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

A Year to Remember

Dyffryn Clydach has seen a little less of Cllr Martyn Peters this year though he insists there is rather more of him thanks to his appointment as Neath Port Talbot County Borough Mayor. His canine friends, Meg and Fly, have had far fewer walks while the Mayor and Mayoress attended functions carrying out the duties that the honour demanded.

Of course, Dyffryn Clydach has had a Neath mayor previously with Cllr Mike O'Connor in the role and *Ymlaen* pays tribute to him as well. It is hoped that portraits of both mayors will be displayed soon in our Memorial Hall.

Martyn describes his year of office as probably the most rewarding of his life and he puts it all down to the readers of *Ymlaen* who have kept returning him to Neath Port Talbot Council as their county borough representative. Traditionally, the longest serving council member gets elected as mayor and so the honour fell to him when the first in line was deselected at the last elections.

"I was surprised to find myself taking office as quickly as I did, and the support of the people in this community has been what has carried me right through the year.

The year began with my inauguration ceremony, which I am delighted to say was the best attended of all in recent memory. I was determined to get as many from Dyffryn Clydach into the Princess Royal Theatre as possible in thanks for their support.

The Mayoral Civic Service, which St John's Church hosted for me and which Mayoral Chaplain Brian Lodwick conducted was again packed to the rafters and so spiritually moving. This was followed by a tea in the Civic Centre in Neath for which the centre's reception area was transformed completely. brass fanfare blared out from the upper levels to the amazement of all present."

Martyn has been amazed at the variety of engagements to which he has been invited as the first citizen of Neath Port Talbot.

"I have had the pleasure of meeting so many people this year, and my wife Rita

has taken on the role with a warmth and enthusiasm appreciated by all who met her," Martyn said.

Rita smiled, "What I most enjoyed was the 60th wedding anniversaries and meeting the older people on their 90th and 100th birthdays. I met a wonderful lady of one hundred and seven. I told her she must have had a world of experience in all that time. She told me that she was nothing special only twenty one and a bit!"

Martyn recounted the two occasions when the couple met Prince Charles. "Prince Charles asked Rita if she was looking after me and Rita told him no. She said she was my boss. The prince laughed and replied, "I've got one just like you in the house."

Rita added "The second time we met him he said, 'I remember you! You're the boss!'"

The variety of engagements that he has undertaken has been remarkable. "I have met so many talented young people from awarding degrees for Swansea University and Swansea Metropolitan University, some taking part Port Talbot's Got Talent and others as members of The West Glamorgan Brass Band and Youth Orchestra. At Christmas we ran a coach from Dyffryn Clydach down to The Mayor's Charity Concert in the Princess Royal Theatre. Kevin Johns hosted a terrific evening of talent that amongst others included the Princess Royal Theatre School, Performing Arts Academy Cymru and Acting Up



Cllr Mrs Jennifer Davies and Council Clerk Mr Randall Shopland present Mayor Cllr Martyn Peters

Theatre School."

Martyn told us, "I also attended many school carol concerts and shows and ate so many Christmas dinners that I cannot ever look at turkey and Christmas pudding again."

I have met many nationalities including people from Finland, Germany, Australia, Bangladesh, Portugal, Turkey and Spain on educational visits here. A very memorable family from Pakistan had come to the UK for inspiration as they intended setting up and funding a school back in Pakistan. I have had the pleasure of bestowing citizenship on people at the registrar's office where staff kindly traced my own roots right back to a relative named Hywel Hywels living on Cwm Clydach Farm, Dyffryn in 1784."

"My year has made me much more aware of the culture and history of Neath Port Talbot including the beauty of Margam Orangery, Castle and Abbey where I have enjoyed opera and watching many theatrical and film performances."

"I think that above all else, my abiding memories of being Mayor will be of the sheer fun of it. I attended Neath Abbey Infants' School as a child and have been a governor there for many years but going back as Mayor was a wonderful experience especially when one little boy asked me if I was Father Christmas."

"On one occasion," Rita added, "we went to Margam Park for the official opening of The Great Dragon Ride, a new Bridle Way from Margam Park up through the Brecon Beacons to Knighton, Powys, west to Talybont, near Aberystwyth, north at Pennant and finishing in Ffynnonogroyw."

It has connected bridleways, byways and quiet lanes for riders, walkers and cyclists to use.

The president of the British Horse Society and celebrity guest was actor Martin Clunes. He was such a friendly and interested person and his family were wonderful too. I told

him how much I enjoyed his work and he was so humble."

As well as fundraising for the Mayor's Appeal - The National Autistic Society, Neath Port Talbot - Martyn and Rita attended many functions held for other charities by organisations such as the Rotary Club, Inner Wheel and Age Concern. "I was impressed with them all but Age Concern in Port Talbot hosted three course lunches Monday to Friday for just £3 which was organised for the most part by a lady called Meg Ellis, a tireless worker for older people."

"Most of our community groups and individuals active in Dyffryn Clydach have been in to the Mayor's parlour to talk to me about what they do and which allowed me to thank them personally. The dedication of so many public spirited citizens and the incredible range of voluntary activities that take place through the county is humbling. If I have missed anyone out, I can only apologise and put it down to my failing memory after so many engagements: 680 in all in the year travelling from Monmouth through to Pembroke."

I have to thank residents here for their patience while my attention has been elsewhere and my fellow County Borough and Community Councillors who have all taken on their extra share of duties on my behalf.

The mayoral office secretaries, Gill Lewis and Heather Batchelor and chauffeur/barman Mark Lewis were remarkably efficient and supportive. I have to also thank the catering staff at the civic centre who, consistently produced refreshments for my guests at the parlour. I cannot thank the congregation of St John's Church enough for all their support and of course, Chaplain Brian Lodwick, who particularly enjoyed his role in leading prayers before council meetings and also the heated debates that sometimes ensued."

Finally, huge thanks to my family for all their love and support of course to Mayoress, Mrs Rita 'The Boss' Peters.

Martyn

Blwyddyn y Maer

Gwelwyd ychydig yn llai o Martyn Peters eleni er iddo fynnu bod rhywfaint mwy o ran maint ohono ers cael ei benodi'n Faer ar Gastell-nedd Port Talbot. Mae ei gyfeillion, Meg a Fly y cwn, wedi cael dipyn yn llai o wâcs tra bu'r Maer ar Faerens yn mynychu dros 500 o achlysuron wrth gyflawni'r swydd.

Wrth gwrs, fe gafwyd Maer gan Ddyffryn Clydach eisoes pan fu'r Cyng. Mike O'Connor yn y swydd ac mae *Ymlaen* yn talu teyrnged iddo yntau hefyd. Gobeithir bydd lluniau o'r ddau yn cael eu harddangos yn ein Neuadd Goffa cyn bo hir.

Mae Martyn yn disgrifio'i flwyddyn mewn swydd yn ôl pob tebyg fel yr adeg mwyaf gwerth chweil o'i fywyd ac mae'n priodoli hyn i gyd at ddarllenwyr *Ymlaen* sydd wedi bod yn ei ddychwelyd ef i Gyngor Sir Cstell-nedd Port Talbot fel eu cynrychiolydd bwrdeistref sirol. Yn draddodiadol, y cynghorydd sydd wedi bod mewn swydd am yr amser hiraf sy'n cael ei ethol yn Faer ac felly fe ddaeth yr anrhydedd iddo wedi i'r sawl oedd nesaf ar y rhestr golli ei sedd yn yr etholiad diwethaf.

