

LLANTYSILIO
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL



CYNGOR
CYMUNED
LLANTYSILIO

DATES OF MEETINGS - 2017

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

January	-	no meeting
February	6th	Conquering Hero Community Centre
March	6th	Pentredŵr Community Centre
April	3rd	Pentredŵr Community Centre
May	8th	Pentredŵr Community Centre (Annual Meeting)
June	5th	Pentredŵr Community Centre
July	3rd	Pentredŵr Community Centre
August	-	no meeting
September	4th	Conquering Hero Community Centre (Open Meeting)
October	2nd	Conquering Hero Community Centre
November	7th	Conquering Hero Community Centre
December	4th	Conquering Hero Community Centre

For further information contact the Clerk to the Council. Tel – 01978 861451

LLANTYSILIO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY CORNER

Issue 22



Spring 2017

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANTŷSILIO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A Vision for Eglwyseg

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Bob, Meg and
Fred!



A view of the Eglwyseg Rocks

Denbighshire County Council Countryside Services have started work on the Limestone Legacy Project in the area of Rock Farm on the Eglwyseg.

The aim of this project is to protect the roadside verges which are home to some of the rarest plants in the UK. There are currently nine roadside verges in Denbighshire which have been designated as of special interest and we are very please and honoured to have one of these nine area in our neck of the woods.

For more information see page 4.

Pentrefelin Slate Works and Tramway

The Pentre Felin Slate Works, (now the Motor Museum), was built around 1845 to process and ship, (by canal and later railway), slate slabs from the Moel y Faen and Clogau quarries situated on the Horseshoe Pass. The slate was brought down from the quarries on a tramway that used to run alongside the road at the base of Velvet Hill. The tramway crossed the road just north of Pentrefelin and ran over the Eglwyseg brook on a viaduct that can still be seen today. It then went back over the road and crossed the canal on a lift bridge to arrive at the state works.

Glenbrook Cottages were built as workers cottages for the slate works at around the same time. Prior to the building of the slate works the land was used as a tan-yard by Edward Hughes, who occupied Pentrefelin House. After the building closed in 1896 it operated as a rubber works, a fountain pen factory and a silica works for china stone before opening as a motor museum.

Llantysilio Community Council

In 2006 the Council was successful in its bid to obtain grant funding, through Cadwyn Clwyd, to retain this part of our heritage for future generation. The winding shed, situated on the Horseshoe Pass above the Britannia Inn, was stabilised using original nineteenth century building techniques. The path of the tramway was cleared and information signs were placed at the Motor Museum on the canal tow-path and along the route of the old tramway.

The project proved to be a huge success with both local people and visitors to the area. The Community Council is now looking into obtaining further grant funding to enable it to continue the project further down the valley.

The original plan was to focus on education, both for students and adults. The Council produced leaflets, (illustrated on the right), giving the history of the area and associated footpaths. These were specific to the quarries and Tramway which, in their time, employed a large part of the local population.

The leaflets, which have maps of the area and associated photos, can be found in the Llangollen TIC or by contacting the Clerk to the Council.

Sandra Baker



Going to bed the other night I noticed people in my shed stealing things.

I phoned the police but was told no one was in the area to help me. They said they would send someone over as soon as possible.

I hung up. A minute later I rang again. 'Hello,' I said, 'I called you a minute ago because there were people in my shed. You don't have to hurry now because I've shot them.'

Within minutes there were half a dozen police cars in the area, plus helicopters and an armed response unit. They caught the burglars re-handed.

One of the officers said: 'I thought you said you'd shot them.'

To which I replied; I thought you said there was no one available.'

Tony Gladstone

Mother's Day at Llangollen Wharf

**Horse Drawn Boat trips will be
operating on Mother's Day,
Sunday 18th March,
from 11.00 am every hour.**



**Our tearooms will be open for Mother's Day lunch
and also Welsh Cream Teas in the afternoon.**

www.horsedrawnboats.co.uk

Tel. 01978 860702

Answers to Quiz on page 11

1. 444. 2. Half way-then you are walking out. 3. Peacocks don't lay eggs-pea hens do. 4. Tuesday, Thursday-today and tomorrow. 5. You use glass. 6. It was Noah, not Moses. 7. The yolk of an egg is yellow. 8. Nine. 9. E-eight. 10. Friday. 11. An Adder. 12. Shell shock. 13. An egg. 14. Pepper. 15. Pork scratching. 16. Marge. 17. Slippers. 18. Mrs Bishop. 19. Veg-potato. 20. Watch dog.

