



**BRYN  
A NICE  
PLACE TO  
BE**

# NEWSLETTER

## BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

[www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk/Home](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk/Home)

*Designed by Allan Jones, Edited by Suzanna Easton*



**BRYN  
LLE  
DEDWYDD I  
FOD**

Issue 14: Jan 2012

### Remembrance for Justin

A remembrance day was held at Bryn Primary School to remember Justin Jiang, who passed away just before Christmas and whose family have touched the hearts of the villagers in Bryn. There was a service held in the hall of the school where the children gave their memories of Justin and the children released balloons. A tree was then planted by his parents alongside a chair in his honour. Justin will never be forgotten.



Justin's parents and his little brother Evan, are pictured above in front of the memorial seat.

BRAG would like to extend their condolences to the family of Justin, and hope they can draw strength from the overwhelming support they have received and continue to receive from the village.

### Quiz nights

Quiz nights are held at the Royal Oak monthly to raise money for worthy causes. These are proving very popular with residents of all ages. Watch out for notices around the village and on the village website for future dates. A quiz night, shown in the photo below, and other village

events raised money to help Justin's family with funeral expenses.



### Wagons in Bryn

The planning for further wagons past the school has been rejected as there is an alternative means of access available via private roads. This should make the road past the school much safer to use now.

### Beast of Bryn

The Beast of Bryn (Bwystfil y Bryn) will be sponsored by Tata, the Coop and many other local businesses this year. The planning for this is now under way. The event will take place on the 16th June. Please watch out in future editions for more information. Anyone wishing to help with this year's event please contact a member of the BRAG committee.

### Walks around the Bryn area

Graham recently attended a Walk Leaders Course and, using his new skills, organised the first BRAG guided walk, highlighting some of the historic sites around Bryn. The walkers thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are now looking forward to similar events in the future. These will be advertised around the Village and on the Web Site in the hope that we can encourage many more of you to participate.



The above picture shows some of the walkers on the hills above Bryn. The picture below shows Graham pointing out the entrance to an old mine ventilation shaft.



### Bryn Village Website

Have you looked at the website lately? This is constantly being updated by Peter Phillips with information provided by the village. The "What's on" section shows planned events in and around the village including the Village Hall, the Rugby club and much more. The sections on the history of Bryn are being added to all the time. There are also links to other useful information such as the preparations for this year's Beast of Bryn, Wiki entries, local sites such as local government, police, school, etc. Please take time to check out the site and any contributions are always welcome.

### The Bryn Christmas Evening

The evening included all aspects of Christmas celebrations, starting with a

visit by Santa, who toured many of the streets of Bryn to the sound of Christmas music. His elves handed out sweets to the children, who came running out of their homes to meet him. Many then followed him round the village and back to the village hall. Santa then spent further time with the children who visited him in his Grotto. They were able to share their Christmas wishes with Santa and all received a Christmas present from him.



The above picture shows Santa and one of his Elves at the Christmas panto. However Santa's Elves were not the only ones to have their photos taken. If you had yours taken and would like to have this photo please contact Graham Rowland or the School to obtain your photo.

The Panto was performed by Pyramid productions from Bristol. It was based



on the traditional Peter Pan story line but with some modern aspects that helped in connecting with today's Internet and music aware children. The Peter Pan pantomime brought all the fun of a panto to the heart of the village. The grown-ups were also not forgotten as they were entertained with songs by the Cwmavon men's choir before the start of the Panto. The evening was laid on by BRAG using funding from the Community Cohesion Fund.

### Tip clearing

The photo below shows members of BRAG along with the local council clearing gorse bushes and various other items from the tip to help generate new plant life. All the work has been supervised by the Bio-Diversity Unit from our local council.



### Bowls

The Bryn Bowls Club would like all to know that the new season starts on the 18th of April and that if anyone would like to join they will be more than welcome. They are also very keen to establish a youth section and have been provided with some sets of smaller bowls via the councillors to help younger members get started.

### Picnic area

Funding for the picnic area is now in place and a lot of people have been involved in trying to get this project off the ground. The photo below shows that work has finally started. BRAG has also secured donations from Tata and other local businesses to build a memorial on this site in remembrance of the miners who were killed and badly injured in the local mines.



BRAG is currently raising funds to pay for the planning permissions required to erect this monument.

### Commemorative Wall

Below is one stone in the commemorative wall being built to record the history of the village.



This stone points the way to Port Talbot via the old railway line. It also shows the miners pick, boxing gloves, the drovers and the hill (Bryn). Other stones in the wall will show other aspects of the history of Bryn. This wall replaces a falling down old fence.