Ces i fy siomi o weld fy hun yn derbyn y swydd mor gyflym ag y gwnes, a chefnogaeth pobl y gymuned hon sydd wedi fy nghynnal drwy gydol y flwyddyn.

Fe ddechreuodd y flwyddyn gyda'r seremoni i'm sefydlu, ac 'rwyn ymhyfrydu yn y ffaith mae hwn oedd y seremoni a chynifer yn bresennol ers tro byd. 'Roeddwn yn

benderfynol o gael cynifer a phosibl o drigolion Dyffryn Clydach i fewn i Theatr y Dywysoges Frenhinol i ddangos fy niolch am eu cefnogaeth.

'Roedd Gwasanaeth Dinesig y Maer, a gynhaliwyd yn Eglwys Sant Ioan ac ag arweinwyd gan Gaplan y Maer y Barchedig Ganon Brian Lodwick eto dan ei sang ac yn ysbrydol gyffroes. Seiniodd ffanffer pres o'r lefelau uwch er syndod i bawb oedd yn bresennol. Dilynwyd hyn gan dê yn y Ganolfan Ddinesig yng Nghastell-nedd lle'r adrefnwyd y cyntedd yn gyfangwbl at yr achlysur.

Mae Martyn wedi ei ryfeddi gan yr amrywiaeth o achlysuron y mae wedi ei wahodd iddynt fel prif-ddinesydd Castell-nedd Port Talbot.

"Rwyf wedi cael y pleser o gyfarfod â chymaint o bobl eleni, ac mae fy ngwraig Rita wedi cymryd at y swydd gyda chynesrwydd a brwdfrydedd sydd wedi ei werthfawrogi gan bawb sydd wedi cwrdd â hi," meddai Martyn.

Gwenodd Rita, "Y mwynhad mwyaf oedd pen-blwyddi priodas diemwnt a chwrdd â phobl ar eu penblwyddi'n 90 a 100 oed. Cwrddais ag un ddynes rhyfeddol oedd yn gant a saith mlwydd oed. Dywedais wrthi ei bod wedi cael llond byd o brofiadau dros yr holl gyfnod hynny. Atebodd nad oedd yn ddim byd arbennig ond yn un-ar-hugain a mymryn!"

Mae'r flwyddyn wedi fy ngwneud yn dipyn fwy

ymwybodol o ddiwylliant, hanes ac etifeddiaeth Castell-nedd Port Talbot gan gynnwys prydferthwch Orendy Margam, y Castell a'r Abaty lle 'rydwyf wedi mwynhau opera a gwylio llawer o berfformiadau theatr a ffilm.

"Ar un adeg," ategodd Rita, "aethom i Barc Margam ar gyfer agoriad swyddogol *The Great Dragon Ride*, llwybr ceffyl o Barc Margam i fyny dros Fannau Brycheiniog i Dref y Clawdd, tua'r gorllewin i Dalybont, ger Aberystwyth, i'r gogledd at Bannant ac yn gorffen yn Ffynnongroyw. Mae ganddo lwybrau ceffyl, cilffyrdd a llonydd tawel i'w defnyddio gan farchogwyr, cerddwyr a beicwyr."

Llywydd y *British Horse Society* a'r gŵr gwadd oedd yr actor Martyn Clunes. 'Roedd e'n berson mor gyfeillgar ac diddorol ac 'roedd ei deulu'n ardderchog hefyd. Dywedais wrtho gymaint 'roeddwn yn edmygu ei waith ac 'roedd e' mor ddiymhongar."

Yn ogystal â chodi arian tuag at Apêl y Maer - Y Gymdeithas Awtistig Genedlaethol, Castell-nedd Port Talbot - mae Martyn a Rita wedi mynychu llawer o achlysuron codi arian gan nifer o gyrff eraill megis Clwb y Rotary, Inner Wheel a Chyngor yr Henoed. "Gwnaethant oll argraff arnaf yn enwedig Cyngor yr Henoed ym Mhort Talbot lle darparwyd cinio canol dydd tair saig o ddydd Llun tan ddydd Gwener am £3 yn unig a drefnwyd yn bennaf gan wraig o'r enw Meg Ellis, gweithiwrraig ddiflino dros bobl hŷn.

"Mae'r mwyafrif o'n grwpiau y tu fewn i'r gymuned ac unigolion sy'n weithgar yn Nyffryn Clydach wedi bod i barlwr y Maer i drafod yr hyn maent yn ei wneud ac i roi cyfle i fi i'w diolch yn bersonol. Mae ymroddiad gymaint o bobl at gymunedgarwch a'r amrywiaeth angredadwy o weithgareddau wirfoddol sy'n bodoli yn y sir yn pery gwyleidd-dra. Os oes yna rhywun nad wyf wedi cynnwys, ni allaf ond ymddiheiro a beio fy nghôf diffygiol ar ôl cymaint o ymrwymadau yn ystod y flwyddyn o deithio o Fynwy hyd Penfro.

Mae'n rheidrwydd arnaf, fan hyn, i ddiolch i'n preswylwyr am eu hamynedd tra bod fy sylw wedi bod mewn mannau eraill ac i'm cyd Gynghorwyr, Bwrdeistref Sirol a Chymuned, sydd wedi ymgymryd â dyletswyddau ychwanegol drosod.

Mae'r ysgrifenyddesau swyddfa'r maer. Gill Lewis a Heather Batchelor, a'r chauffeur/barmon Mark Lewis wedi bod yn hynod o effeithlon a chefnogol. Mae'n rhaid i mi hefyd ddiolch i staff arlwy'o'r ganolfan ddinesig sydd wedi arlwy'o lluniaeth ardderchog ar gyfer fy ngwesteion i'r parlwr. Ni ellaf estyn fy nioch yn ddigonol at gynulleidfa Eglwys Sant Ioan am eu holl gefnogaeth ac wrth gwrs, Caplan Brian Lodwick, sydd wedi mwynhau ei swydd yn arbennig tra'n arwain y gweddi cyn cyfarfodydd y cyngor ac wrth wrando ar y dadlau tanbaid a ddilynodd.

I orffen, diolch enfawr i'm teulu am eu holl cariad a

Divinely Inspired DVD solves Religious Mysteries

Viv Griffiths, Secretary of The Skewen and District Industrial Heritage Association has branched out into a new field of expertise. Many people know Viv from the talks he regularly gives to groups on the BP, Metal Box and other factories and instead is documenting sacred architectural heritage, presenting his latest DVD, *Chapels and Churches of Neath Abbey and Skewen*.

Mr Griffiths attended April's meeting and presented a copy of the DVD to council Chairman Cllr Jennifer Davies.

Religious buildings have been gradually disappearing as congregations dwindle and with it their community foundations and history. Viv's hard work in assembling this collection must be seen to be appreciated.

Although local history is his passion, there is another purpose in his work. He sells his DVD's and donates the proceeds to charity and on this occasion it is divided between Wales Air Ambulance and Ty Olwen.

Our local shops, Longford Stores and Abbeygate Stores are kindly stocking the DVD as is Queen's Road Pharmacy in Skewen. They cost just £10. They would make an ideal gift or even a memento for a friend or relative living away.

Viv's next project will again cover the villages of Neath Abbey and Skewen. This time, he is working on a theme devised with his late collaborative historian Hugh James of a more social history record. He is seeking your help with photographs of street parties, local celebrities, Sunday School or workplace trips, parties and picnics but also of buildings such as post offices or businesses now defunct and aerial photographs.

Anything you think might be of interest to him will be appreciated. He will return photographs to you but asks that you make sure they are clearly titled or named and dated on the reverse which helps him enormously in his research.

