



**LLANTYSILIO**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**COUNCIL**



**CYNGOR**  
**CYMUNED**  
**LLANTYSILIO**

**DATES OF MEETINGS - 2016**

**Community Council Meetings are held on the first Monday in the month at 7pm.**

January	-	no meeting
February	1st	Conquering Hero Community Centre
March	7th	Conquering Hero Community Centre
April	4th	Conquering Hero Community Centre
May	9th	Conquering Hero Community Centre (Annual Meeting)
June	6th	Conquering Hero Community Centre
July	4th	Conquering Hero Community Centre
August	-	no meeting
September	5th	Conquering Hero Community Centre (Open Meeting)
October	3rd	Conquering Hero Community Centre
November	7th	Conquering Hero Community Centre
December	5th	Conquering Hero Community Centre

**LLANTYSILIO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCILLORS:**

*Telephone*

Roger Cragg	861593
J. G. Evans (Shep)	07962229597
David Walton–Vice Chairman	860967
Steven Evans	860753
Arfon Jones	860138
Rachel Horne	860287
Rhys Hughes	860335
Maggie Smith-Chairman	861156
John Pickett	860021

*Clerk to the Council:*

*Mrs Sandra Baker*

*Rockcliffe*

*Abbey Road*

*Llangollen*

*LL20 8EF*

*Telephone: 01978 861451*

*Email: llantysilio.cc@btinternet.com*

# COMMUNITY CORNER

Issue 21  Spring 2016

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANTYSILIO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## PRESENTATION TO HARRY EDWARDS

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*Harry Edwards, Shemec Ltd., (left), Ryan Jones (centre), and Llantysilio Community Council*

In gratitude for his efforts in restoring the Chain Bridge, Llantysilio Community Council presented Harry with a framed photograph showing the Bridge in a formal pose and also as a graphic design. The photograph was the work of Andrew Gale. Andrew spent many weeks photographing the construction of the Bridge and shadowing Harry and his workforce. Ryan, (centre in the picture), was a key worker on the project and is an employee of Shemec Ltd., Eglwyseg. The Chain Bridge, having acquired a new lease of life, has been visited by hundreds, probably thousands of people since its

*For free distribution in the area of Llantysilio, Rhewl, Eglwyseg, Pentrefelin and Pentredŵr.*

## Llangollen Health Centre Window



Last year we attended the opening of the New Health Centre in Llangollen with our Daughters, to view the stained glass window located in the stair-well and viewed from the main road. I was contacted by someone from Betsi Cadwalader Health Board asking me for information regarding the window which had been located in the Community Hospital on Abbey Road. I gave the information to my husband's sister who then contacted them. The window was made by Chris in memory of their mother Pat, Joan Patricia Bird-Jones, who was a physiotherapist at the hospital from 1965 to 1981- the year she died from myeloma.

A monetary collection was made for a memorial as a tribute to her. Chris assisted by making suggestions to the hospital League of Friends regarding the design of the window, and volunteered to make it to fit the small space halfway up the landing in the hospital.

Chris designed the window on Pat's life in Llangollen, honouring her devotion to her family, dedication to her patients, friends and fellow workers. The physio department was a social hub in the hospital and there are many tales to be told. The money was used to buy the best quality glass.

The subtle inscription on the window reads from left to right 'Donated by Patients-Friends in memory of Patricia Bird-Jones' 1928-1981. Physiotherapy 1965-1981'. The window

I have a little SatNav  
It sits there in my car  
A SatNav is a driver’s friend  
It tells you where you are

I have a little SatNav  
I’ve had it all my life  
It’s better than the normal ones  
My SatNav is my wife

It gives me full instructions  
Especially how to drive  
“It’s thirty miles an hour”, it says  
“You’re doing thirty five”

It tells me when to stop and start  
And when to use the brake

And tells me that it’s never ever  
Safe to overtake

It tells me when a light is red  
And when it goes to green  
It seems to know instinctively  
Just when to intervene

It lists the vehicles just in front  
And all those to the rear  
And taking this into account  
It specifies my gear

I’m sure no other driver  
Has so helpful a device  
For when we leave and lock the car  
It still gives its advice

It fills me up with counselling  
Each journey’s pretty fraught  
So why don’t I exchange it  
And get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house  
Makes sure I’m properly fed  
It washes all my shirts and things  
And keeps me warm in bed!