### Surgery with the Councillors

BRAG wish to remind Bryn residents that a surgery is held with the ward councillors on the morning of the second Saturday of every month. This provides you the opportunity to inform the Councillors what you would like to see done in the ward. BRAG facilitates the meeting but it is your meeting not BRAG's. The Councillors discuss these issues with you and take actions to progress your concerns. They will be circulating a flyer this month outlining some of their activities in the ward. They also report at these surgeries on activities taking place that they feel may be of relevance to Bryn. The minutes of these meetings are posted on the notice board outside the village hall and on the village web site.

### Cementing Support for BRAG

Steve Easton has an old electric cement mixer which he has offered to loan to residents of Bryn in exchange for donations to BRAG. Contact Suzanna on the address below if you have such a need.

**Anyone with articles, news or anything interesting please do not hesitate to contact me: [suzanna.easton1@gmail.com](mailto:suzanna.easton1@gmail.com) we love to hear from people in our community.**





**BRYN  
A NICE  
PLACE TO  
BE**

# NEWSLETTER

## BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

[www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk/Home](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk/Home)

*Designed by Allan Jones, Edited by Suzanna Easton*



**BRYN  
LLE  
DEDWYDD I  
FOD**

Issue 15: Apr 2012

### Bwystfil y Bryn

Last year the Bryn Beast (Bwystfil y Bryn) was enjoyed by far more than just the runners despite the terrible weather. Bryn will once again be hosting this event on the 16th June. Plans for the race are advancing rapidly, the children's rides have been booked and the number of people applying to run the Bryn beast is higher than at this time last year. The race has been promoted at a number of other races including the Richard Burton, the Llanelli marathon and will be promoted at the Cardiff Bay 5. Lowri Morgan the famous ultra-distance runner has already booked her place to run again this year. S4C have also confirmed they will be filming the race again this year.

### Air ambulance

Martin Fitzpatrick would like to thank everyone who attended the Wales Air Ambulance fund raising weekend at Bryn Rugby & Social club. Another excellent Friday night kicked off with the amazing local band 'GOING POSTAL' and a brilliant time was had by all who attended.

Sunday's fund raising bike ride from Tonmawr to Bryn RFC was attended by over 35 riders, including our hardy Rugby boys, with some cycling in fancy dress. Everyone successfully made it back to the club safely and enjoyed a few light refreshments in the afternoon. We are already planning next year's route.....

The quiz in the evening was provided by Glan Phillips, rounding off another successful Charity Fund raising weekend, well supported by the people of Bryn. The final total raised was £600.00, an amazing amount for a small village over 2 days. There are far too many people to mention, but a special thanks to Eddie Adams for

transporting all the bikes to Tonmawr, without whom the bike ride could not take place, Barry Warren for his help in organising the course, the Families who took part and rode together, Sandra & Jennifer for selling the raffle tickets and to everyone who kindly donated prizes, even though they could not attend the events, the Rugby boys, Junior members of the club, and to everyone who gave up their time and money to support and make this event so successful.

Little did we know a week later a member of the Bryn Rugby Team would require the services of the Air Ambulance at the Bryn rugby ground to airlift him to Cardiff Hospital, thankfully he has now been discharged and is recovering....



### Owen Jones

At the Bryn Historical memorabilia evening on the 29th March in the Village Hall, one of the many visitors

brought along a letter and asked about an Owen Jones, born in Bryn. At the time of asking no one at the event knew anything about this person but after some initial investigations it quickly became apparent that Owen Jones had been a very talented actor who could have been more of a household name than Richard Burton had fate not been against him.

The Bryn Historical Society and the Bryn Residents Action Group would like to name a section of road, where new builds are now taking place, after this actor from our village. Owen Jones was coached by Philip Burton prior to the discovery of Richard Burton and if Owen had not died of an injury during the Second World War, Richard Burton, as an actor, may not have existed. This finding was widely reported in the media, with BBC Wales, BBC Radio, Western Mail and the local Evening Post all running extensive articles on the story. It was felt that Owen's name should be remembered in his village of birth the same as Richard Burton's name is remembered in Pontrhydyfen. Owen Jones had acted alongside such great names as Sir Laurence Olivier so plans are now in motion for this to happen.

BRAG has already named a hill in Bryn after another local hero, Billy Beynon. Billy Beynon's hill is becoming very well-known landmark by all the runners of the Bryn Beast.

These pictures over the page show some of the many visitors at the memorabilia evening sharing their stories and photos with members of the Bryn Historical Society. The information acquired this evening will all help the society in researching the history of the Bryn area.



Visitors taking a close look at just some of the material on display on the evening.