You can speak to Viv on 01792 813243 or email viv.griffiths@ntlworld.com

DVD dwyfol ysbrydoledig sy'n datrys Dirgelion Crefyddol

Mae Viv Griffiths, Ysgrifennydd Cymdeithas Diwydiant Treftadaeth Sgiwen a'r Cylch wedi ymestyn i faes newydd o arbenigedd. Mae llawer o bobl yn adnabod Viv am y darlithoedd mae'n rhoi i grwpiau ar BP, y Metal Box a ffatrioedd eraill ond yn awr mae e'n dogfennu treftadaeth bensaernïol gysegredig drwy gyflwyno ei DVD diweddaraf, *Chapels and Churches of Neath Abbey and Skewen*.

Mynychwyd cyfarfod mis Ebrill gan Mr Griffiths ac fe gyflwynodd gopi o'r DVD i Gadeirydd y Cyngor y Cyng. Jennifer Davies.

Mae'r adeiladau cysegredig hyn wedi bod yn diflannu yn raddol fel mae'r cynulleidfaoedd yn lleihau ac o ganlyniad i hyn seiliau'r gymdeithas a'i hanes.

Er mae hanes lleol yw ei brif ddiddordeb, mae yna bwrpas arall i'w waith. Mae e'n gwerthu ei DVDs ac yn rhoi'r derbyniadau at elusennau ac ar yr achlysur hwn mae ef wedi eu rhannu rhwng Ambiwlans Awyr Cymru a Thŷ Olwen.

Mae ein siopau lleol, Longford Stores ac Abbeygate Stores yn garedig wedi cytuno i werthu'r DVD fel mae Fferyllfa Heol y Frenhines yn Sgiwen. Maent ond yn costio £10. Fe wnelent rodd ddelfrydol neu hyd yn oed cofarwydd i ffrind neu berthynas sy'n byw ymhell.

Bydd prosiect nesaf Viv eto yn ymdrin â phentrefi Mynachlog Nedd a Sgiwen. Y tro hwn mae e'n gweithio ar thema a ddyfeisiodd gyda'i chyn cydweithiwr y diweddar Hugh James ar thema sy'n ymwneud mwy â hanes cymdeithasol. Mae yn gofyn am eich help gyda ffotograffau o bartion yn y stryd, enwogion lleol, gwibdeithiau Ysgol Sul neu o'r gweithle, ac am luniau o adeiladau megis swyddfeydd post sydd ddim bellach mewn bodolaeth ac hefyd am awyrluniau.

Fe fydd yn dychwelyd y lluniau atoch ond mae e'n gofyn i chwi wneud yn siwr bod teitl neu enw a'r dyddiad ar gefn bob llun er mwyn hwyluso'i waith ymchwil.

Gallwch siarad a Viv ar 01792 813243 neu e-bost viv.griffiths@ntlworld.com

Menywod Rhydhir yn arwain! Longford Women lead the Parade

Mawrth 1af – 2013 – March 1st

Saith mlynedd yn ôl mynychais ddosbarth Cymraeg. Cwrddais â ffrindiau newydd oedd yn angerddol dros yr iaith. Ers cychwyn gyda'r dosbarth, aethom ni i'r Eisteddfod dair gwaith ac i gystadlu unwaith hefyd. Y llynedd aethon ni i Gaerdydd i gymryd rhan yng ngorymdaith Gwyl Dewi Sant. Cwrddon ni â dynion drefnodd yr orymdaith tua un ar ddeg mlynedd yn ol. Dywedon nhw "Di ni'n gobeithio bydd yr orymdaith yn cynyddu mwy a mwy yn y dyfodol". Dw i'n swr bydd e. Byddwn ni'n mynd y flwyddyn nesa mewn gwisgoedd traddodiadol. Cwrddon ni bobl enwog fel Dafydd Iwan, Dewi Pws, Cerys Matthews, Iolo Williams ac eleni, hefyd, (ar yr orymdeith) Rhys Meirion. Ysgrifennais erthygl am y prosiect tapestri cymunedol yn y cylchgrawn Acen. Siaradais i a Julie am Fynachlog Nedd ar y daith gyda Menter Iaith, roeddwn i'n gyffroes a nerfus ar yr un pryd.

Dw i'n trio siarad pob dydd yn gwaith ac yn y ty gyda fy wyr (mae e ond yn wyth mis oed). 'Sdim ots bydd e'n dechrau yn gynnar. Dw i'n meddwl bod yr iaith yn bwysig a bydd y bobl yng Nghymru yn cadw'r iaith yn fyw. Pan oeddwn i yn y Gwyl Fwyd ym Mrycheiniog, cwrddais â Derek Brockway a dechreuon ni siarad yn Gymraeg gyda'n gilydd. Dw i'n falch fy mod i wedi dechrau dysgu Cymraeg.

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Seven years ago I began a Welsh course in Neath where I met many new friends who were passionate about the Welsh Language. Since beginning the class, we have been to the Eisteddfod three times and I also competed once.

We went to Cardiff to take part in the St David's parade. We met the man who began organising the procession about eleven years ago. He told me that he hoped the march will increase in popularity in the future. It is a brilliant occasion and next year we'll go in costume. We have met many famous people such as



Gorymdaith Gwyl Dewi Sant Caerdydd 2013 St David's Day Parade Cardiff – Mrs Lynnette Jefford, Mr Carl Edwards (Gohebydd ITV Reporter), Cllr Mrs Julie Arnold

Dafydd Iwan, Dewi Pws, Cerys Matthews, Iolo Williams and this year, Rhys Meirion. I also visited the food festival in Brecon where I was delighted to meet Derek Brockway and as we are both learners we enjoyed speaking Welsh together.

Inspired by taking part in Dyffryn Clydach Community Map tapestry project, I wrote a journalistic article in Welsh which was published in the magazine Acen.

Julie Arnold and myself also conducted a guided walk from Neath Abbey up through the Cwm giving a historical commentary in the Welsh language as a social activity for Menter Iaith (an organisation that supports Welsh Learners.) I was nervous about this but excited at the same time.

I try to use Welsh in work each day and at home with my grandson. He is only eight months old but it is a benefit to start early. I am proud to be a Welsh learner. I think the language is very important and so pleased that the people in Wales are keeping the language alive. Why don't you give it a try?

Lynnette Jefford

Community Champion

Every year the council recognises the voluntary contribution to our community with its Citizen's award. The 2012 award was won by Mrs Kath Evans of Graig Parc. Kath has been a strong support to many of our community groups, a willing volunteer at very many community events and is regularly out in our countryside involved in conservation and clearance activities with the Dyffryn Clydach Environmental Group. On behalf of everyone in Dyffryn Clydach, thank you Kath.

Longford OAP's Club

Our club continues to flourish and we meet in the hall at 2pm on alternate Tuesdays. You are very welcome to join and enjoy friendship, talks and trips with the next planned for July. Looking forward to meeting you,
Mair Axtell

Congratulations

Phyllis and Glynn Griffiths of Taillwyd want to share how proud they are of their grandson Rhys Mainwaring on achieving his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. He was presented with his award at St James' Palace by Prince Edward, Duke of Wessex.

