

YMLAEN

GAEAF
2021
40c

Cylchlythyr
Cyngor Cymuned
Dyffryn Clydach



Newsletter of the
Dyffryn Clydach
Community Council

WINTER
2021
40p

Additional copies available from the Editor, Cllr Sarah Elias
Copiâu ychwanegol ar gael wrth y Golygydd, Cyng. Sarah Elias
E-mail: sarahmelias@yahoo.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 Cynghorwr Lleol



May your days be merry and bright

Editor's Note • Golygyddol

Welcome to the Christmas edition of Ymlaen. It has been a very challenging year for some residents of Dyffryn Clydach due to the fallout from the flooding of the old mineshaft in Goshen Park. It must also be strongly acknowledged that it has been extremely difficult for those residents of Skewen directly affected by the flooding, whose lives were disrupted with some still not returning to normality. I hope that the situation improves for everybody involved. Of course, all these events occurred in the shadow of the Covid pandemic which halted many of our Christmas plans last year, let's hope that this year people can celebrate in a far more normal fashion!

Looking forward however, we are excited to have news of a visit from Santa Claus, also within this issue also is an article on the biodiversity project which has been continuing this summer with positive results, as well as information on the new planter boxes, trees and Spring bulbs also designed to improve the area. There will be boundary changes next year to Dyffryn Clydach which will see us taking in more residents and another County Borough Councillor. We also have a new



Community Councillor featured after the retirement of a very popular member of our community Mrs Jennifer Phillips.

Also included are other articles on various topics as usual such as the anniversary of Saint Matthew's Church and the activities at the Ironworks this year. I hope you enjoy the lovely festive cover photo by renowned local photographer Robert John Boucher. Three of his photographs have been included in the Best of Neath's Calendar this year with one even making the cover! He took this snowy one on the way up to Drummau mountain in Coed Maesmelin woodlands. Many thanks for your contributions and also to Bob Pickett for his beautiful photos included in many editions of Ymlaen. I would also like to thank our regular contributors Jeff Griffiths, Joe Rayner, Karon Hopkins, Peter Richards and many more that have submitted articles or helped in some way. All that is left to say is to wish all residents of Dyffryn Clydach a very Merry Christmas and let us hope that the New Year brings a more positive and settled time for all of us.

Sarah Elias (Editor)

A fresh face for the Community Council

Dyffryn Clydach Community Council have appointed a new member for 2021 Mr James Henton. James is a very fresh face for us as he is one of the youngest ever Council members at the age of twenty three. James is extremely familiar with the locality as he was born in Tregellis Road in Longford and attended Neath Abbey Infants School as a youngster. He is currently living nearby and is looking to move back into the area as soon as he can. He is a familiar face and is hoping to utilise his energy and bring a large contribution to the area as he is already a regular volunteer with the Friends of Neath Abbey Ironworks. We are sure you will see him around in the very near future.



Another person on our Community Council who is likely to be seen around the area is Councillor Martyn Peters was also born in Tregellis Road in Longford a few years earlier! Martyn needs no introduction to the local community but has reached a milestone this year in serving for thirty years as an elected representative of the Community Council here in Dyffryn Clydach. We would like to thank Martyn for his hard work and dedication to serving the people in our area. Congratulations to both of you and we look forward to seeing you lots in the near future.

Thank-you to a familiar face

Mrs Jennifer Phillips, a popular member of the Dyffryn Clydach Community Council has sadly taken the decision to resign due to ongoing health problems. We all miss her as she has been a valuable member of the Community Council for many years after taking over from her late husband Gray.

Jen is also a well-liked member of the local community, known for walking her dogs in all weathers, her very cute current canine companion being the French Bulldog Quentin. She always had time for a chat with passers by and she will be missed by locals and walkers who liked her pleasant personality, extensive knowledge and dry wit. We wish you and Quentin all the best Jen and thank you for all your service and work over the years.