Despite all these advantages  
And my tendency to scoff  
I do wish that once in a while



## Llantysilio Community Council

### Speed Bumps in Pentredŵr

The Community Council has worked with the residents of Pentredŵr and D.C.C. in getting speed-bumps placed on the road through the village. This has also included installing new street lights. The project has taken over two years to come to fruition. The Community Council is now considering a similar project in Llantysilio and the surrounding area.

### Horseshoe Falls Footpath

The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green are another project which has taken up much of the Community Council's time. Denbighshire Countryside Services has worked with the Council in getting funding to upgrade the Green and provide pathways to the Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Church.

### Footpath Along the A542

One of the Council's ongoing projects is to get a footpath installed along the A542 from Vale Crucis Abbey to the Nursing Home at Abbey Dingle. This is a very dangerous stretch of road that is walked by visitors to the Abbey, ramblers and residents. The Council is hopeful of the path being installed during 2016.

### Salt Bins

The Community Council has provided salt bins in the area of Llantysilio Church. These bins are overseen by members of the Council, specifically Councillor David Walton who we thank for bringing the need for salt-bins in this area to the attention of the Community Council. Denbighshire County Council were unable to assist as the area is in private ownership.

### Notice Board at Maes yr Uchain Lane

The re-siting of this notice board to the other side of the road by the bus-shelter has proved to be problematic in that

### Commemorative Plaque

The Council agreed to placing a plaque on the Chain Bridge to commemorate its re-opening in May 2015. It will measure approximately 30cm x 22cm. Below the Council's emblem the wording will read: -

Cyngor Cymuned

Llantysilio

Community Council.

Ailagorwyd y bont gadwyn  
ar yr 28ain o Fai 2015.

Harry Edwards, Shemec Ltd., Eglwyseg  
fu'n gyfrifol am y gwaith adfer.

The Chain Bridge was Reopened  
On the 28th May 2015

Restoration work was carried out by  
Harry Edwards, Shemec Ltd., Eglwyseg

### Soil Buffers

The Council agreed to Councillor Pickett and Councillor Hughes' suggestion that soil-buffers be placed along a stretch of the Old Horseshoe Pass.

The buffers should stop vehicles from sliding over the edge of the road in icy conditions. The number of accidents which occur on this stretch of road increases every year. The Council therefore decided to act before a fatality happens.

Before it can progress, the project will have to be agreed to by Countryside Services and Natural Resources Wales.

The Graziers Association have already been contacted for permission to undertake the ~~groundwork, and the County Council's Chief Executive~~ has been made aware of the Community Council's intentions.

### Signage on the Horseshoe Pass

The Community Council has finally succeeded in getting a new 'Pentredŵr' road-sign on the Pass in the area of the Britannia Inn.

The old sign was far too small and

## **Retirement of a Long Standing Councillor**

### **Casual Vacancy**

In November 2015 the Council formally accepted the resignation of Councillor Ms Dianne Arnold. Councillor Ms Arnold had been a member of the Council for many years and will be sorely missed. Dianne moved to live in Oswestry following her retirement as a school-teacher. The Council sent her its best wishes for the future and thanked her for all she has done for the local community.

### **Casual Vacancy Filled**

The Council received two applications for membership of the Community Council, these being Mr Graham Taylor and Mr J. G. Evans (Shep). Both applicants had provided the Council with a CV, and following a vote by members, Mr Evans was duly elected and will

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## **Llantysilio Cemetery**

### **Cemetery / Churchyard Railings**

The Council's Chairman, Councillor Maggie Smith and the Clerk attended a site visit in October 2015 to ascertain what needs to be done to repair and replace the metal railings which sit atop a stone wall that divides the churchyard from the cemetery. These railings are in a sorry and dangerous state, with rusty barbed wire and broken metal fixed to the top of the wall. Also present at this meeting were David Shiel, AONB Officer, and Kerri Lloyd, AONB Sustainable Development Officer.

The outcome of this meeting proved favourable, with the Council being hopeful of obtaining grant-funding to get new railings made and installed. As the metalwork is very old, probably late Victorian, the Council intends that any replacement is sympathetic to the original design.