Meet Local Hero Will Price

Will lives in Dyffryn Clydach and plays for Sevens Rugby



- What did it feel like when you ran out for your first cap?
As I've never really been in any regional academy system or played regional age grade rugby to get my first cap for Wales sevens felt like a huge achievement.
- Who is your most respected opponent?
There are a number of players I respect on the Sevens circuit who have represented their countries in over 50 tournaments one being DJ Forbes who is captain of New Zealand Sevens team and knows the game amazingly well.
- What's your favourite food?
It has to be steak. I could happily eat steak every day of the week.
- Favourite rugby moment apart from you first cap?
Apart from representing my country I would have to say playing for Skewen with my two brothers and my cousin.
- What advice would you give any young player starting in the game?
The only advice I could give is just to keep on believing in yourself. If you want to play professional rugby, keep striving for it and from all the set-backs that come your way come back bigger better and stronger than before.
- For which junior clubs did you play?
I played several junior clubs in my local area Neath Athletic, Skewen and then finishing in Tonmawr RFC before finally going to Aberavon RFC.
- Your worst rugby moment?
No doubt has to be tearing my Anterior Cruciate Ligament whilst playing for Wales sevens in Wellington New Zealand. I had to have ACL reconstruction and was unable to play rugby for 7-8 months.
- What has been the biggest influence on your career so far?
That has to be my family really. My brothers will say they've taught me everything I know! I don't know if that's true but they have certainly influenced me and also my grandfather who has always watched me play rugby.
- Any favourite hobbies?
I've got a few hobbies when I'm not training usually gym, tennis, cinema, going out for food and of course playing Playstation with Ashley Beck.
- Lions or Australia to win in the Summer Test Series?
I think Lions will be too strong for Australia and win the series 2-1.

St John's Church News

Hello everyone,

We are delighted to welcome our new priest to the parish. Chris Coles is from Porth Newydd, Rhondda and is a married man with four grown up children.

We have been without a priest for a long time and at last our prayers have been answered.

All are welcome at our services so why not come along and meet him?

ST. JOHN'S CHURCHYARD – Parking Problems

Our church was built long before cars were invented and so the churchyard has very limited parking facilities. You have no right to use the car park unless you are using the church and can expect to be blocked by church users if they need to use it.

Recently a person interrupted a wedding ceremony by coming in to church to request the congregation moved a car for them to access their vehicle.

Another person parked their car right across the main entrance to the church on a Sunday morning and was surprised when asked to move so disabled worshippers could drive up and access the church.

Also, mourners laying flowers at the cremation plot need a little respect at that time not bustling activity. Please be considerate.

Memorial Stones

You may have noticed that there has been a lot of activity in the churchyard recently.

An inspection of all the memorial stones is testing stability and safety of memorials. Stones found to be in a dangerous condition may have to be laid flat on the graves, whilst others will be marked with warning tape and a Safety Inspection Notice.

Families of the deceased are responsible for these memorials and must make arrangements with an approved memorial mason to make them safe. Whilst this can be upsetting, we are sure that people will appreciate that insecure stones pose a real danger to visitors to the churchyard.

Notices have also been put up requesting that people take their rubbish home after tending graves. When visitors discard dead flowers in the churchyard we find it encourages general dumping of rubbish. Recently included dumped near the cremation plot were large chunks of oasis foam, plastic wrappers, broken glass and even a child's plastic tennis racquet!

We have no refuse collection from the church and in the past it has been left to willing volunteers to remove which is a heavy task for a largely older congregation who also find other people's disregard for the sanctity of the churchyard distressing.

Passers-by will also notice that the churchyard wall bordering the cremation plot has now been rebuilt following the recent accident.

Neath Abbey - Hands On Heritage Day, Saturday, 6th July 2013

Our medieval monastery is world famous for having retained many of its original ceramic floor tiles dating from around 1340 that were used to decorate the abbey.

Popular designs included animals and birds, geometric and heraldic designs. These tiles were made of clay and then indented with designs before being coloured with slip and then fired.

You can watch a demonstration of the craft at Neath Abbey, make your own to take home or make the acquaintance of some medieval characters.

Other crafts being exhibited include blacksmithing, stained glass, masonry and carpentry. Archeological excavation and also the abbey as artistic inspiration will also be featured.

Events take place between 10.00am – 4.00pm • FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL

TREHARNE COURT SUMMER FETE

The sheltered housing complex is hosting its annual fete in the communal lounge on

**Saturday 6th July
at 1pm.**

Pop in for a cuppa and a home made cake and pick up some bargains on the bric a brac stall.

Make your garden a hive of activity this summer with the Natural Gardener

by Gareth Thomas

What would you miss without bees in the garden?

The odd jar of honey?

Fact: Bees mean £430m a year to the UK economy.

Fact: Without bees, most of the food on your plate could disappear.

Fact: Humans would be struggling to survive in 5 years.

There have been many reasons put forward to explain declining bee populations over the last 30 years including loss of habitat, poor weather conditions, viruses and the Veroa mite.

There is now a growing body of evidence that we are seriously harming them through use of group of three types of chemical pesticides, Neo-nicotinoids.

Although major chemical manufacturers provide research stating that these chemicals do not harm bees, independent research has shown that it does and also that it's not just bees that are harmed by these chemicals. Research on rats found that neonicotinoids may also hurt human health, especially the developing brain.

Members of the European Parliament are calling for an outright ban.

The Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health which is made up of representatives from EU governments and public authorities voted on the draft measure concerning neonicotinoids at its meeting on Friday 14 March. The outcome was as follows:

- 173 votes in favour (representing 13 Member States);
- 93 votes against (representing 9 Member States);
- 79 abstentions (representing 5 Member States).

As there was no majority for or against the proposal, on the 29 April, the Appeal Committee will be discussing and voting on the draft measure. If there is still no majority vote at the Appeals Committee, the European Commission could decide to enforce the ban.

There is overwhelming evidence on the disastrous impact of these pesticides on bees as EFSA has pointed out in its report on neonicotinoids.

The European Commission is not calling for a total ban on neonicotinoids but a partial one as the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) has said that the pesticides can be used for some crops (sugar beet and other crops not attractive to bees). Nevertheless, The Green Alliance in the European Parliament is calling for a total ban on neonicotinoids. The EFA report states that:

'Exposure via soil or plant materials used for nesting materials might be a potential route of contact exposure for some bumble bee or solitary bee species'.

Thus the neonicotinoids used on plants other than those attractive to bees could contaminate plants

that are pollinated by bees. Jill Evans, your MEP has asked European Commission to consider putting a total ban but has received a negative response.

She also wrote to Owen Paterson MP asking that the UK supports, at the very least, the European Commission's proposal.

What is the Welsh Assembly government currently doing? The Welsh Government have said that they are in favour of restricting use of neonicotinoids, however, this is not a devolved matter for the time being.

There are approximately 4,000 beekeepers in Wales. The livelihoods of these people are in danger. However, it is not just a question of money, bees play such a crucial role in our food chain and for natural ecosystems. A decline in their numbers is a matter of serious concern. We cannot afford to take further risks.

The Welsh government announced last year that it would produce an action plan to protect endangered insect pollinators - such as honey bees, bumble bees, hoverflies and butterflies. The plan is out now and focusses on-

- Ensuring farming schemes support land management practices that protect pollinators
- Revising guidance to National Parks and Areas of Outstanding National Beauty so land management better supports pollinator populations
- Ensuring and supporting the provision of green spaces and allotments across Wales
- Promoting pollinator-friendly gardening
- Working with schools to raise awareness among pupils of the importance of pollinators
- Issuing best practice guidance to councils

No mention here yet though of removing the neonicotinoid poisons.

You may not think of yourself as being a 'political' person but this is so important you can't just leave this to politicians.