Notice of Boundary Changes

The Boundary Commission for Wales has conducted an extensive review of Community Council areas and a lengthy consultation to ensure fair representation. As a result of their findings changes will be made locally. The Taillwyd, Brookfield and Mill Race (an area of 230 homes and 500 electors) addresses will become part of the Dyffryn Clydach Community Council area.

This will also encompass the current Cwrt Herbert, Neath Abbey, Highlands, Penshannel, Longford and Dyffryn communities.

Geographically it makes sense and overall it represents something of a homecoming for residents who are warmly welcomed to the community of Dyffryn Clydach. As the size of the ward is due to increase so will representation on the County Borough Council, therefore at the next elections in May residents will be able to vote for two County Borough Councillors for Dyffryn Clydach rather than just the one we have currently.

A Bug's Life

Councillor Taryn Kristel has written this guide to filling a box or bottle etc to make a bug box for insects to live in over the winter. You can either make your own basic box structure with a front piece as shown in the photo or use household items to make one. Whichever you decide please keep the box in a sheltered spot in your garden. A simple one can be made from a flower pot or a plastic drinks bottle with the end cut off and hung from a fence etc.



The bug house pictured has been assembled using various materials for the contents which have largely been foraged locally. These are items such as pine cones, small logs, twigs, moss, bamboo sticks (easily cut to size with a hacksaw), leaves etc. Make sure everything is thoroughly dried out before adding and for variety I have even added some shells, old clay pipes and coral from the beach. I have made 3 levels, the bottom being broken clay pots, stones, slate and gravel for a cool area. Keep off ground level with some old bricks to prevent damp and in an area away from driving rain. The creatures will find it! This will help them to stay safe over the winter and is a great activity for anybody of any age.

As it is Christmas we thought we would add some light hearted jokes for you to groan over and a quiz alongside some useful recipes to use up leftover Christmas food. Enjoy them!

Why are Christmas trees bad at knitting?

Because they have too many needles.

What do sheep say to shepherds at Christmas?

Christmas bleating's!

Why is the Christmas alphabet different?

Because there is noel .

Why are Christmas trees so fond of the past?

Because the presents beneath them.

Why did the Christmas tree go to the barbers?

It needed to be trimmed.

Who is Santas favourite singer?

Elvis Presley.

Why are Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen always wet?

Because they are rain deer.

Do You Know Where These Photos Were Taken?

(Answers on Page 11)



Re-fried Roast Potatoes

Oil

10 small pickled onions cut into half

½ tsp of cayenne

Thyme

500g of leftover roast potatoes

Heat oil in a frying pan, add chopped onions and cook for 3-4 minutes.

Add cayenne, thyme and roast potatoes; stir together and slightly squash the roast potatoes.

Cook for 3-4 mins until crispy, then toss and fry again until hot and crispy.

Turkey Fricassee

50g butter

100g sliced mushrooms

1tbs plain flour

100ml of white wine or dry sherry

200mls chicken or turkey stock

150mls double cream

800g boneless leftover turkey cut into small chunks

Salt and pepper to taste

Heat butter in a deep frying pan until sizzling, add mushrooms and fry for 4-5 minutes until soft.

Add flour and stir into a paste.

Slowly add the wine or sherry and let it bubble for a minute. Add stock and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and stir in cream, add salt and pepper and turkey. Simmer until hot right through. Serve with potatoes, pasta or rice.