Llantysilio Community Council

Playground at Llidiart Annie

The Council has given its full support to local residents who have formed a Committee to oversee the re-establishment of the children's playground in Llantysilio. The new play equipment will be provided by the County Council, with provision also being made to provide allotments.

New Projects

In 2006 the Community Council was successful in obtaining grant funding to stabilise the winding shed on the Horseshoe Pass and preserve the old quarry tramway. The Council is now looking into continuing with the tramway project with the original aim of preserving the industrial heritage of the area. There are still a number of dilapidated buildings along the route of the tramway which, if left as they are, will soon disappear from the landscape. With the help of Countryside Services the Council is hoping that further funding can be obtained to preserve these quarry buildings for future generations.

Defibrillator

The Council is considering the possibility of purchasing a defibrillator which will be sited in an area most used by residents and visitors.

It was agreed that more investigation was needed before this project could move forward.

Red Telephone Boxes

The transfer of ownership of the kiosk situated in Llandynan is now complete and the Council is looking into how it can best be utilised for public use.

The Community Council and DCC have succeeded in persuading BT to leave the kiosk opposite Vale Crucis Abbey and the caravan park in situ as a usable telephone box. Of the four kiosks originally on offer the one at Rhewl is listed, the kiosk in Pentredŵr is beyond repair and will soon be removed by BT, and the fourth at Llandynan has now been purchased by the Community Council for £1.00.

Cemetery Extension

The Council has agreed that the Llantysilio Estate's asking price of £25,000 for 0.3 acres of agricultural land is unrealistic, especially as the transaction is not an investment but a facility to serve the local community. It was therefore decided to respond to the Estate's letter accordingly.

Salt Bin

The salt-bin, which the Council sited in the area of the Church and Cemetery, is now useless as the lid has been vandalised allowing rain water to get into the bin. Cllr. Walton, who has been overseeing the replenishment of the salt into the bin, reported that it is being used as litter and dog-poo bin. The Council agreed that, as the salt-bin has now been rendered useless it should be removed..

Precept 2017-2018

At the Council's Meeting in December 2016 it was unanimously agreed to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation not to raise the Precept for the coming year. This decision was based on: a) over the past two years the income from burial fees has been sufficient to cover most of the financial outgoing involving the cemetery b) the Chain Bridge project is now complete and the Town Council has agreed to take over full ownership c) even with the cost of inflation the Budget is adequate to cover the financial running of the Council.

Highway Issues

A number of matters have been reported to the Council over the past months including the poor condition of the lower road in Pentredŵr. Any complaints to do with highways and footpaths is reported to the relevant department of DCC by the Clerk. When this is done a timeline is set in place to follow progress on addressing the issue.

Risk Assessments

The Council's Risk Assessment on its assets will be carried out in March 2017. These include the land and garage at Rhewl, cemetery, community seats, notice-boards and bus-shelters.

Council Presentation

At the Community Council Meeting on the 7th November 2016, a presentation was made by the Council to Mrs Sandra Baker (Clerk to the Council) in recognition of her hard work and dedication to the Chain Bridge Restoration Project.

Sandra was presented with a beautiful photograph of the bridge and its setting, (taken by Kim Price Evans and framed by Witzend Gallery).



Left Mrs Sandra Baker, Clerk to Llantysilio Community Council and right Chair to the Council Councillor Mrs Maggie Smith.

“Well I Never”

Tom, a young lad from Chester, moved to Rhewl and bought an old dog from a local farmer for £100. The farmer agreed to deliver the dog the next day.

The following day the farmer drove up and said ‘I’m sorry Tom, but the dog has died’.

Tom was very upset and said, ‘Just give me my money back’.

The farmer said ‘I can’t do that as I’ve spent it’.

Tom said to the farmer ‘Oh well, you’d better give me the dead dog then’.

The farmer, looking puzzled, asked ‘What are you going to do with a dead dog?’

Tom said ‘I’m going to raffle him off’. ‘You can’t raffle off a dead dog’, said the farmer.

‘Sure I can’, said Tom, ‘I just wont tell anyone he’s dead’.

Some time later the farmer saw Tom in the Sun Inn and asked what had happened with the dead dog. Tom replied ‘I sold 500 raffle tickets at £2.00 each and made a profit of £898’.

‘Didn’t anyone complain?’, asked the farmer.

‘Only the chap who won, so I gave him his £2.00 back’.