From the ease of your armchair now you can look at online research and petitions, tell your friends and associates and check out who is using or producing these poisons. You can lobby government by email, snail mail or by phoning your local councillor, MP, Assembly Member or MEP and tell them of your fears for the bleak future we will face without these wonderful creatures.

Friends of the Earth Cymru director Gareth Clubb believes that the Welsh government must discuss devolution controls immediately if we are to have decent protection for Welsh bees.

The six wildlife trusts in Wales want a ban, "... a ban on these pesticides could form a vital pillar in the assembly's own draft action plan for pollinators... and bolster Wales' reputation as a nation aiming for sustainability."



© Google Images

"These chemicals have been shown to affect the foraging behaviour of bees and damage bee brain function," said Rachel Sharp, the chief executive officer of Wildlife Trusts Wales.

What can you do today?

You are the manager of your own little bit of paradise if you have a garden. If you are a parent or grandparent or educator you can teach our future citizens in ways to support our friendly insects and try to convert a few who are a bit longer in the tooth too.

Educate yourself into being a better plantsman/woman. Perfect plants for pollinators can be more than the drooping heads of buddleia or traditional spikes of lavender. Try the older varieties of country roses or Antirrhinum, Reminiscent Mixed for long flowering pastel shades in your garden. Why not try Coreopsis, Presto, a first year-flowering perennial?

Create a quick heaven on earth in your garden with quick growing seeds of California Poppy, Jelly Beans in fully double and vibrant shades or Cornflower, Classic Fantastic cutting swathes of blue through your border.

If you are purchasing summer bedding, skip the usual stuff and look out for Cosmos, Sensation mixed white pinks and reds, Poppy, Bridal White, Rudbeckia-Cherry Brandy and Mongolian Giant. Any Sunflowers are welcoming plants as are Verbena, a dainty and fragrant rosy lavender colour, zany Zinnias, or quirky Cerinthe Major purpurescens.

These are just a few ideas, there are many, many more. Try the Royal Horticultural Society or your local gardening club for many more including herbs, fruit and vegetables.

You might even want to go a step further and think

of keeping bees yourself. There is a very helpful and active West Glamorgan Beekeepers Association who meet regularly at different venues in Swansea but who also have a website.

Think about the chemicals you use on your plot. Read up on pesticides, fungicides, fertilisers and the effects they have on your environment.

Then, sit back in the sunshine with a long cool drink and listen out for the buzz of approval from the insects in your garden.

Acknowledgement and thanks to the following people and organisations.

Jill Evans MEP, 45 Gelligaled Road, Ystrad, Rhondda Cynon Taf CF41 7RQ
T: 01443 441395 • F: 01443 440999
mailto:jill.evans@europarl.europa.eu

<http://www.westglamorgan-beekeepers.co.uk/index.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-22073480>

www.rhs.org.uk/Media/PDFs/Advice/Plants-for-bees

<http://www.thompson-morgan.com/>

<http://www.westglamorgan-beekeepers.co.uk/index.html>

<https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/page/s/ban-the-pesticides-that-are-harming-our-bees#petition>

Diary Dates

SUMMER FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday, 5th July – 1.30pm

Memorial Hall, Dyffryn Clydach

Children's Entertainer • Crafts and Games

Stalls • Welly Wanging Tournament

Cakes and Refreshments

Free admission

Halloween Disco Spooktagula

Saturday, 26th October – 2-4pm

Be prepared to be scared

Free admission, hot dogs and goodie bag

BIRTHDAY FUN

Planning a kid's party?

Book the Memorial Hall
from just £25.30*

Fully equipped kitchen • Ample car parking

To book ring Mr Shopland on 01639 635787

*for Dyffryn Clydach residents. Refundable breakages bond payable.



HWYL PEN-BLWYDD

Ydych chi'n cynllunio parti?

Archebwch y Neuadd Gymuned
ond am o £25.30*

Cegin gyflawn • Digon o le i barcio

I logi ffoniwch Mr Shopland ar 01639 635787

*i drigolion Dyffryn Clydach. Bond toriadau i'w dalu ond yn ad-daladwy.

Mynachlog Nedd Junior School

Our Eco Council was pleased to achieve our **Platinum Eco-School** Award last month. We are one of only eight schools in Neath Port Talbot and one of seventy in Wales to receive this award.

Winner!

Daniel Smith, Year 6 Wins the **'Click It or Ticket'** Road Safety Art Competition.



PCSO's Dominic Edgell and Cheri Davies and Neath Port Talbot Council, Primary School Road Safety Co-ordinator, Helen Griffiths present Daniel with his certificate and prizes.

His design for a banner to spread the message *'Click It or Ticket'* about keeping safe on our roads is being used across the region. Well done Daniel – he also won an iPad and the whole school get to see the police helicopter at Cwrt Herbert.

You can contact Cheri on 07805 301 569.

Admirable Admiral

A big thank you to Admiral for their support and very much appreciated gift – we are able to buy three iPad minis for our school with the money they donated to us.

Diversity

Last term we transformed four classrooms into different religious buildings. We wanted to be able to experience and appreciate the religious lives of others. Over a few days we visited each classroom to take part in activities. This was very exciting and it proved to be a wonderful way of learning.

Governor Vacancy

We are keen to enrol a new governor onto our Governing Body. The school needs people with all sorts of skills to keep it running well for our children. If you are interested please contact our clerk on 01792 812202.

❖ RECIPE ❖ RYSAIT ❖

STRAWBERRY MILKSHAKE ON A STICK

Treat your kids or let them treat you with cool lollies made from fresh strawberries and yogurt

Ingredients

A few drops of pink food colouring (optional)
450g tub thick strawberry yogurt
9 medium strawberries, finely chopped
6 ice-lolly moulds

Method

Add a few drops of food colouring to the yogurt if you'd like a stronger colour. Half-fill the moulds with yogurt.

Add chopped strawberries and stir to distribute the pieces. Top up with more yogurts. Put the lid on, push in the sticks and freeze.



To serve: Dip the moulds in warm water for a few seconds and the lollies will loosen.

Use within 2 months.

Experiment with different flavours of yogurt or fruit or even colour green for Halloween!

YSGYTLAETH MEFUS AR GOES PREN

Tretiwch eich plant neu gadewch iddyn nhw eich dretio chi i lolipop oer wedi ei wneud allan o mefus ffres a iogwrt.

Cynhwysion

Ychydig o ddafnau hylif lliwio bwyd (dewisol)
450g twba o yogurt mefus trwchus
9 mefusen ganolig, wedi eu torri'n fân
6 mowld lolipop iâ

Dull

Rhowch ychydig ddiferyn o hylif liwio i'r iogwrt os ydych am fwy o liw. Llenwch y mowldiau i'r hanner gyda'r iogwrt.

Adiwch y mefus sydd wedi eu torri'n fân a throwch yr hylif er mwyn gwasgaru'r darnau. Llenwch yr iogwrt i'r ymyl. Rhowch y clawr ar bob lolipop, gwthiwch y prennau i mewn a'u rhewi.

I'w arlwygo: Rhowch y mowldiau mewn dŵr twym am ychydig eiliadau er mwyn lacio'r lolipop.

Defnyddiwch o fewn 2 fis.

Arbrofwch gyda gwahanol blasau o iogwrt neu ffrwythau neu hyd yn oed lliwiwch nhw'n wyrdd gogyfer a nos Galan Gaeaf.

HELPING HANDS KNITTERS

Fundraising Fun

The Knitters have had such a busy time lately, and would like to thank the community for the wonderful support that they always receive in all their efforts. They held an auction in April which raised a staggering £750.