Although the cemetery is owned and maintained by the Community Council the churchyard and the dividing wall and railings belong to the Church, which has now given its permission for the Council to proceed with the grant funding project.

### **Cemetery Extension**

The plans to extend the cemetery is awaiting a response from the owners of Llantysilio Estate. Although an informal Agreement has been reached, the Council cannot move forward until it has received some costings from the Estate. The Community Council has

## Do we have a “Pillbox” on our Patch?

Yes, we do. It can be seen nestling into the mountainside on Bwlch yr Oernant on the Horseshoe Pass near Oernant Uchaf cottage. It was built there during the Second World War to protect the valley below. Made of concrete and steel, the floor, walls and roof are eighteen inches thick. The guns pointed out from the narrow slits which were aimed towards the Ponderosa on one side and towards Eglwyseg on the other.



*Pillbox on the Horseshoe Pass*

It is now used by sheep and lambs as shelter during out hot summer (joke) months.

### The History of the Pillbox

The humble, if ubiquitous, Pillbox is often the first example of a defensive work seen by many people. This is not surprising as over 18,000 were constructed across the British Isles to resist the Nazi invaders during Hitler’s proposed ‘Operation Sealion’, the planned German Invasion of England set for 1940.

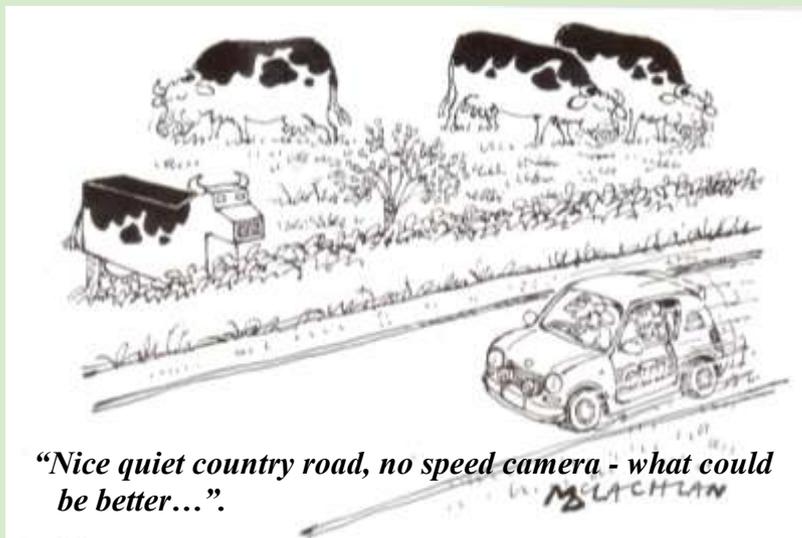
During May 1940, the branch of the Directorate of Fortifications and Works (FW3) at the War Office was set up under the Directorship of Major-General G.B.O. Taylor. Its purpose was to provide specific pillbox designs to be constructed throughout the countryside at defensive locations. June and July 1940 saw the FW3 branch issue 7 Basic Designs. However, often, once in the field, the local construction companies modified these under the direction of the area commands. Occasionally, a ‘one-off’ type was designed to the War Office standard by the Command and Corps Chief Engineers. This then is the fundamental basis for the thousands of pillboxes that we find littered across our present day landscape.

The use of common designs with standard sizes for doors, loopholes and flat sides made it easier to mass produce items for concrete shuttering and hence the speed of construction. However, with the general countrywide lack of material, it was often necessary to use bricks as the shuttering. This often fools the casual observer into believing that the whole

## Speeding Motorists Take the HUMP!

At 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday 21st October, Hogans Contractors from Bangor arrived in the village of Pentredŵr. They were there to install the five speed humps as part of the traffic calming scheme. By 11.30 a.m. the ground work had been done and the tarmac, (also from Bangor), arrived. By 12.30 a.m. the job was done.

First impressions are that there is far less traffic using this route and those that do are travelling at 10 - 15 m.p.h.. Thanks to all concerned. We have waited ten years for this to happen. The village would now seem to be a safer place to



*"Nice quiet country road, no speed camera - what could be better..."*

### A very, very hot night.

When I arrived in Pentredŵr on Saturday 7th of November I did not expect such a hot reception. Yes, Rhys and Co (all volunteers) you have done it again. The bonfire was so hot the catering staff, (all volunteers), thought about cooking the delicious hot dogs and beef-burgers on the ashes. The larger than usual crowd was due to a number of other fires in the area being cancelled.