A. Nutter

Berwyn Station

Built for the convenience of local landowners in 1865, the station at Berwyn soon became a popular stop for holidaymakers and tourists to the Dee Valley, due to its close proximity to the Horseshoe Falls, Chain Bridge and associated hotel. However, in the 1950's the station building closed to the public and after the Ruabon to Barmouth railway line closed in the 1960's the station gradually fell into disrepair. Trains returned to Berwyn in 1985 thanks to the efforts of the Llangollen Railway and work has progressed in restoring the station back to its former glory.

Recently, efforts have been focussed on the former ticket office, with a replica wooden counter having been commissioned and installed last winter. Period fixtures and fittings have been painstakingly sourced from all over the U.K., so that the room now resembles how it would have looked in the early 1900's. In the restored waiting room, traditional oil lamps are in the process of being installed, to compliment the surviving large original fireplace.

Enjoy cream teas in the station tea room, explore the riverside walks or take a nostalgic trip along the preserved Llangollen Railway. Steam hauled trains depart from Berwyn towards Corwen at 10.48, 13.08 and 15.18, and towards Llangollen at 12.10, 14.30 and 16.40.

In the underpass to the Chain Bridge at the eastern end of Berwyn station there are poignant reminders of local sacrifice during the First World War. The white-glazed bricks that line the underpass seem to have taken pencil marks readily, with some of them still legible messages dating from 1914 to 1918.

One message is signed by R. Roberts in July 1914. Next to it and dated 25th December 1914, is written Lance Corporal R. Roberts—suggesting he had enlisted, been promoted and returned for Christmas leave. One message says “Berlin last stop”, another is signed “Balls from Belgium”. One is signed A. J. Candy—and Alfred James Candy is honoured on Llangollen's War Memorial (unveiled by Captain Best of Vivod on the 8th July 1923) as having fallen in action. Four out of eleven soldiers' names that have been researched appear on the war memorial.

As a mark of respect, a commemorative poppy wreath has been on display at Berwyn, along with an authentic GWR personnel stretcher from the period.

Peter Dickinson

Llangollen Railway volunteer, Berwyn Station

Community Corner

This Newsletter is published twice yearly in March and September. It takes a lot of time and effort, but the bulk of my time is spent trying to find articles to fill this small magazine. If you have anything of interest you wish to place in the Autumn edition please do contact me. My email address and telephone number are on the back page.

Many thanks
Sandra

The Sun Trevor Llangollen

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS

**Wednesday 8.30 start,
£2.00 per player**

Interval Picture Round

Delicious homemade chips at half time

EVERYONE WELCOME

Proceeds in aid of Nightingale House Hospice

Community Corner Quiz

1. What is twice half of 444?
2. How far can you walk into a forest?
3. Two farmers own adjoining fields. A peacock lays an egg between the two fields.
Who owns the egg?
4. Name four days of the week beginning with the letter 'T'
5. If you use red bricks to build a red house, and blue bricks to build a blue house,
what about a green house?
6. How many animals of each species did Moses take onto the Ark?
7. Which is correct... The yoke of an egg is white or... The yoke of an egg are white?
8. A farmer has seventeen sheep, all but nine die. How many has he left?
10. Which day of the week do fish hate the most?
11. What kind of snake knows his numbers?
12. What did Humpty Dumpty die of?
13. What do you call a chicken in a shell suit?
14. What stays hot no matter how cold it is?
15. What do you get if you cross a pig with a flea?
16. Name a lady that does not like butter?
17. Shoes made from banana skins?
18. Tow bishops in bed. Which one wore the nighty?
19. Is this a fruit or a veg... Pot 00000000?
20. What kind of a dog keeps the time?



(Answers are on the back page. No cheating now!)

Life of Cedar

This is the story of my Golden Retriever x Labrador who came to live with me last June.

I already have a sheepdog, Gem now aged nine, as well as three cats, hens, a Welsh mountain pony, (aged 24), and a castrated Welsh ram aged sixteen.

About ten months before I adopted Cedar I put in a request to Guide Dogs for the Blind to rehome a retired dog. You can also apply to adopt a pup, this will be one that has probably failed training for some reason albeit health or other.

I knew there were quite stringent questions and a visit involved and that there would be quite a waiting time. The dogs are always offered to the puppy walkers, and owners if there has been one, first. Then came a phone call from the rehoming lady based in Lancashire. Excitement! The dog had retired a year or two before and the owner kept him along with his new guide dog for some time. Unfortunately the owner required heart surgery and was unable to cope with two dogs, so Cedar was fostered temporarily in Deganwy.