Dyffryn Clydach Memorial Hall was jam packed with bargain hunters and the guest of honour was our Mayor Cllr Martyn Peters who spoke very amusingly about recent engagements.

The Knitters decided to donate the proceeds of the auction to the Mayor's charity appeal, The National Autistic Society based in Longford and Neath Abbey. Cllr Peters was delighted to receive the donation and extended an invitation to the group to join him in the Mayoral Parlour.

The Mayor's Parlour

Twenty five of the members of the Helping Hands Knitters accepted an invitation and had a wonderful evening with the Mayor and Mayoress Mrs Rita Peters and enjoyed hospitality with a delicious buffet. Chairman of the group, Evana Morgan, thanked the Mayor, 'It is a great honour to be here this evening, in that it recognises the hard work of our group and its success in uniting the community in the causes it supports.'

Secretary Cllr Alyson Thomas added, 'Martyn supported our group with a donation from his council chairman's allowance last year, along with several other local groups who have also visited the parlour. Many of the groups have been established for a long time, we are relatively new as we began in 2007. Our group is almost an umbrella organisation in that it includes members from many of those others. I am proud that we have an inclusive ethos and that people are welcome to participate even if they do so from home or from residential care.'

Group member Marion Williams said, 'We meet in Longford every week but there is not often the chance to purely enjoy ourselves socially as we always have so many projects in the pipeline so this is a lovely occasion.'

Marion's son, Adrian, also attended on the night in the capacity of photographer so that each group member would have a memento of the occasion. Evana Morgan would like to thank Adrian for his help.



Martyn and Rita at the Mayor's Parlour with the Helping Hands Committee: Standing- Val Berni, Cllr Alyson Thomas, Angela Miller, Janet Thomas, Thelma Lang, Mayor Cllr Martyn Peters and seated, Helping Hands Chairman Evana Morgan.

Pilgrimage

Helping Hands make their way to The Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells every April. The Wonderwool Wales Exhibition, is a woolly spectacle that has to be seen to be believed. Every yarn craft imaginable is and exhibited, incredible materials are demonstrated and sold. Fashion shows are staged and workshops take place.

It is a place where charities appeal, ideas are formed and the knitters take inspiration for the next year's projects. Many of the knitters have been knitting so long that they know everything they need to know but still their eyes are opened to new and exciting styles and techniques.

This August the group will take part in some guerrilla woolfare joining Wool against Weapons in a day of creative and direct action creating a 7 mile long knitted peace scarf to stretch between Atomic Weapons Establishment sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield, Berkshire where nuclear weapons are made. The scarf will later be reassembled into blankets for use of people in war torn areas.

This is organised by Action AWE, a UK based grassroots peace campaign dedicated to banning nuclear weapons. www.actionawe.org

VINTAGE YMLAEN!

WINTER 1976

The community was as active and vibrant as it is today - these are just a few of the things reported in the newsletter.

Autistic Society Buy Longford Court - The parents of autistic children in South Wales bought Longford Court at a cost of £45,000. It was to be the first centre in Wales for autistic adolescents. Set in four acres and with seven bedrooms, Longford Court, it was planned to provide places for about twenty children aged over sixteen. The parents raised the money for the house themselves. They also hoped to raise the money to furnish the house in time for the first children to take up residence in 1977.

Longford Escorts - Longford Escorts Jazz Band were the proud holders of the Whitbread Trophy after winning the West Glamorgan Championships at Cimla. With the drums and bass drummer both winning their own sections, the band claimed forty first places among the various sections, in addition to numerous second and third place awards.

Among the band's biggest achievements in the year was reaching the finals of the World Championships at South Shields where they did very well. Less than a week after returning, the band qualified at Hirwaun to go to the next final in Birmingham.

The escorts held their annual Jazz Band Competition in August and band members and the committee say they are grateful for the support given by the people of Longford. The trainer Mr John Mallon and the committee are pleased with the success of the Band this year and are looking forward to another successful season next year.

ManPower at work in St John's churchyard - The Manpower Services Commission Job creation scheme came to the aid of the church to clear and tidy the churchyard.

Neath Abbey Women's Institute - held a very successful bazaar in Skewen which raised £480 which was donated to three local charities. The bazaar was opened by Cllr Martin Thomas, High Sheriff of West Glamorgan and deputy mayor of Neath accompanied by Deputy Mayoress Dorothy Thomas. The Institute had also had that month a very amusing talk by Mrs Peggy Curtis of Bryncoch on taking driving lessons.

Chairman's Allowance

Each year the chairman of each community council has an allowance for expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. It varies between councils but Dyffryn Clydach Community Council allots £200 for this purpose.

It has become something of a tradition that our chairmen donate their allowance to the charity of their choice. Outgoing chairman Cllr Jennifer Davies is donating hers to *Cerebra*.

Cerebra is a unique charity set up to help improve the lives of children with brain related conditions through research, education and directly supporting the children and their carers.

The range of conditions is wide yet *Cerebra* strives to ensure that help and assistance are on hand Adapted holiday homes, Grant funding information, Stress Helpline, Library, Custom Made Equipment advice, Sleep Service, Speech and Language Therapy and more are available through them.

Cllr Davies has been fundraising regularly for the charity through the Friday Night Bingo sessions in our Memorial Hall and this sum will give *Cerebra* a substantial boost to her fundraising efforts.



Lwfans y Cadeirydd

Yn flynyddol mae cadeirydd pob cyngor cymuned yn cael lwfans i'w defnyddio fel mae ef neu hi yn dewis.

Mae e'n amrywio o gyngor i gyngor ond mae Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach yn pennu £200 at y diben hwn.

Fe ddaeth yn draddodiad bellach i'r cadeirydd dewis gwneud cyfraniad at elusen benodol, ac mae'r cadeirydd y Cyngorydd Jennifer Davies wedi dewis cyfrannu tuag at *Cerebra*.

Elusen unigryw yw *Cerebra* a sylfaenwyd i helpu plant â niwed i'r amenydd drwy ymchwil, addysg a chefnogi'r plant a'u gofawyr yn uniongyrchol.

Mae'r amrywiaeth yng nghyflwr y plant yn eang eto mae *Cerebra* yn ymdrechu i sicrhau bod cymorth wrth law ac mae cartrefi gwyliau wedi'u haddasu; cyngor ar gymorthdaliadau; llinell gymorth i leddfu straen; llyfrgell; offer mewn arddull wedi'i addasu; gwasanaeth cysgu; therapy siarad ag iaith a mw y gael drwyddynt.

Mae'r Cyngorydd Davies wedi bod yn codi arian yn gyson tuag at yr elusen drwy'r sesiynau Bingo yn ein Neuadd Gymuned ac fe roiff y swm hwn hwb sylweddol i ymdrechion *Cerebra* at godi pres.

Os hoffech wneud cais i godi arian ar ran eich elusen chi cysylltwch â Jen Davies 01792 814472-07805740904.

Blooming Marvellous

We love to see the well tended gardens and beautiful baskets in our area. We recognise the effort you put in for the benefit of our communities and we award certificates of merit later in the year. We will be out and about spotting the winners over the summer months. Let's hope the weather is kinder this year than it has been over the last few years and that we have a wonderful show of blooms.

What's On in Dyffryn Clydach?