As the magnificent fireworks were set off, I slipped away to my next assignment in Corwen. Don't worry though I will be back next year.



### Getting old is not for sissies!

I felt like my body was getting totally out of shape, so I went to the doctor's and got his permission to join a fitness club and start exercising.

I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down and perspired for an hour, but by the time I got my leotard on, the class was over.

## Conquering Hero Community Centre



Did you know that you have a fantastic community resource right here on your doorstep? The Conquering Hero, 100 years a pub or private residence was bought with the support of National Lottery funding in 1997 by Cymdeithas-y Cwm, whose trustees continue to maintain it for the benefit of the local community.

Cymdeithas-y-Cwm, ('People of the Valley'), was formed to bring the community together, in the dark days when both 'The Conq' and the Sun Inn were closed. Events such as the Village Fete, (held each August on the Post Office field), and a Christmas Party for the children and seniors of the community, (held originally in Bryntysilio Hall) were

### Meeting Room (pictured right )

We have a further separate smaller space which has a boardroom style table and can seat up to 12 people comfortably. This room is accessible directly from the outside. It has local artwork and photography adorning the walls and is a regular venue for the Community Council's



### Main Function Room (pictured left)

This is a stylish, multi functional space that can seat up to 60 people in a lecture style arrangement, or around 40 for dining events. We have fold-out tables and chairs for use in this room. There is a small separate 'bar area' which opens up into this room via a hatch or small bar.

### How do I book the 'Conq'?

You can ring our caretakers, Ben and Debbie on 01978 861282 or contact them by email at [theconq1120@gmail.com](mailto:theconq1120@gmail.com). You can also get in touch through our Facebook page: The Conquering Hero Rhewl

A Scotsman goes into a bar and asks the barman for a glass of whiskey. The barman serves him the whiskey and the Scotsman says “ Ah was nine tae six yesterrday...”

The barman looks at the Scotsman and says “Congratulations Jock, you’re looking really well – have this one on me.”

Jock begins to sip his whiskey and the barman shouts to his other customers “Hey folks, old Jock here was ninety-six yesterday.” Soon there are another half-a-dozen whiskeys lined up in front of Jock, having been donated by the rest of the clientele in the bar.



Jock steadily works his way through the assembled spirits and then finally says “Och well, Ah’d better be on ma way the noo. Thank ye all for your kind hospitality, but it really was nae necessary.”

The barman says “That’s alright Jock, it’s been a pleasure to treat you. Would you like a last one for the road?” Jock replies “Thank ye kindly but Ah’d better not. When Ah get

### Dust if you must...

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better  
To paint a picture or write a letter,  
Bake a cake or plant a seed,  
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust of you must. But there's not much time,  
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,  
Music to hear and books to read,  
Friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there,  
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain.  
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,  
Old age will come and it's not kind.

## [Early Schools in the Llangollen Area](#)

*As someone who attended Ysgol Dinas Brân in the late 1950's, early 1960's, I thought this might be of interest to others who went to school in the area. The article below is taken from the book, "A Centenary of Education", which was produced to celebrate the centenary of Ysgol Dinas Brân, 1895 - 1995.*

### **The National School**

The first National School in Llangollen was opened in 1839 in temporary premises at Ty-nywerglodd. The children were educated by the Vicar and Curate. In 1840 the Vicar, the Rev. Wynne-Eyton, erected a permanent building at the corner of Regent Street and Hand Drive, largely at his own expense, (a circular plaque commemorating the opening is to be seen on the West Wall of the Old Building facing the Hand Drive). The school was founded and maintained by grants from the National Society and through the generosity of local parishioners.

Work began in April 1871 on the extension to the National School. The Vicar held the view that the National School would be sufficient to serve the whole town once the extension was complete and, therefore, no proposed Rate Supported School would ever be required in Llangollen. The dedication stone was laid by Capt. Tottenham of Plas Berwyn on September 27th 1871. The inscription stated that, "these schools are erected by voluntary subscription for the furtherance of Religious, Moral and Intellectual Education of the children of the Parish".