Then came the home visit... I was nervous but the lady was lovely. Two of the stipulations are that you have a secure garden and that the dog will not be left alone for more than four hours. All was fine, and she met my other dog who is usually very good with other dogs and, as she is a bitch, and the retired dog was male, we felt that was good.

Then to wait for the actual day. I was warned that the dog was large, over 40kg., and suffered from arthritis and lipomas (benign fatty lumps, some had been removed).

Any existing ailments for which the dog had medication were paid for by the charity.

So he arrived! Yes, a big lad by the name of Cedar. Apparently each year has a letter for the puppies, his father and mother both owned by Guide Dogs Association. He has been no trouble at all since I had him, no lead required unless I take him to town, gets on with all animals, very loving and obedient, loves his food!!! And walks and people.

He is coming up to thirteen years old in May and we, as a family, cherish every minute we have with him. He has really earned his retirement, having worked all his life through puppy training and then his guiding.

I would recommend this route to anyone, and if you feel like putting a few bits of change into a collection tin to support this worthy cause I have two in Llangollen, one at Stan's and the other at Dee Valley produce.

Many thanks to them everyone who supports this worthy cause.

Ceinwen Ellis



Pictured is Cedar in the garden relaxing in his well earned retirement.

We are now heading in for the final works on the centre. The work funded by the National Lottery People and Places Fund has started. This comprises the building of a porch for the new disabled access and rationalising the doorways and lobby to the shower-room (completed 2 years ago) and store room. This work should be completed in the next few weeks and planning for the final works under this grant - the retaining wall renovations and tarmac of the driveway is taking place at the same time to get ready to do this work in the summer.

We received a small grant (£3,000) from Denbighshire TAP fund which has nicely filled the gap with work on the kitchen which had not been covered by other grants. We have had a new vinyl floor expertly fitted, are buying some new wall cupboards and will be having the room repaired and decorated. Once this is done there will be a call for volunteers to help fit the stainless steel kitchen units which were funded by our WREN grant.

The hall will then be operational in April with some final decorating over the late spring when we will again be calling for volunteers. It was really heart-warming when we had so many volunteers from the local community (and some not quite so local) when we did the external painting and finishing the internal works should be a lot less daunting. In fact, it will be a really rewarding effort as all the aspects of the internal renovations will then be brought together and the final look of the hall will be apparent to users old and new.

Finally, part of the People and Places grant is the modest funding of a worker to help run and market the centre activities for 3 years. We are currently drawing up specifications for this and details will be on our website at the end of February. We hope to finalise the recruitment in April so anyone interested should keep an eye out for this.

If anyone would like to express an interest in this in advance please do not hesitate to contact me to ensure you are notified when the position is available. This is easiest by email paul@pandyabbey.plus.com or by telephone if you are not online 01978 869299

Paul Coleman (Chairman)



Memories of the Women's Land Army 1942 to 1946

When I was 17 it was wartime and of the Women's Services I chose the Land Army. Living in the Cotswolds at the time it was a natural choice as I loved the countryside and way of life. The nearest place for joining the Women's Land Army was Gloucester in one of the offices at the Civic Hall. At that time many titled ladies were involved in war work and the interviewer for us 12 or so entrants was Lady Denman. I had no idea at the time of her involvement with the Women's Institute but she was very charming and I filled in the application form successfully. "What sort of agricultural work would you like to do?" "Oh, a bit of everything, so as to one day have my own small farm". What a sweeping statement for a naïve 17 year old!

So with uniform at the ready, I arrived at a small village called Coaley in Gloucestershire near Cam and Slimbridge, where Peter Scott had the Bird Life Foundation. Coaley was a lovely village, with two pubs, St. Bartholomew's Church and a Post Office. Mr and Mrs Brown, with whom I lodged, had a small holding and an Austin 7 which I loved to drive (double de-clutching up the gear box and down).

Betworthy Farm where I worked belonged to Mr and Mrs Hill who had mostly Red Poll cattle. These were called utility cows as they were good milkers and good for beef. (They did try to crossbreed them with Friesian bulls but it wasn't successful). They also had white faced Herefords and Short Horns. I used to get up about six o'clock, fetch the milking cows in – picking lovely field mushrooms for breakfast if they were in season - then helping to milk, having breakfast and delivering milk afterwards. Horses were used to "work" the fields – everything in its time – potato planting and lifting, hay making, harvesting and ploughing and always jobs repairing fences and so on.