Neath Abbey Ironworks News 2021

By Peter Richards

We are all lucky to live near Neath Abbey which boasts some of the richest heritage in Wales, with many pivotal episodes in the last 2,000 years of our history evidenced within a few hundred yards. To the east lie the remains of Nidum, the Roman fort built to control the river crossing and the road to Carmarthen. A thousand years later, new invaders, the Normans, asserted their power by planting castles and monasteries on Welsh lands. The Cistercian house that gave Neath Abbey its name reminds us of that dominion. After the dissolution, the nephew of the infamous Thomas Cromwell obtained the abbey buildings and began their transformation into a Tudor mansion — symbolizing the gentry's rise. After Aberdulais ceased smelting about a century before, Neath Abbey saw the revival of the Welsh copper industry at the end of the seventeenth century. There is evidence for copper smelting in this valley, Cwmlfelin, some years before any at Swansea. These are the first stirrings of the Industrial Revolution — the only time when we can say that Wales, as the first industrial nation, truly led the world. But it is Neath Abbey Ironworks that caused the name of Neath Abbey to be carried across Britain and the world. The engines, locomotives and ships that were constructed here drove the Industrial Revolution across Wales and Britain and were found in far-flung corners of the globe. The importance of the ironworks' legacy is reflected in the inclusion on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register of the 8,000 plans preserved from its years of operation. There are only 62 UK inscriptions in the Register; other documents are Magna Carta and the 1689 Bill of Rights. They show the massive contribution of this site to the Industrial Revolution and the spread of Welsh technology to the rest of the world. All these facts confirm the importance of Neath Abbey's heritage area, however, much more can be done to promote this heritage, so the Friends of Neath Abbey Iron Company decided to convert a former BT telephone kiosk on Heol Penderyn, Longford, into a heritage/ information centre. The Friends consistently seek opportunities to bring children and young people to the ironworks. We build connections with young children who visit the site with our owl notice boards and quizzes. We have had very fruitful results from the Friends' recent contacts with Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive School. All 658 pupils of years 7, 8 and 9 were challenged to discover the rich heritage of Neath Abbey. Regrettably, due to Covid restrictions, the pupils were unable to visit the sites as a group. The 105 final pieces selected show that



the pupils were fully engaged by the subject. This is a credit to the staff, school and pupils. Some pupils clearly carried out their own research and visited the sites out of school hours. This shows evidence of better learning and skills outcomes achieved by the partnership between the Friends and Dwr-y-Felin. In the style of the Sistine Chapel, the pupils work has been displayed on the ceiling of the kiosk. The Friends feel that by fostering a connection with history and the environment from a young age, perceived barriers about heritage being only for older middle-class people can be broken down, increasing interaction with history and actively engaging future generations. The heritage centre was opened on Friday, 10 September by Jeremy Miles, MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language, present, as well as Christina Rees MP, Borough Councillors Martyn Peters, Mike Harvey and Dyffryn Clydach Councillor Sarah Elias. Dwr-y Felin Comprehensive School was represented by Mrs Peet, headteacher, Mrs Koivuniemi, head of art and design, and Mrs Marks, art and design teacher. It is a great source of pride to the Friends, that, as a purely voluntary group and with the help of the community, we have been able to transform the ironworks from a derelict dumping ground into an inspiring space for local people. Visitors are often overwhelmed and astounded by the site, as it is well hidden in Cwmlfelin. We were especially thrilled to be recently awarded Green Flag status by Keep

Wales Tidy. It has been a privilege to see the site improve over the years we have worked there, and thanks are due to the volunteers and local community. The UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries - in the bottom 10 percent globally and last among the G7 group of nations. It has an average of about half its biodiversity left, far below the global average of 75%. With this in mind, the Friends applied successfully for a Neath Port Talbot Local Nature Partnership Grant. This will enable us to increase in size our wildflower meadow area and create a bug hotel. Plant containers with native wild flowers of local provenance, erect bird and bat boxes, and build a compost bin. Small changes, such as this, can add up to making a big difference, and the community will be able to see the increased biodiversity that will result from this work. The Friends are inclusive and there is no membership or entrance fee. Industrial heritage has the reputation of attracting exclusively older men fascinated by steam engines. We do have a few of these, but many women are involved in the Friends. We encourage young people to take part as well. Our teenage members participate fully on the site, and give us many good ideas. One of our teenage volunteers has done exceptionally well; Tomos Lloyd, has recently become an #Iwill ambassador. He gained this award by his community volunteering with the Friends and on a farm during the pandemic and for many years beforehand. The #Iwill movement was created to give young people a voice and to lead change in their community. Tomos said: 'I will be trying to make Neath Port Talbot a cleaner and more enjoyable place focusing on the environment and outdoor spaces as well as the rich history of the area that many have not learnt about'. 'If anyone has any ideas or things they would like to see in Neath Port Talbot please drop me a message and I'll try my best to make it a reality over the course of the year. I will also be working with Senedd members over the coming weeks to be able to achieve my goals'. He can be contacted on the Friends' Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofNeathAbbeyIronCompany>.

Immediately after the opening of the heritage/information centre, we had the sad task of unveiling a memorial in the ironworks to Debbie Harvey, our former treasurer and trustee, and the late wife of Mike Harvey. Debbie is still sorely missed by all the Friends, as she was a leading light and driving force. Our heritage attracts the world to us. We have seen this again and again here at the Ironworks with visitors of many nationalities. In Wales, the heritage sector supports thousands of jobs and attracts

valuable tourist income. Nor are the benefits only financial. Sites like the ironworks can help with recovery from Covid, which has led to increased mental ill-health, by bringing benefits such as a relaxing, peaceful, unpressured but stimulating environment. Places look after people as much as people look after places. Working in and with the past brings great personal satisfaction; this site makes an enormous contribution to our quality of life, well-being, mental health and social cohesion. It enhances our lives. The Friends felt that there was a lack of information about this important site, so decided to put up information boards which explained the heritage and natural history of the site.



These can be viewed on: <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/users/66211>

We displayed outdoors, as well, artwork from the project we jointly ran with Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive school pupils. Three winners were selected, one from each year group, and they were Elanwen Gray, Lily Williams and Erin Hinder. Presentations were given to them by the Minister of Education and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles MS, Christina Rees MP and Phil Abraham, Head of Heritage Development & Regeneration CADW. On the following Saturday and Sunday, we had our Open Doors days in conjunction with Cadw. This was opened by Louise Fleet, The Lord-Lieutenant of West Glamorgan and Joanna Jenkins, High Sheriff of West Glamorgan. Between 400-500 visitors turned up to see the Ironworks site, and the Friends were thrilled with the outcome of the weekend. We welcomed as well, Sioned Williams, South Wales West Regional MS, Neath Port Talbot Mayor John Warman, and Neath Town Mayor Sheila Penry. What of the future? It is vital that the site is conserved, so that present and future generations can enjoy learning about the tremendous impact it had on our world and society. We meet every Sunday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm to work on the site, and all are welcome.

Life in Times Past

St Matthew's Church, Dyffryn, marked its 150th anniversary in September. The church's centenary history published in 1971 also included general information about the locality. Here are some extracts describing life in the 19th century, a time so very different from today.



The 1870s was a time of growth and expansion in the Neath district. The area had been a centre of the smelting industry and of coal mining for over two hundred years and was then experiencing huge changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution. In 1831 the population of Neath numbered just over 4,000; by 1871 it had more than doubled. The arrival of the railway in Neath in the 1850s greatly improved communications and provided another stimulus to growth. The canals were still managing to compete, however, with coal, ore and other heavy goods being carried between the Neath Valley and Port Tennant in Swansea. Road transport was by horse-drawn coaches and carriages until the opening in 1875 of a horse tramway. Gas trams were introduced in Neath in 1897 and proved successful - even if its passengers had sometimes to push the tram up Skewen hill! Gas works were erected at Neath in 1832 but the area did not receive an electricity supply until 1901. Oil lamps and tallow candles remained the only means of illumination for many people. The Neath Borough Police force was created in 1835 and its members also provided the area's firefighters. The stocks were still in existence outside St Thomas's Church in Neath until about 1872!