Sorting and scanning the many photos brought along on the evening.

### Picnic area

The picnic benches, opposite the Royal Oak, have now been completed. Information boards will soon be put up and there is still some landscaping left to be done by the council. Please do go over and check the area out.

### What's on?

Check out our "what's on" page on the village web site. There is always lots of information to hand and now both the Bryn Rugby club and the Royal Oak are now posting their events on this site.

### The darkest day

Parts of the upcoming film "The darkest day" were filmed near the Goytre.



Steve Easton and Paul Bulmer had seen the actors making the production

in the woods by Libbey's stables while on their way home from work along the Goytre road.

### Local shop

The local shop is now under new management and the opening hours of the shop have also changed. The shop has a new, much better layout and is always very well stocked. As a village we need to support our local businesses.

### Broadband in Bryn

No broadband or slow broadband? Need to increase your broadband speed? As part of a Welsh Government initiative to bring "high speed broadband" to all parts of Wales, there is an opportunity to claim £1000 per household where the download speed of current broadband is shown to be less than 2Mbyte. This money is only available for the purpose of providing an alternative broadband infrastructure to the village. If sufficient initial interest is shown, a provisional examination for the introduction of "high speed broadband" can be made. If you are interested you can help BRAG move the process forward by providing the following information:

Name, Address including post-code, Contact telephone number and Email address.

If you can forward these details either to a member of the BRAG committee or register them on the Bryn web site, then if there is sufficient support, a village meeting will be organised to examine the options available to make fast broadband in Bryn a reality.

### Surgery with the Councillors

During the run up to local elections the Councillors are not allowed to hold surgery which is why the last one was in March. These are expected to resume again on the second Saturday of each month following the elections.

If you have any concerns about the services you receive from your Council, such as the state of the roads, litter, village facilities or any other issues then do come along to the surgery meetings and express your views. The minutes of past meeting

are always displayed on the notice board outside of the Community Centre as well as a full set being available on the Bryn web site.

### Bryn Guided Walks

Watch out for the posters around the village with details of future walks.

### Additions to the Village web site

Our web master is continually adding to the information on the Bryn web site. The section on "Bryn Past and Present" continues to build on the history of the area and the "What on" section provides details of events coming up in the area. This includes activities at the Royal Oak and the Bryn Rugby Club as well as local events such as the Maesteg Tapas Festival running from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May. Peter is always keen to add information from visitors to the site so do feel free to contribute.

### Quiz Nights

The quiz nights have continued each month at the Royal Oak, raising money for good causes. The next quiz is 4<sup>th</sup> May to help Kieran Heycock continue his very successful competition in the Transplant Games. The quiz is just £1 per person and starts at 8pm.

### Bryn Heritage society

The society has delivered many interesting presentations over this last session including "Voices from the Llynfi Valley", "The Iron Industry in the Maesteg District in the 1800's", "Local Mines" and many more. Dafydd Bowen is now planning the next session should you have any suggestions for him.

### Cementing Support for BRAG

Steve Easton has an old electric cement mixer which he has offered to loan to residents of Bryn in exchange for donations to BRAG. Contact Suzanna on the address below if you have such a need.

**Anyone with articles, news or anything interesting please do not hesitate to contact me: [suzanna.easton1@gmail.com](mailto:suzanna.easton1@gmail.com) we love to hear from people in our community.**





# BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

BRYN: A NICE PLACE TO BE / BRYN: LLE DEDWYDD I FOD

Issue #016 June 2012

## Welcome...



Hello, croeso, and welcome to the latest issue of the BRAG Newsletter.

As you may have noticed, June has become the busiest month in the Bryn calendar, thanks to the now annual Bwystfil Y Bryn race, and 2012 is no exception. You will find all of the information that you need to enjoy the day, and much more, within this newsletter.

This issue also marks my first as editor, after being handed the baton from Suzanna Easton. For the past year and a half Sue has worked tirelessly to keep the people of Bryn, and the surrounding areas, abreast of all local news and developments. We wish her well in her even more demanding role of raising a family – good luck!

Enjoy the Beast (even if it's only from the sidelines!), feel free to get in touch, until next time...

### Mark

markreesbrag@gmail.com



Bwystfil Y Bryn: Runners competing in last years race



## The Beast is Back!

The wait is nearly over, as the most eagerly anticipated date in the Bryn calendar approaches. The Beast returns on Saturday June 16... are you ready?