I was very nervous working with the cart horse at first and my first attempt at putting the harness on became a local traditional farm joke "The silly beggar only tried to load old Molly forwards into the shafts instead of reversing her into them!" Molly looked very surprised too.

It was nice being billeted in a private house for my first job instead of in a hostel with a lot of girls who used to go off every day as a gang to work at different farms. I was privileged to have my own bedroom here. My wage at that time was 15/- a week. The uniform was free and the billet paid for by the farmer. There were no set hours you worked as was needed – often 12 hours a day.

Mr Hill had sheep in a field about four miles away at a village called Uley near Dursley where the famous Lister Engines were made.

We used these engines for the milking machines and other farm work. These sheep, I'm sure, were the most stupid and obstinate sheep a learner Land Girl ever had to chase. One would find a small hole in the hedge and of course they all helter skelter followed.

I didn't care much for pigs either - who tried to knock the bucket out of your hands. The sheep were brought back to the farm for dipping, shearing and lambing. Another, not so pleasant job was "threshing" particularly if it was clover. The dust was unbelievable. One task I loved was driving the one tractor up and down the fields.

Land Girls had strict food rations, cheese being the main item. Will you believe that Mrs Brown gave me cheese sandwiches for lunch every day I lived there? To start with



*Joan in her Land
Army days.*

the physical work was so hard to an untrained body that for two or three weeks when eating the evening meal my head would plop forwards onto the plate – fast asleep. Eventually Mrs Hill billeted me in their own farm house as she didn't think I was having enough to eat and of course I was on the spot in an emergency!

Social life was what you made it. I went to Church when possible and joined the choir. The local ladies organisation took part and helped in village fetes, concerts etc. There were also barn dances, extravagant harvest suppers and social evenings which American Airmen particularly enjoyed.

I moved on to a farm at Shurdington which is a few miles from Cheltenham. This was mostly dairy work but one interesting job was picking apples and pears for a cider press. A small horse walked round and round a stone ring with a trough to crush the fruit. Poor thing, I was pleased when they were able to modernise the procedure.

“Take this length of chain and measure around Parson's field “ the farmer told me. I laughed, thinking it was another Land Army joke, but no, Sam who came to do the hedge laying was paid by the number of chains measured around the field or lanes. Sam slept in barns, always moving on, relying on the farmer's wife for a good meal. He specialised in his work and I loved clearing the cuttings up, making a bonfire and always learning. Another specialised job was thatching. Again, Reg, a man who travelled carrying his working tools with him in a carpet bag. I tried to help him but the straw, when wet, easily cut your hands. It was safer to watch but I did learn how to make strips for thatching ricks.

After this I had a short spell at a village of Cranwell near Painswick. This was very intensive farming and I felt I was really learning the basic elements of living on the land. Sometimes Land Girls were loaned to farms at busy times and labour shortage. One such farm was at Quenington near Coln St Aldwyn near Fairford Aerodrome where I was in complete charge of the dairy and milking. I remember taking the pony and trap every morning with a huge churn of milk in the back with a tap and measuring jug so that customers either brought their own jug or I measured the milk and delivered it. Coming around the corner of a pretty village lane one day, an American Airman on his bicycle stopped quickly and took a photo. I often wonder what happened to that photo, did it eventually arrive in America?

My mother had not been well so I asked for a transfer to Middlesex to be near her. This was a different type of farming. The owner, Mr Foster, bred and showed pedigree Angus cattle but because of wartime regulations, he had to plough a certain acreage. So his way out was to employ a Land Girl to do the field work. His farm and land adjoined Northolt aerodrome and he sold some of his land to extend the aerodrome. This was the aerodrome that was used exclusively by Winston Churchill and visiting Heads of State so, when there was a 'scramble' we knew it was an important flight.

Mr Foster had a bachelor brother who also farmed pedigree cattle. He had sold some of his land to Denham Studios where the English films were then made. He took a 'shine to me' – was that the expression then? – and I often helped out at his farm. He begged me to marry him but I thought him very old (probably about 50 at the time) and declined – but he was an honourable gentleman and I enjoyed our friendship. No flowers or chocolates for birthdays or Christmas. He would say “Peggy – or whoever - is in calf, you can have the calf when it's born”. So I would pay towards its keep and fodder, and when it went to market the selling price was my gift – remembering they were sold as calves not full grown milking cows. Unusual present?