It was after the 1840s that coal began to dominate the commercial life of the area, a demand generated by the development of railways and shipping. It was the expansion of coal mining activities in the Bryncoch area and the consequent increase in population which was one

of the reasons which led Howel Gwyn to found a church on his estate land. Coal mining in the Bryncoch area is first recorded in 1772 when a colliery at Wernddu is mentioned. Iron making was also carried on at Bryncoch from the early eighteenth century. Thomas Pryce of Longford Court manufactured munitions for the British government at the Bryncoch Furnace from where cannon and shot were shipped from Neath to London's Woolwich Arsenal. The name 'Old Furnace', still a place name in the village, recalls Bryncoch's link with iron making. In 1806 the Pwll Mawr pit was sunk in Bryncoch for the Quakers, Fox & Company, by William Kirkhouse, the engineer and canal constructor. This is reputed to be the first deep pit (200 yards) put down in this country. The Main Colliery Company, formed as a result of the amalgamation of a number of small collieries in this area, obtained a lease to mine the minerals on the Dyffryn estate which was purchased by Howel Gwyn in 1853, a development which eventually provided work for over 500 men at Bryncoch.

Between the 1870s and the 1920s Bryncoch was a mining community dominated by the colliery workings at which most of the men folk found employment. Remains of coal tips can still be seen and there are other signs too which reveal that Bryncoch was once a coal mining community. The public footpath known as the Dram Road which runs alongside the Stanley and Darran Woods to the Highlands at Neath Abbey follows the former railway line. Here would pass the trains which took coal to the Neath Abbey railway sidings and wharves on the Neath river. As with any mining community, the village people suffered the frequent agony of lives lost and bodies mangled, a reminder of the high price which men paid for hewing coal. In 1859 an accident cost 25 men their lives, with some bodies never being recovered. The Main Colliery Company also owned steamers in which they shipped cargoes of coal to coastal ports. In January 1878 one of these boats, the S.S. Pioneer, went down with all hands off Padstow, Cornwall. It is well to remember that this community was once dependent upon those who toiled beneath the ground here.

The architect of St Matthew's Church was John Norton who was also responsible for St. David's church, the Gwyn Hall and the Constitutional Club (now the Allan Leonard

continued on the next page

Life in Times Past – *continued*

Lewis VC pub) in Neath. Prior to his death, Howel Gwyn gave the land on which the Gwyn Hall was built, a valuable location in the centre of the town on the site of the orchard from which the street takes its name. Its foundation stone was laid in June 1887, the date of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. In that same year the Corporation Field, on which Cadoxton Cricket Club had played, was converted to the Victoria Gardens.

Dyffryn had strong connexions with the development of sport in this locality. Both cricket and rugby were, to a large extent, introduced into Wales in the 19th century by young men returning from English public schools and universities as can be clearly seen in our district. The Dyffryn Cricket Club had associations with the Gwyns from the days of its inception as the club's crest and very name testify. A private cricket ground existed on the Dyffryn estate near Footpath Lodge (now Swiss Cottage) and a team of gentlemen calling themselves 'The Glamorgan Gypsies' played fixtures there.



Joseph Edward Moore, who succeeded to the Gwyn Estate in 1900, was educated at Winchester public school and had great enthusiasm for both cricket and rugby. He was present at the Glamorgan Cricket Club's first meeting in July 1888. In 1899 he was the President of the Neath Football Club and Athletic Association which also arranged the cricket fixtures at that time, and in 1903 is reported to be the Captain of the first XI. Dyffryn also has links with the early days of rugby in this district through Dr T. P. Whittington who lived at Glyn Clydach. A medical practitioner, Dr. Whittington is reputed to be the founder of Neath Rugby Football Club in 1871. He is remembered as Neath's first international rugby player, although it was for Scotland that he was capped in 1873, and is also the first recorded Captain of the Neath Cricket team.

There is reference to old wedding customs in the village. The parishioners are advised to exercise greater care in practising the customs of 'roping' and the 'firing of salutes'. The first custom refers to the confronting of a wedding couple with an impediment to their progress in the form of a chain of flowers or hempen rope, to escape which the bride and groom were forced to pay a toll. The 'firing of salutes' was the discharge of shotguns which, the parishioners are warned, should not be done 'at a late hour of night, or at an abnormally early hour of the morning'.