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 available for hire at very reasonable prices. 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 / DYDD LLUN

Community Short Mat Bowls, 9.30am	Main Hall/Neuadd Fawr
Longford Yoga Group, 7.45pm	
Longford Parent and Toddler Group	Main Hall/Neuadd Fawr
Mam a Phlentyn, 1.00pm	
Dyffryn Clydach Community Council	Committee Room/Ystafell Fach
Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach, 6.30pm (1st Monday Monthly)	
Cyfarfod Cangen Plaid Dyffryn Clydach	
Plaid Cymru Branch Meeting, 6.30pm (3rd Monday Monthly)	

TUESDAY / DYDD MAWRTH

Neath Abbey & Longford over 50s	Main Hall/Neuadd Fawr
(Alternate weeks), 1.30pm	
Longford Karate Club, 6.30pm	

WEDNESDAY / DYDD MERCHER

Longford Parent and Toddler Group	Main Hall/Neuadd Fawr
Mam a Phlentyn, 9.00am	
Wednesday Stitches, 1.30 pm	
Longford Shortmat Bowls Club, 6.30pm	
(Selected weeks only - Home Matches in season)	
Neath Abbey WI Branch 7.00pm (Last Wednesday in month only)	

THURSDAY / DYDD IAU

Parent and Toddler Group, 9.00am	Main Hall/Neuadd Fawr
Mam a Phlentyn	
Helping Hands Knitters, 12.00pm	
Longford Karate Club, 6.30pm	Committee Room/Ystafell Fach
Longford Mothercraft, 2.00pm	

FRIDAY / DYDD GWENER

Community Bingo, 6.30pm	Main Hall/Neuadd Fawr
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SATURDAY / DYDD SADWRN

Tiny Toes Ballet, 9.15am	Main Hall/Neuadd Fawr
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SUNDAY / DYDD SUL

Available for hire	Available for hire
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Friday Night Community & Charity Social Bingo

June 14th Help for Heroes	August 23rd Cerebra
June 21st Melyn Amateur Operatics	August 30th Bobath
June 28th St Mary's Church	Sept. 6th St Mary's Church
July 5th Scouts	Sept. 13th Scouts
July 12th St John's Church	Sept. 20th Longford
July 19th Dyffryn Council	Mothercraft
July 26th Llys Nini RSPCA	Sept. 27th Helping Hands
August 2nd Council	October 4th Mother's Union
August 9th Longford Mothercraft	October 11th Plaid,
August 16th Mothers' Union	Melyn Amateur Operatics

If you would like to apply to fundraise for your charity please contact Jen Davies on 01792 814472 / 07805740904. Full details on how they are organised and what is expected will be supplied.

NB – These sessions are not run by the council but by the organisations responsible.

Fe gewch y manylion llawn ar sut y maent yn cael eu trefnu a beth sydd i'w erfyn.

N.B. – Nid yw'r sesiynau hyn yn cael eu trefnu gan y cyngor ond gan y mudiadau sy'n gyfrifol amdanynt.

WALES NATIONAL MINING MEMORIAL

We cannot underestimate the importance of Coal Mining in Wales which drove the Industrial Revolution in the 1800's. Neither should we underestimate the human cost of shock, grief, disability and hardship that ripped through our communities and was the price that we paid.

This year brings the centenary of the biggest colliery disaster that Wales suffered.

At 8.00am on Tuesday 14 October 1913 a huge explosion rocked the tiny town of Senghenydd, to the north of Caerphilly. It came from the coal mine belonging to the Universal Colliery, the most significant employer in the area, and before the hour was out it was clear to everyone, miners and their families alike, that what had happened was a disaster of major proportions.

The explosion, and subsequent release of poisonous gas, killed 439 miners, making the Senghenydd pit disaster the most lethal and tragic mining disaster in British history. On that morning nearly 950 men had been working below ground, and many of them were killed or injured before they even knew what was happening.

The Aber Valley Heritage Group is the driving force behind a long overdue tribute to miners killed in this and during any mining disaster in Wales which took the lives of five or more miners.

Community groups and organizations, businesses and individuals are being invited to provide sponsorship for paving tiles which will create a 'Path of Memory' as a part of a new Welsh National Miners Memorial at Senghenydd. Dyffryn Clydach Community Council was invited to consider making a contribution.

COFEB GENEDLAETHOL I'N GLOWYR

Ni allwn lawn werthfawrogi pwysigrwydd cloddio am lo yng Nghymru a yrrodd y Chwyldro Diwydiannol yn ei flaen yn y 1880au. Ni ddylwn byth anghofio cost y braw, galar, anabledd a chaledi a dreiddiodd ein cymunedau.

Eleni fydd canmlwyddiant y trychineb glofaol mwyaf yn hanes Cymru.

Am 8.00 y bore ddydd Mawrth 14 o Hydref 1913 siglwyd Senghenydd, tref fach i'r gogledd o Gaerffili, gan ffrwydrad enfawr. Fe ddaeth o'r pwll glo oedd yn perthyn i gwmni Universal, y cyflogwr mwyaf yn yr ardal, ac ymhen yr awr 'roedd yn amlwg i bawb, y glowyr a'u teuluoedd, fod yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yn drychineb o'r radd flaenaf.

Fe laddodd y ffrwydrad, ac yn y pen draw y nwy gwenwynllyd a ryddhawyd yn ei sgîl, 439 o lowyr sy'n rhoi trychineb Senghenydd ar ben rhestr trychinebau mwyaf angheuol a thrasig yn hanes Prydain. Y bore hwnnw 'roedd bron i 950 o ddynion wedi bod yn gweithio tan ddaear, ac fe laddwyd neu clwyfwyd llawer ohonynt cyn iddynt sylweddoli beth oedd wedi digwydd.

Grŵp Treftadaeth Dyffryn Aber yw'r corff sydd y tu cefn i'r fenter i sefydlu teyrnged mewn hen bryd i'r glowyr a laddwyd yn y trychineb hwn yn ogystal ag unrhyw drychineb tebyg yng Nghymru lle bu farw pump neu fwy glöwr.

Gwahoddir grwpiau a sefydliadau, busnesau ac unigolion i noddi teilsen palmant er mwyn creu "Llwybr Coffadwriaeth" fel rhan o'r Gofeb Genedlaethol Cymru i'w Glowyr yn Senghenydd. Gwahoddwyd Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach i ystyried cyfrannu.

Islaw gwelir esiampol o'r teilen palmant a fyddai'n cael ei defnyddio.

Y gost o noddi pob teilen yw £500.

Cylch o deiliau palmant bydd y "Llwybr Coffadwriaeth", gydag enw pwll Cymreig a ddiodeffodd trychineb lle laddwyd pump neu fwy o ddynion a bechgyn ynddi, wedi ei dorri arno.

Fe wneir y teiliau gan yr artist ceramig Ned Heywood, mewn modd tebyg i'r teiliau ag enwau arnynt fydd yn rhan o'r Wal Goffa Pwllfa'r Universal yn y Gofadail. Rhestrir enw'r pwll, dyddiad y trychineb a rhif y dynion a'r bechgyn a gollasant eu bywydau. Fe fydd enw'r noddwr hefyd yn cael ei gynnwys ar y deilsen.

Fel y gwelwch o'r tabl a baratowyd gan drefnwyr y gofadail mae Castell-nedd Port Talbot wedi cael mwy na digon o drychinebau gan gynnwys yn ein cymuned ni, pum glöwr yng Nghwrt Herbert, tri deg tri mewn dau ddigwyddiad ym Mhwllfa'r Main Bryncoch a dau ddeg saith mewn dau ddigwyddiad yn Wern Fraith.