(Conclusion on page 13)

Roadside Nature Reserve

From unmanaged scrubland into flower rich limestone grassland, that's the vision for an important road verge nestled in the shadow of the Eglwyseg Escarpment, opening up key views of these impressive limestone cliffs which tower over part of the Offa's Dyke Path running below.

Some roadside verges are home to many of the rarest plant species in the UK. In Denbighshire, there are currently 9 Roadside Nature Reserves that have been designated on account of the rich and uncommon plant communities that they contain.

Much clearance work was carried out at one of our Roadside Nature Reserves over the winter as part of Limestone Legacy, a project aiming to restore limestone habitats across the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB in order to protect these areas rich in geodiversity, biodiversity and industrial heritage. By removing the encroaching scrub, we hope to enhance this limestone grassland to its former glory.

By the time the first Early Purple Orchids will have come into bloom, each scratch and splinter will have gone and the seemingly thankless task of wrestling Hawthorn and hauling Holly will give its just reward (a lifetime of bad luck notwithstanding).

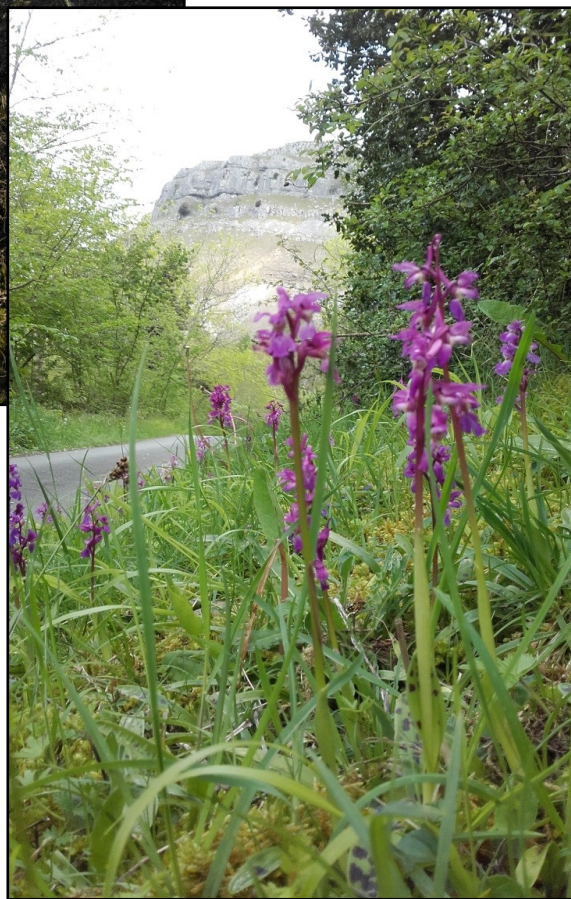
For those interested there will be a guided walk on the 1st June 2017, where we will be identifying all the different wildflower species onsite. There will also be the option to help conserve the area by clearing invasive undesirable species, such as bramble and bracken, to allow limestone loving plants the chance to set seed and spread.

For more information please contact Aron on 01824 712791



Opening up key views of Creigiau Eglwyseg along the Offa's Dyke National Trail and providing a suitable environment for rare wildflowers to flourish.

Impressive display of Early Purple Orchids but restricted to the 1 meter swathe of the annual Highway's cut. This area has now been cleared of scrub in order to allow wildflowers such as these to spread.



Aron Roberts

*Trainee Countryside Warden
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB*