The Moore-Gwyns, the Squires of Dyffryn House, were the first family in the area to own a motor car. A 1905 newspaper report tells how Mrs. Moore-Gwyn and her son were being chauffeur driven through Margam village when a bull 'lowered its head and with a savage roar charged the car.' Although their vehicle suffered serious damage, the occupants were only shaken. In November 1912, an eight-year-old girl was killed by a motor van in Bryncoch, perhaps one of the earliest road fatalities involving a motor vehicle in the district.

A hundred years ago the majority of the villagers in Bryncoch probably spoke, or at least understood, Welsh. In 1891 it was estimated that three quarters of the population of Neath and district had the ability to speak Welsh even if they did not all make use of it. Anglicising influences were becoming apparent both in the education system and as a result of industrialisation.

Significant changes occurred in the 1920s. The economic depression of this decade eroded the fortunes of many families and in 1927 Dyffryn House, which had already been vacated for a few years, and its estate were offered for sale. It was proposed that the mansion be transformed into a hospital or similar institution, a plan which failed to materialise. By 1932 the 47-roomed residence had been demolished after being used for practice by the fire brigade. The estate was divided into lots and sold. The Moore-Gwyns moved to Longford Court for a few years before leaving the area. The Main Colliery ceased operations in 1929. The most influential family and the main industry of the village had thus both faded within a decade.

A digital copy of the St Matthew's Church centenary history can be found on the Dyffryn Clydach and Bryncoch Historical Society's website and via its Facebook group.

Jeff Griffiths

Dyffryn Clydach and Bryncoch Historical Society

Popular local resource available for hire.

Longford Memorial Hall, The Drive , Longford.

Suitable for meetings, parties and activities.

Facilities include - easy parking, wheelchair access, disabled toilet, fully fitted kitchen, large function room and two small meeting rooms. Attached to the Hall is a Toddlers playground.

Currently activities available at the Hall are Short Mat Bowls, Craft groups and children's Ballet.

Not forgetting Friday evenings Charity bingo.



More activities will be returning in 2022. We are hopeful that we will be able to re-open the hall kitchen in the New Year. We are monitoring Government Covid restrictions and all being well we'll allow three people in there only at a time and no use of the hatch. Food and drink will be brought into the hall via a trolley.

The Hall is cleaned between users though people are advised that some restrictions because of Covid may still apply.

Enquires to Mr Randall Shopland - Clerk to the Community Council.

Santa Claus is coming to town

Due to the current Covid restrictions we are unable to hold our usual Christmas party for the children in the locality. We do however, have a visit from Santa Claus to Dyffryn Clydach. The event will be held in Longford Memorial Hall for local children of primary school age on Saturday December 11th from 2pm. Tickets will be given out in Abbey Primary school and children will get to see Santa and receive an age appropriate gift and some sweets. For those local children of appropriate age who do not attend Abbey Primary school, tickets are available from Councillor Jennifer Davies so do not hesitate to contact her on either her landline or mobile number – 01792 814422 / 07902633799. Further information will be posted on the Residents of Longford and Neath Abbey Facebook page.

Merry Christmas all from the Community Council.



Chairperson's Address • Cyfarchiad y Cadeirydd

Hello everyone! I have previously written a few words for Ymlaen but this is the strangest I have done. Normally in the run up to Christmas we have a full programme of events timetabled but we are still proceeding cautiously with the pandemic still raging, so the calendar is bare.

On behalf of Dyffryn Clydach Community Council I laid a poppy wreath in Saint John's Church on Remembrance Sunday. Reverend Coles' wise words and readings helped so much on the solemn occasion.

As Christmas approaches I would like us to remember those who are struggling to make ends meet. Both Neath Food bank and the Salvation Army Food bank are finding numbers rising all the time. Money and foodstuffs are always welcome.

There are other ways to give too, as well as the many formal appeals in the area. Facebook offers groups where you can gift furniture, clothing or toys you no longer require to those who need them. This has the added benefit of saving items from landfill which can only be a good thing.