In consequence, the National School Committee circulated a petition amongst the parish ratepayers stating that there was no deficiency of school accommodation in Llangollen, with the new National School extension providing for a further 300 pupils, and that it was regretted that the Llangollen School Board has applied for a loan to build a new Board School.

In December 1872 the Education Department rejected the School Board's request of a loan, stating that the condition of the current Board School, (Penllyn British School), was satisfactory. As for the National School extension, it was officially opened by Capt. Tottenham on October 17th 1873.

In addition, the Vicar and his parishioners were responsible for building St. Mary's School Chapel in Eglwyseg, which was opened on September 26th 1871, and St. David's School

## Early Schools - continued

### **The British School**

In 1840, in conjunction with the British Society, many local influential businessmen opened a fund to establish a British School in Llangollen. The chapels also donated generously, with a broad cross-section of the non-conformist community taking a considerable interest in educating the poor. They first opened a school in temporary premises on April 25th 1845 at Rehoboth Chapel. The foundation stone was laid in 1846 and the school opened up at its permanent site in Brook Street later in the year. The school was strictly nondenominational with children paying 1p on enrolment with a further 1p paid each week. Upon inspection in 1847 there were 222 pupils (122 boys and 100 girls) on the school roll.

This is the school to which Mary Thomas, of the nursery rhyme fame 'Mary Had a Little Lamb', walked from her home at Ty Isaf Farm, Llangollen Fechan. One day her pet lamb followed her to school and entered the room where Miss Coward was teaching, much to the amusement of the children.

### **The Rate-Supported School**

As Mr Gordon Sherratt states in 'A Hurried History of Llangollen', the Education Act of 1870 was designed 'to supplement the present voluntary system' of schooling which aimed to ensure that every child in England and Wales gained an education. The Act allowed churches to continue running their own school, but in districts where the churches had failed to establish 'efficient and suitable schools', local boards were established to build and run additional schools. Consequently, on December 16th 1873, in spite of opposition from supporters of the voluntary system, the British School in Llangollen was superseded by a rate-supported school; this was the end of the British School which had served the nonconformist community for almost thirty years.

A site was bought in 1874 at the corner of Greenfield Terrace and Parade Street where a new school building was erected at a cost of £1,489. The school opened on October 26th 1874 amidst much pomp and ceremony.

The School board was finally abolished under the 1902 Education Act and on May 31st of the same year the Board School came under the control of the Denbighshire Local Education Authority. The School remained a Council School until the 1944 Education Act when

## Llantysilio Community Council

### The Adopt a Kiosk Programme

The Council is investigating the possibility of utilising the four red K6 telephone kiosks which are situated in Rhewl, Llantysilio, Pentredŵr and Llandynan. Since the Adopt a Kiosk Programme was launched two years ago, more that 2,300 communities across the UK have taken the opportunity to do something useful with their local phone boxes.

As the four red telephone boxes in our area fall into the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the AONB Team are willing to work in partnership with the Community Council in developing a new use for the red telephone boxes.

In many areas across Wales they have already been adopted by community / town councils for uses such as: art galleries, defibrillator points, information points, lending libraries and fruit and vegetable exchange points.

Llantysilio Community Council has already had discussions with Sarah Jones, Natural Resources Officer, Cadwyn Clwyd and it is looking hopeful that, through the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, this project can be completed with grant funding from the Welsh Government and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