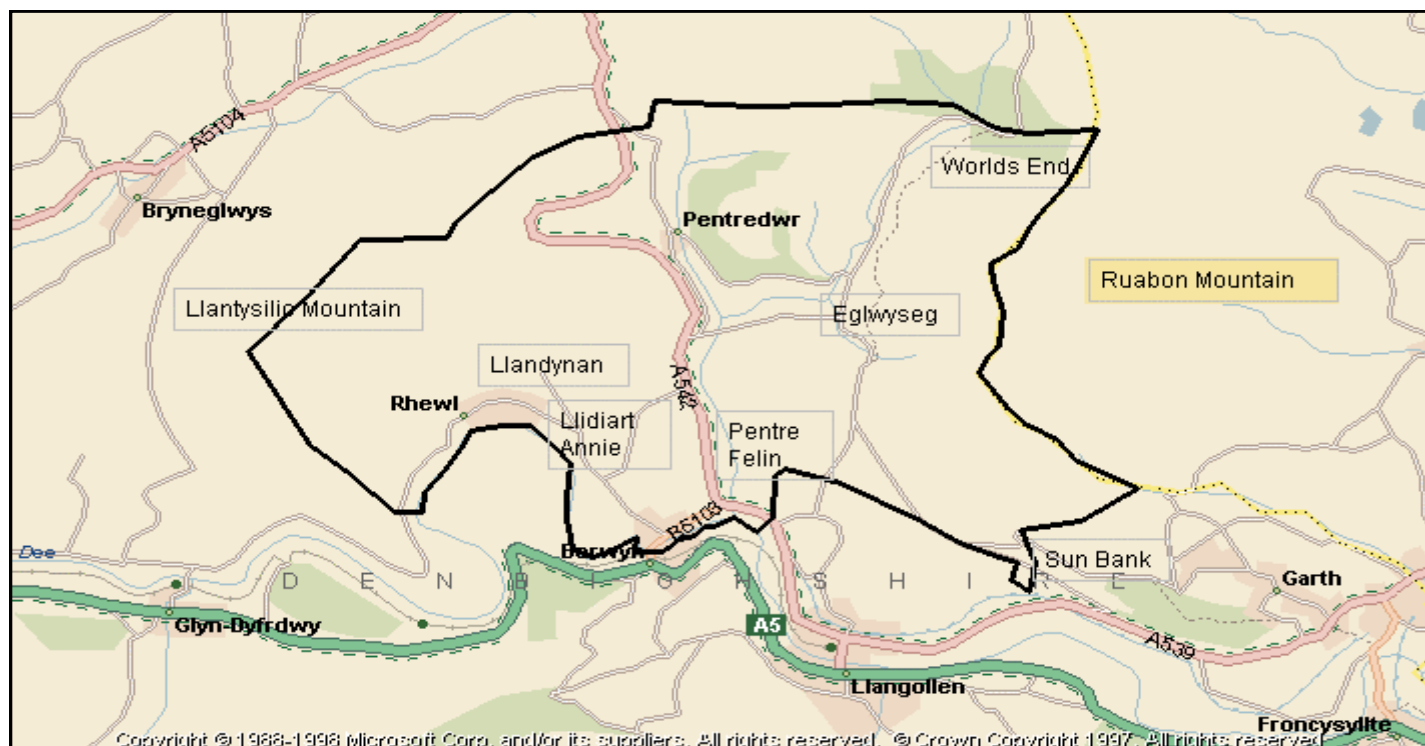
Memories of a Land Girl - conclusion

Mr Foster had fields alongside the railway line. This was the Piccadilly Line from Uxbridge to Ealing Broadway. I was alone in this huge field, stooking – putting sheaves of corn into stooks ready for the combine harvester to pick up. It was a momentous time as the radio had just announced it was VJ day. Late afternoon the trains started going to London to celebrate Victory – everyone singing and dancing and waving to me. I felt so forlorn and there were probably a few tears of self-pity. But the field had to be finished. It all turned out happily as when I got home a friend was there saying “Come on, have a quick meal and a change of clothes – we’re going to Trafalgar Square”. So I was part of the happy, singing and dancing throng and the crowds stayed till morning.

War finished and after a while the Land Army was disbanded. We gave back our uniforms and received a thank you certificate. I never did realise my dream of a small holding. My sister – a WAAF – was married to a gentleman from the Jenny Jones Inn in Llangollen. His brother was serving in the Air Force. We met up at my parents’ home in Harrow and – as they say – that was that. We married in 1948 and came to live in Llangollen.

Joan Fell

Llantysilio Community Council Area Map



Dee Valley Policing Team

PS 2143 Martin Jones

martin.jones2@nthwales.pnn.uk

PCSO 2637 Delia Bellis

Delia.Bellis@nthwales.pnn.uk

PCSO 3474 Aimie Clayton

Aimie.Clayton@nthwales.pnn.uk

PCSO 2914 Ceri Evans

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PCSO 2889 Karl Joseph

Karl.joseph@nthwales.pnn.uk

Facebook: - Dee Valley Police Team - please support the page / share

Emergencies / crime in progress dial 999

Non-emergency dial 101



Bob, Meg and the Little Grey Fergie (Fred)

In 2001 Bob acquired a working Beardie Collie pup from a local farmer in Pentredŵr. When he first saw the pup he had his three grandsons with him, and each were allowed to hold a puppy from the litter, but Bob had already set his heart on the pup he wanted. At that time the pups were only two days old and too young to leave their mother, who was very protective of her babies.

