Mrs Maureen Davies,

## Cysadleuaeth Gerddi Gorau

### Cystadleuaeth Gerddi Gorau

Llongyfarchiadau a diolch i enillwyr ein cystadleuaeth flynyddol am y gerddi gorau. Mae eu gwaith caled yn peri i'n hardal edrych mor hardd. Cawsant eu tystysgrifau ar Dachwedd 5ed, 2012 yn y Neuadd Goffa.

Highland Gardens; Heather Vaughan, Stratton Way; Miss D Hunkin, Taillwyd Road; Paul and Jane Mann, New Road; Ian Ravenscroft & Iasmine Ross, New Road; Michael A & William J Rees, Hill Road; Gareth & Phyllis Griffiths, Hill Road.



## RECIPE ♦ RECIPE ♦ RECIPE

### Lifestyle

### Easiest Chocolate Truffle Recipe

by Alyson Thomas.

What is better than a homemade gift for Christmas? If you are stuck for ideas, on a budget or have a Christmas Fayre looming, these are so easy and quick to make you might want to whip a batch or let the kids do it.

#### Ingredients:

½ cup of icing sugar  
1 pack of Marie or Malted Milk Biscuits, very finely crushed  
1½ tbsps cocoa powder  
¼ cup melted butter  
Desiccated coconut



Mix biscuits, sugar, and cocoa together and add the melted butter slowly to these ingredients.

Scoop out tablespoons of the mixture and with cold hands roll it into small balls

Roll in coconut and refrigerate for 20 minutes.

You could omit coconut, add a few drops of peppermint or almond essence or add a tablespoon of orange juice to tailor make them to personal taste.

Dust with more cocoa powder to finish.  
You could use petit four cases to pretty them up.

Done!

## RYSAIT ♦ RYSAIT ♦ RYSAIT

### Ffordd o Fyw

### Y Resait Pelen Siocled Rhwyddaf

gan Alyson Thomas

Beth sydd yn well nag anrheg o waith cartref am Nadolig? Os ydych yn brin o syniadau, neu o arian neu mae Ffair Nadolig ar y gorwel, mae 'rhain yn rhwydd ac yn gyflym i'w gwneud. Efallai byddwch am wneud swp ohonynt neu adael y plant i'w gwneud.

#### Cynhwysion:

½ cwpan o siwgr eisin  
1 pecyn o fisedi Marie neu Malted Milk Biscuits, wedi'u dyrnu'n fân iawn  
1½ llwy fwrdd o bowdr coco  
¼ cwpan o fenyn wedi toddi  
Blawd coconyt

Cymysgwch y bisgedi, siwgr a'r coco gyda'i gilydd ac ychwanegwch yr ymenyn wedi toddi yn araf at y cynhwysion hyn.

Sgwpiwch allan llond llwyed bwrdd o'r cymysgedd hwn a, gyda dwylo oer roliwch ef i mewn i beli bach.

Roliwch y coconyt i mewn a rhowch yn yr oergell am ugain munud.

Fe allech adael y coconyt allan, ychwanegwch ychydig ddafnau o fintys poeth neu rinflas almon neu ychwanegwch lond llwy fwrdd o sudd oren i greu blas sy'n addas i'ch blas personol chi.

Taenellwch gydag ychwaneg o bowdr coco i orffen.

Fe allech ddefnyddio casys *petit four* i'w harddu ymhellach.

Fe'i cwblhawyd!

# Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Hall Schedule

Our hall is a busy community facility used regularly by these community groups and welcomes everyone.

There is a large hall and two rooms suitable for smaller groups and classes.

There is a fully equipped kitchen with disabled facilities and car parking facilities.