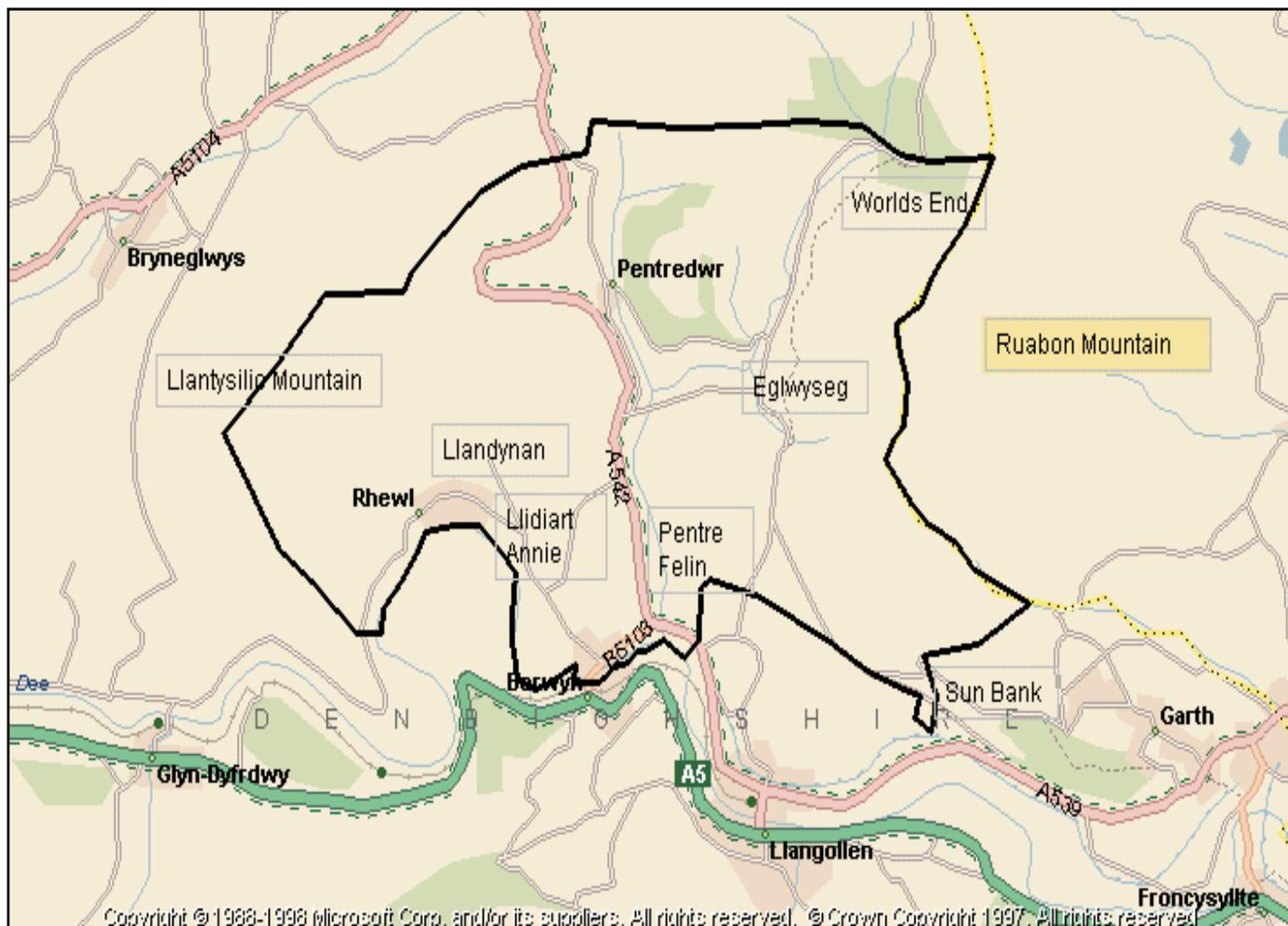
**The Community Council is asking for your input and ideas as to what you would like to see these four red telephone kiosks used for.**

**Removing them is not an option.**

**Safeguarding the boxes and putting them to good use is the best way forward. If you do have any ideas please contact one of the Councillors or the Clerk. (Contact details on the back page).**



## Area Map of Llantysilio Community Council



### CAN WE HELP YOU?

If you have any issues that you wish to put to the Community Council, listed below are the names of Councillors and the area which they cover. Contact details are on the pack page. Alternatively, you are welcome to contact Sandra Baker, Clerk to the Council who's contact details are also on the back page of this issue.

<b>Eglwyseg</b>	Councillor Mrs Maggie Smith Councillor Roger Cragg
<b>Llantysilio</b>	Councillor Mrs Rachel Horne Councillor J. G. Evans (Shep)
<b>Pentredŵr</b>	Councillor John Pickett Councillor Rhys Hughes
<b>Rhewl</b>	Councillor David Walton Councillor Arfon Jones

# Llantysilio Community Council

## World War One Centenary - The LMS Patriot Project

The Council is joining forces, through its membership of the Business Action Group, with Corwen Town Council and Llangollen Town Council in organising a memorial event for the Centenary of the end of World War One in 2018. A special committee has already been set up comprising of representatives from the three local authorities. The Community Council’s representatives are Councillor Rhys Hughes, Councillor Mrs Maggie Smith and Sandra Baker, Clerk to Llantysilio C.C.