Neath Port Talbot Collieries	Date of accident	Numbers killed
ABER (OGMORE)	04/05/1887	5
BLAENGWYNFI	30/09/1891	8
CWMGWYRACH	09/06/1820	5
CWMLLYNFELL	00/00/1825	59
CWRT HERBERT	01/06/1906	5
ESGYN/EAGLESBUSH	29/03/1848	20
FIRE ENGINE, NEATH	12/05/1795	20
GLYNEATH	18/10/1913	8
GWAUN CAE GURWEN	01/09/1847	6
MAIN BRYNCOCH	06/04/1859	26
MAIN BRYNCOCH	04/08/1896	7
MEADOW / WAUN PIT	24/06/1879	6
MORFA	17/10/1863	40
MORFA	14/02/1870	30
MORFA	10/03/1890	87
NEATH CHAIN PIT	05/04/1859	26
PARK	26/06/1863	6
SEVEN SISTERS	10/11/1907	5
SEVEN SISTERS	25/03/1943	5
TARENI	01/11/1909	5
WERNFRAITH	00/00/1758	10
WERNFRAITH	00/00/1770	17
WESTERN MOOR	15/04/1878	5
WINCH POND	00/00/1764	18
WINCH POND	00/00/1779	11
YNSDAFYDD	24/06/1856	12

Fe benderfynodd eich cyngorwyr cymuned yng nghyfarfod mis Ebrill i gyfrannu £50 tuag at y gronfa o'r gyllideb rhoddion elusengar maent yn gyfrifol amdani. Bydd cyngorau mwy o faint mewn ffordd i roddi mwy.

Mae'r cyngor cymuned yn derbyn tua 100 o geisiadau o wahanol sefydliadau elusennol trwy Gymru am grantiau fel hyn fydd o fudd i'r ardal neu'r trigolion.

Bydd y trychineb diweddar yng nglofa'r Gleision ym Mhontardawe yn cael ei gofnodi er bu farw llai na phump person yno. Sicrhaodd haelioni'r gronfa cyhoeddus yn barod na fydd glowyr y Gleision yn cael eu anghofio yn nhref Pontardawe.

Message from the Chairman

This is a special edition for me as your *Ymlaen* editor and as the Chairman of the council for my first time this year. I was elected to the community council eight years ago and during that time I have worked with the Halls and Events committee, the Finance committee and the Communications committee which produces *Ymlaen*. There are very few community councils who provide a newsletter in their areas to such popular acclaim and I am very proud to be a part of it.

All residents of Dyffryn Clydach whether new or long standing are invited to enjoy this edition and consider whether they have a contribution to make to it. Our community groups use the magazine to relay information to you, our PCSO, community safety team and local charities, schools and our county borough councillor all use the opportunity to share information with you. Have you enjoyed a particular article or would you like to see something you haven't seen before? Do you have a fond memory or remember an event you would like highlighted? Residents' feed-back is always welcomed. Don't worry about writing style, the germ of an idea is all it takes. We can do the rest. I would like to thank all the councillors and our clerk Randall Shopland for their dedication to our community. I would also like to thank past Chairman Jen Davies for her hard work through what has been a difficult year for her health-wise. I hope that I can show the same dedication in my year of office.

Sincerely,

Clur. Alyson Thomas



Neges gan y Cadeirydd

Mae hwn yn rhifyn arbennig o *Ymlaen* i mi fel eich golygydd ac fel Cadeirydd y cyngor eleni am y tro cyntaf.

'Rwyf wedi byw yn Nyffryn Clydach am y 30 mlynedd diwethaf ond mae gennyf atgofion gydol oes ohonni wedi treulio amser gyda'm tadcu a mamgu oedd yn byw yn Rhydhir. 'Rwyt siwr o fod yn frodor erbyn hyn.

Cefais fy ethol i'r cyngor cymuned wyth mlynedd yn ôl ac yn ystod yr amser hynny 'rwyf wedi gweithio ar bwyllgor y Neuadd ac Achlysuron, y pwyllgor Cyllid a'r pwyllgor Cyfathrebu sydd yn cynyrchu *Ymlaen*. Bach iawn o gynghorau sydd yn cynyrchu taflen newyddion mor boblogaidd yn eu cymunedau ac 'rwyt falch i fod yn rhan ohonno.

Gwahoddir holl breswylwyr Dyffryn Clydach, boed yn newydd-ddyfodiaid neu yn drigolion tymor hir i fwynhau'r rhifyn hwn ac i feddlw os oes ganddyn' nhw ryweth i gyfrannu tuag ato. Mae ein grwpiau o fewn y gymuned yn defnyddio'r cylchgrawn i ddanfoni gwybodaeth atoch, ac mae ein SCCH, tîm diogelwch yn y gymdogaeth ac elusennau lleol, ysgolion a'n cynghorydd bwrdeistref sirol oll yn manteisio ar y cyfle i rannu gwybodaeth gyda chi. Ydych chi wedi mwynhau ryw erthygl arbennig neu hoffech chi weld rhywbeth dydi chi ddim wedi gweld o'r blaen? Oes gennych ryw atgof melyn, neu ydych chi'n cofio achlysur yr hoffech wybod mwy amdano?

'Rydym bob amser yn falch o dderbyn adborth gan ein preswylwyr. Peidiwch a phoeni os nad ydych yn hyderus wrth ysgrifennu, eich syniadau sydd eisiau. Fe wnaeth fi'r gweddill drosto.

Hoffwn ddiolch yn fawr i'm rhagflaenydd fel Cadeirydd Jen Davies am ei gwaith caled drwy'r flwyddyn, sydd wedi bod yn anodd iawn iddi o ran iechyd a gobeithiaf y gallaf ddangos yr un ymrwymiad yn fy mlwyddyn yn y swydd.

Yn ddiwyll,

Cyng. Alyson Thomas

Workways Gweithfyrdd
Workways is part funded by the European Social Fund through the Welsh Government.

Would you like help to find a job?
If so, Workways can offer:

- A personal mentor who will identify your skills and work with you to develop a job action plan
- Job search support at handy locations in your community
- Help with writing CVs and completing job applications
- Local job vacancies to match your skills – it doesn't matter if you lack qualifications or experience
- Access to relevant training opportunities
- Some participants a paid temporary job with a local employer - financial support is available for training, clothing, travel and childcare

To find out more, contact
01639 684250
Or visit **www.workways.co.uk**

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Hoffech chi gael help i chwilio am swydd?
Os felly, gall Gweithfyrdd gynnig:

- Mentor personol a fydd yn nodi'ch sgiliau ac yn gweithio gyda chi i lunio cynllun gweithredu swydd
- Cefnogaeth i chwilio am swydd mewn lleoliadau cyfeus yn eich cymuned
- Help i ysgrifennu CV a chwblhau ceisiadau swydd
- Swyddi gwasg hysbysu addas i'ch sgiliau chi - does dim gwahaniaeth os nad oes gennych gymwysterau na phroffiad
- Cyfleoedd hyfforddi perthnasol
- Swydd dros dro a thâl gyda chyflwynwr lleol i rai cyfranogwyr - mae cymorth ariannol ar gael am hyfforddiant, teithio, dillad a chostau gofod plant

I gael mwy o wybodaeth, ffoniwch
01639 684250
Neu ewch i **www.workways.co.uk**
Arianir Gweithfyrdd yn rannol gan Gronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop trwy Llywodraeth Cymru.

Yr Hen Lun – Old Picture

The last edition featured a photograph taken in 1945. Of course, it was a street party commemorating the end of the second world war.



Where in Dyffryn Clydach was this snowy winter scene shot?

Picture thanks to Miss Ellen Jefford.

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 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.

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