To hire the hall please contact our clerk, Mr Randall Shopland on 01639635787

or email mail@ranshop.wanadoo.co.uk

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday /<br><i>Dydd Llun</i>       | Community Short Mat Bowls 9.30am<br>Longford Yoga Group 7.45pm<br>Dyffryn Clydach Community Council<br>Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach 6.30pm (1st Monday Monthly)<br>Cyfarfod Cangen Plaid Dyffryn Clydach<br>Plaid Cymru Branch Meeting<br>6.30pm (3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday Monthly)<br>Main Hall/Neudd Fawr | Main Hall /<br><i>Neuadd Fawr</i><br><br>Committee Room/<br><i>Ystafell Fach</i> |
| Tuesday /<br><i>Dydd Mawrth</i>    | Neath Abbey & Longford over 50s<br>(Alternate weeks) 1.30pm<br>Longford Karate Club 6.30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Main Hall /<br><i>Neuadd Fawr</i>                                                |
| Wednesday /<br><i>Dydd Mercher</i> | Longford Parent and Toddler Group<br>Mam a Phlentyn 9.00 am<br>Wednesday Stitchers 1.30 pm<br>Longford Shortmat Bowls Club 6. 30 pm<br>(Selected weeks only - Home Matches in season)<br>Neath Abbey WI Branch 7.00 pm (Last Wednesday in month only)                                                       | Main Hall /<br><i>Neuadd Fawr</i>                                                |
| Thursday /<br><i>Dydd Iau</i>      | Parent and Toddler Group 9.00 am<br>Mam a Phlentyn<br>Helping Hands Knitters 12.00 pm<br>Longford Karate Club 6.30 pm<br>Longford Mothercraft 2.00 pm                                                                                                                                                       | Main Hall /<br><i>Neuadd Fawr</i><br><br>Committee Room/<br><i>Ystafell Fach</i> |
| Friday /<br><i>Dydd Gwener</i>     | Longford Parent and Toddler Group/<br>Mam a Phlentyn 9.00 a.m.<br>Community Bingo 6.30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                  |
| Saturday /<br><i>Dydd Sadwrn</i>   | Tiny Toes Ballet 9.15 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Main Hall /<br><i>Neuadd Fawr</i>                                                |

## School News

Mynachlog Nedd Junior School achieved its *Platinum Eco Schools Award* in the Summer Term. They are now one of a very elite group in Wales who have achieved this prestigious award. The award is given as recognition for the outstanding commitment shown to looking after the environment both in school and at home, with an emphasis on reducing, reusing and recycling.

Headmistress Mrs Christine Davies is extremely proud of the school and thanks the children and staff for their hard work and respect for the environment.

Mynachlog Nedd Junior School is looking for two enthusiastic individuals, who work or live in the community and feel that they can contribute to the school by becoming Community Governors. If you are interested in the education of local children this could be for you. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the clerk Alyson Callard on 01792 812 202 or email mynachlogneddjunior@npted.org



## Newyddion Ysgol

Enillodd Ysgol Gynradd Mynachlog Nedd wobwr Platinwm Ecosgolion yn ystod Tymor yr Haf. Maent yn nawr yn un o'r grŵp elitaidd sydd wedi cyflawni'r llwyddiant clodfawr hwn. Rhoddir y wobwr fel cydnabyddiaeth o'r ymrwymiad amlwg a ddangoswyd at warchod yr amgylchedd yn yr ysgol ac yn y cartref, gyda'r pwyslais ar leihau, ail-ddefnyddio ac ail-gylchi.

Mae'r Brifathrawes, Mrs. Christine Davies, yn falch iawn o lwyddiant yr ysgol ac yn diolch i'r plant a'r staff am eu gwaith caled a'u parch tuag at yr amgylchedd.

Mae ysgol Mynachlog Nedd yn chwilio am ddau unigolyn brwdfrydig, sydd yn gweithio neu yn byw yn y gymuned sy'n teimlo y gallent gyfrannu tuag at yr ysgol drwy ddod yn Lywodraethwyr Cymunedol. Os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn addysg plant gallai hyn fod at eich dant. Am ragor o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â'r clerwr Alyson Callard ar 01792 812202 neu ebost mynachlogneddjunior@npted.org

## Message from the Chairman

*Dear Residents,*

Christmas is nearly upon us and brings a very busy year to a close. Our community carol evening is sure to be popular and the little ones will enjoy their Christmas disco. The council will finish its festivities early in January with a lunch party for the older hall users. Community is at the heart of all we do here at Dyffryn Clydach Community Council.

Many people will be finding life difficult at the moment with job losses and the credit crunch and supporting one another as family, friends and neighbours becomes increasingly important.