Llangollen Railway will play the integral part in the event with the unveiling of the LMS Patriot, (The Unknown Warrior), which at present is being restored in the engine shed at Llangollen. After the Great War, three of the then Railway Companies named locomotives to honour the railway employees who had fought and died during the conflict. These were ‘Remembrance’, ‘Valour’, and ‘Patriot. The project to restore the Patriot was launched in April 2008 at the Llangollen Railway’s Spring Gala, when a fundraising campaign began.

Although there is a long way to go with the Centenary Project, some thoughts on the table at present are restoring the graffiti on the underpass at the Chain Bridge, refurbishing the War Memorial in Llangollen and organising an event in the Square at Corwen. The Rifle Range in Llantysilio played an important role during WW 1, as it is where troops were trained before leaving on the train from Berwyn to the battlefields in France. It is hoped to

incorpo-  
the Cen-  
ject in

rate this into  
tenary Pro-  
some way.



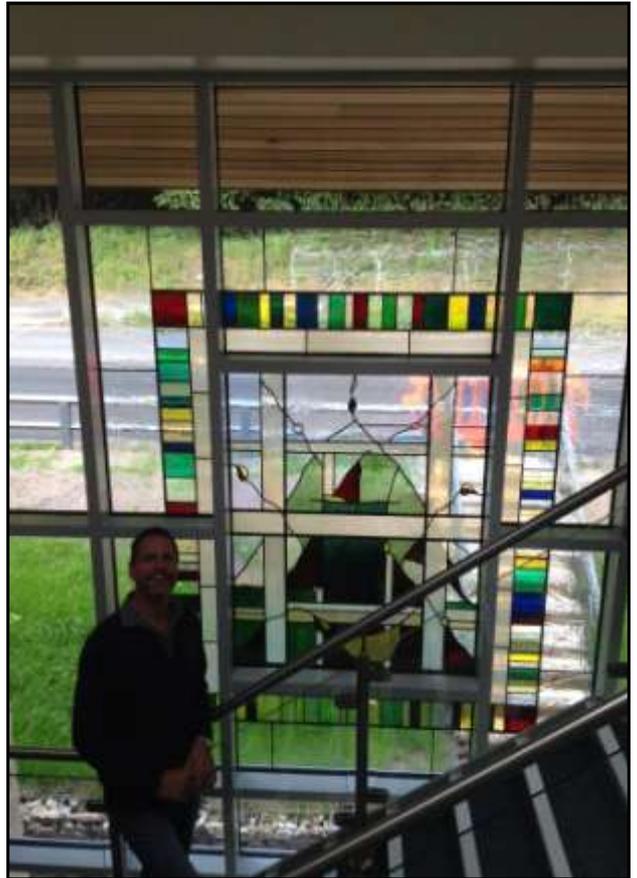
*dra*

*San-  
Baker*

*LMS Patriot - The Unknown Warrior*

Once the Trust contacted Chris she set about the challenge of moving the window to its new home, to also respect the source, roots and history of the window which has resonance for the people of Llangollen. The larger footprint created in the overall completed glazing allowed it to give proportional presence for viewers inside and outside the building.

It was lovely for my husband Patrick and my daughters to be able to see the window in its new home. I would like to thank Chris for dates and information on the window.



### Meg

Thought I'd update everyone on the antics of my adorable cocker-spaniel, Meg. She has now learned, don't know how, to barter! If you happen to be eating something she wants the bartering is really in earnest. She will offer you her most valued cuddly toy, and if that doesn't work another cuddly will appear. If neither of these works in her favour she will offer you her most prized possession - her ball!

I don't know if you have ever been goggle eyed by a cocker, but the pleading look is irresistible. You'd think we never ever fed her!

She absolutely loves our three year old granddaughter, Emily, because Emily likes to play tea-parties with real biscuits!

Meg, to her credit, will never snatch food from her and is so gentle with the little girl.

Meg has a character change on seeing a squirrel. They trespass on her garden and laugh at her from high up in trees. Apart from eating, her other pleasure in life is chasing squirrels!

Talking of squirrels, I thought you might find