The family called each week to see how the pups were doing. At eight weeks of age Ceinwen, Bob's wife, finally introduced the pup to her new home at Llantysilio Farm Cottage and the family named her Meg. Over the years Bob and Meg walked every footpath and tract in the area.

When Bob retired he bought a little Grey Fergie tractor to help him with his part-time job, keeping local gardens tidy. He named the tractor 'Fred'. It had a transport box on the back to carry his tools with enough room for Meg to sit nearest to Bob.

Meg went everywhere with the family, and always accompanied them on holidays to Barmouth, and the Llyn Peninsular. (She loved the sea and sand). It was never necessary to lock the car with Meg on guard.

One day Bob was working at a local garden. At 4 pm Bob set off home. Later Ceinwen asked where Meg was as she was not around. Bob returned in the car only to find Meg still sitting on the lawn. Bob had forgotten to tell her to get in the box.

One evening Bob was trimming the hedge when Meg dashed in and got her tail caught in the trimmer. There was blood everywhere. Try as they may they could not stop the bleeding so off to Dee Valley Vets at 10 pm they went. The wound was soon sorted and quickly healed.

Meg loved to play with a football. If the ball was kicked to her she would head it back with her head. Her record is 110 returns none stop. One summer afternoon Bob was working in a garden in Wern Road. At 4 pm Fred is ready for home but hold on...there is no sign of Meg! Frantically calling, whistling and shouting did not seem to be doing any good. By then the neighbours had joined in the search. Bob feared she may have been stolen, as beardies are very expensive and can easily be coaxed into a car. Bob and Fred went home minus Meg and broke the news to Ceinwen. Together they returned by car to resume the search. As dusk fell they returned home distraught, still no sign of Meg.

Later that evening Helen Evans, a resident of Wern Road, was just arriving home from walking her dog when she heard whimpering sounds coming from a nearby manhole. She had to wait until her husband arrived home to remove the heavy manhole cover and on investigation found Meg, very distraught but otherwise unharmed. It seemed the manhole had a faulty cover which had flipped over and trapped the dog. Luckily Helen recognised Meg and very soon Bob, Meg and Fred were happily reunited.

Meg now lies peacefully in the cottage garden where she spent all of her interesting life. Many photos of Meg adorn the house. I once asked Bob if he was ever tempted to take a cash offer for Meg. The answer was a categorical 'NO'.

John Pickett

Chain Bridge

The Council has had an extremely busy year, what with the completion of the Chain Bridge - which has proved to be a huge success with both residents and visitors. Sadly, after much deliberation, the Council has asked Llangollen Town Council to take over full ownership now that the project is complete. The reason for this being the future financial output necessary to maintain and insure the structure which would be a big financial burden on a council with a limited Precept. The Town Council has agreed to this request and legal procedures are now in place to formally hand over the bridge.

Motorbikes on the Horseshoe Pass

The Council has dealt with many issues affecting the locality over the past twelve months with one of the main complaints from residents being the number of motorbikes using the Horseshoe Pass. The noise, specifically at weekends, and speed at which these vehicles travel is serious cause for concern in this area and in Llangollen. The Council has met with a police representative who agreed to look into how to alleviate the situation, but the proof of how successful this has been will no doubt be seen in the coming summer months.

Community Problems

These cover many items and include reports of blocked water culverts, speeding motor vehicles, overgrown hedges and grass verges, pot-holes etc. The list is endless. Thankfully, when reported to DCC many of these problems are quickly dealt with, although the poor conditions of many roads in the vicinity are up for review in the County Council's new financial year, so we will have to wait a bit longer before seeing an improvement to our local roads.

Planning Application

The Council has dealt with a large number of Applications this year, some small, some quite large, though, thankfully, nothing controversial. Community and Town Councils are first to give their recommendations on all planning application, although the final decision is taken by the County Council.

Speeding Signs

At the Council's Meeting in November 2016 it was agreed to place two 'playground' signs in the vicinity of Llidiart Annie which, it is hoped, will deter vehicles from speeding in that area. Residents of Llidiart Annie were also present at the Meeting to give their views to members of the Council.

Weight Restriction on King's Bridge

The Council has been informed by DCC that it is considering imposing an 18 Tonne weight restriction to King's Bridge, Berwyn. The imposition of the weight restriction should assist in reducing the rate of deterioration of the bridge, which is suffering from several structural defects. It is though that the existing length and height restrictions that are already in place should lessen the impact upon the local community. The Community Council was asked to give its comments regarding this proposal.

Sandra Baker