This year Santa will bring a little cheer by visiting the local children at the Memorial Hall on December 11th (from 2:00PM) with gifts donated, as usual, by our Community Council. Can I just say thank you to all those around us who have gladdened our hearts with fun, food, jokes, music, photographs and simple neighbourly kindness. A lot of that came out of the lockdowns and I think it has made a huge difference to our community.

Merry Christmas and a Happier New Year to everyone. Nadolig Llawen!

Councillor Alyson Thomas



Sut mae'r hwyl, bawb! Dw i wedi ysgrifennu ychydig o eiriau ar gyfer Ymlaen cyn hyn ond dyma'r tro rhyfeddaf erioed. Fel arfer cyn y Nadolig mae rhaglen lawn o ddigwyddiadau ar yr amserlen gyda ni. Ond rydyn ni'n dal i fynd yn betrusgar yn ein blaenau gyda'r pandemig ar ei anterth o hyd, felly mae'r calendr yn wag.

Ar ran Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Clydach gosodais dorch o babiau yn Eglwys Sant Ioan ar ddydd Sul y Cofio. Roedd geiriau doeth a darlleniadau'r Parchedig Coles yn help mawr iawn ar yr achlysur dwys.

Wrth i'r Nadolig agosáu byddai'n dda inni gofio am y rhai sy'n ei chael hi'n anodd cadw deupen llinyn ynghyd. Mae Banc Bwyd Castell-nedd a Banc Bwyd Byddin yr Iachawdwriaeth yn gweld bod y niferoedd yn codi drwy'r amser. Mae croeso i arian ac i fwydydd bob amser.

Mae ffyrdd eraill o roi hefyd, yn ogystal â rhoi i'r llu o elusennau yn yr ardal. Mae Facebook yn cynnig grwpiau lle gallwch chi roi dodrefn, dillad neu deganau nad oes eu hangen arnoch chi mwyach i'r rhai sydd eu hangen nhw. Mantais arall yw eich bod chi'n cadw eitemau allan o'r safle tirlenwi, felly mae'n beth ardderchog.

Eleni bydd Siôn Corn yn difyrru drwy ymweld â'r plant lleol yn y Neuadd Goffa ar 11 Rhagfyr (o 2 y prynhawn) gyda'r anrhegion wedi'u rhoi, fel arfer, gan ein Cyngor Cymuned. Hoffwn ddiolch i bawb o'n cwmpas ni sydd wedi codi ein calonnau gyda hwyl, bwyd, jôcs, cerddoriaeth, ffotograffau a charedigrwydd cymdogol syml. Daeth llawer o hyn o'r cyfnodau clo ac rwy'n credu iddo wneud gwahaniaeth enfawr i'n cymuned.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Well i bawb!

Y Cyng. Alyson Thomas



Answers to the photo quiz – 1. Cwrt Herbert; 2. Drummau Mountain; 3. Penlan Farm, Drummau Mountain; 4. Signpost on Dram Road; 5. Tennant Canal Bridge, Near Ruins

Bloomin' Marvellous

As most people are aware, two years ago we decided to place 16 planter boxes in various positions in the Dyffryn Ward. Their placements were decided after discussion with people living in close proximity and where green fingered householders could look after them. The planters have proved to be a very popular addition to the area.

Many other residents asked if this scheme could be extended further if some funding became available. Another 16 planters have now been purchased and have been placed throughout the Dyffryn area from Penshannel to Cwrt Herbert.

We must thank all the Council Officers and workforce for their involvement. We will now have in total 32 planter boxes throughout the community for our enjoyment. In addition, daffodil bulbs have also been planted by the Community Council and volunteers.



Monthly Litter Picks

Councillor Martyn Peters has organised monthly litter picks which have been successful, despite the weather. They are on the first Sunday of the month at 10:00am. All are welcome to join, including children. Details of meeting places will be posted on the Residents of Longford and Neath Abbey Facebook page.