We will continue, as a council, to restrict any increase in the precept to the minimum to ensure that public money is wisely managed in our area.

I am pleased to say that during the year ahead we will be adding more play equipment to the playground near the park and carry out essential maintenance on our lovely hall.

Our groundsman will be extra busy with our ten miles of footpaths as the winter takes its toll. We can all enjoy the beauty of Dyffryn Clydach though I urge our older residents to take extra care in icy conditions.

I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and a New Year full of bright prospects,

*Jen Davies*

Council Chairman  
Cadeirydd y Cyngor



## Neges gan y Cadeirydd

Mae'r Nadolig bron a chyrraedd sy'n dod a blwyddyn brysur iawn i'w therfyn. Fe fydd ein gwasanaeth carolau cymunedol yn siŵr o fod yn boblogaidd a bydd y plant yn mwynhau disco'r Nadolig. Bydd y cyngor yn gorffen ei dathliadau yn gynnar ym mis Ionawr gyda pharti canol dydd i ddefnyddwyr hynaf y neuadd. Mae'r Gymuned wrth galon ein holl weithredoedd hyn yn Dyffryn Clydach.

Mae llawer o bobl yn cael bywyd yn anodd ar hyn o bryd gyda cholli swyddi a'r argyfwng credyd felly bydd cynnal ein gilydd fel teulu, ffrindiau a chymdogion yn fwyfwy pwysig.

Fel cyngor, fe fyddwn yn parhau i gyfyngu ar unrhyw gynnydd yn yr archebiant i'r lleiaf posibl i sicrhau bod arian cyhoeddus yn cael ei rheoli yn ddoeth yn ein hardal.

Yn ystod y flwyddyn nesaf, 'rwy'n falch i ddweud y byddwn yn ategu rhagor o offer chwarae i'r maes chwarae ger y parc ac yn gwneud gwaith cynnal a chadw ar ein neuadd hardd.

Fe fydd ein tirmon yn brysur ar ein deg milltir o lwybrau fel bydd y gaeaf yn creu difrod. Serch hynny, gallwn bawb fwynhau prydfherthwch Dyffryn Clydach er 'rwy'n cymhell ein trigolion hŷn gymryd gofal arbennig mewn tywydd rhewllyd.

*Dymunaf i bawb ohonoch Nadolig a Blwyddyn Newydd heddychlon llawn gobaith.*

## I remember it well

with Mamgu Edith

### September 1980 ~ A Whole Heap Of Trouble in Dan y Graig !

New Dyffryn Clydach householder, Mr Steven Evans bought far more than he bargained for when he purchased a house in Dan y Graig Road. After clearing out the cellar he gave a heap of rubble to a

neighbour who was doing some building work and it was then that the trouble began.

The neighbour spotted an innocent looking bag which contained highly explosive gelignite. A quick response from the bomb disposal squad based in Hereford ended in the explosives being detonated safely in a manure heap. Over thirty years later it is still a mystery but it must have helped the farmer with his muck spreading!

## LONGFORD OAP's

The group recently had a storyteller and actress visit. In 1900 period costume, she acted the part of Amy Dillwyn of Swansea which was very entertaining and informative.

The pensioners have a fish and chip Christmas Party on December 4th and restart on 8th January 2013.

Longford OAP's are always open to new members meeting at the Memorial Hall on alternate Tuesdays and wish everyone in Longford a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

## Photo Opportunity

We are now in the grip of winter which makes for some dramatic scenery and wildlife shots in Dyffryn Clydach. If you are a keen photographer or just someone in the right place at the right time we would love to see your winter snapshots.

Email or post your pictures to the editor and we will feature them in the next edition.

*What happened when the snowgirl fell out with the snowboy?*

*She gave him the cold shoulder!*

Extra copies of Ymlaen are 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.

*Mae copiâu 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.*

Published by Dyffryn Clydach Community Council. Cyhoeddwyd gan Gyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach.

Printed by Glamorgan Press, Neath Abbey Business Park, Neath SA10 7DR. Argraffwyd gan Wasg Morgannwg, Mynachlog Nedd, SA10 7DR.