### SCHEDULE

**9.00 - Registration** starts in the community centre. Snacks and refreshments will be available.

**12.30 - Briefing** for the run begins, opposite the Royal Oak.

**13:30 Family Fun Run starts**

**14.00 - START!**  
The two main runs begin.

**14.30 until late - Festivities**  
Entertainment and presentations will take place in a large marquee at the rugby field, which will include a bar and stage. Refreshments will also be available from the Royal Oak and the Rugby Club. There will be live music throughout the day and night, including the Maesteg Gleemen.

Bwystfil Y Bryn (Beast of Bryn), the annual race named after the now legendary big cat sightings in the area, returns once more to test the fitness and stamina of those brave enough to attempt it.

The day will consist of three races: a 2k family fun run, a 6.8-mile race and, for the really adventurous, the 15-mile Beast itself.

Promising to be a fantastic family day out, with food, ice-cream, drinks and much more available, as well as a whole host of entertainment, including: hamster balls, water walkers, mini quad bikes, a gladiator arena with fat suits, Bucking Bronco, face painters, a children's bouncy castle... and an adults bouncy castle, too!

The media will in town to capture the excitement, including S4C, the South Wales Evening Post and Swansea Life, so come along and join in the fun!

**Bwystfil Y Bryn, June 16, 2012**



## BRYN ONLINE

Visit the website for the latest news:  
[www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk)

# GET IN TOUCH!

Email the editor: [markreesbrag@gmail.com](mailto:markreesbrag@gmail.com)  
Visit the website: [www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk)





# BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER



**Looking back:** The Mayor presents some of the prizes at last years Bwystfil Y Bryn, including these spectacular bikes.

## Slow Internet? Act NOW to claim £1000!



£1000 per household is on offer from the government... but time is running out to claim it!

Last month we ran an article on obtaining funding to improve the village broadband service. As part of a Welsh Government initiative to bring high speed broadband to all parts of Wales, the offer is open to households that have a download speed of less than 2MB.

Please get in touch with a member of BRAG, or visit the village website, for more details.

## Remembering Justin

Justin Jiang, the 5-year-old boy who tragically died of a brain tumour just before Christmas last year, will be remembered in more ways than one this month.

Dafydd Bowen and the local school children have been busy

working hard to create a beautiful new garden in his memory at Bryn Primary School.

And Justin will also be remembered at the Bwystfil Y Bryn, where part of the route has been named Justin's Way.

## Well done Marian!



Bryn and Cwmavon councillor Marian Lewis has become Port Talbot's deputy mayor following a unanimous election at a full council meeting.

Cllr Lewis was sworn in at a ceremony at the Princess Royal Theatre last month, along with Longford councillor Martyn Peters, who became the first Plaid Cymru mayor of Port Talbot.

## Picnic boards

New information boards have been added to the picnic site in Bryn. This fantastic new facility will be particularly useful on race day.

## Gone fishing

Coaching sessions are now available for any budding fishermen out there from 10am until 3pm on the following dates:

- July 28
- August 4
- August 11

Contact Steve for more:  
**steve.easton1@gmail.com**



## Stop it and tidy up

With all eyes firmly trained on us for the upcoming Bwystfil Y Bryn, it is important that the village looks its best.



As such, the local ward councillors have committed to work with the council in order to prioritise the completion of any outstanding work and maintenance, such as grass cutting and litter picking.

And we can all play our part in ensuring we keep the village tidy, and the possibility of a voluntary litter pick is being organised. Please get in touch if you would like to help.

# GET IN TOUCH!

Email the editor: [markreesbrag@gmail.com](mailto:markreesbrag@gmail.com)  
Visit the website: [www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk)





# BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

BRYN: A NICE PLACE TO BE / BRYN: LLE DEDWYDD I FOD Issue #017 August 2012

## Welcome...



Now that the dust has settled on the second annual Beast of Bryn,

we can reflect on what was a marvellous, if not a little damp, event that will live long in the memory.

The sight of hundreds of people gathered outside the Royal Oak, all soaked to the bone and waiting to race, really drove home just how important the occasion is to so many. Let's start counting down the days until next year's – and pray for some sunshine in 2013!

Looking ahead, there's a fantastic weekend of bank holiday entertainment lined-up at the Bryn Rugby Club, and all to raise money for a great cause, Cancer Research Wales – turn over for more.

And the proposed campaign to supply a faster broadband service to Bryn is picking up steam as well, with an imminent village meeting being organised to discuss things further – watch this space.

Keep in touch, pop along to the Bryn Club over the bank holiday, and be sure to check out our website for all the latest: [www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk)

Until next time...

*Mark*

[markreesbrag@gmail.com](mailto:markreesbrag@gmail.com)



## A day to remember!

### WINNERS

#### MEN'S RACE:

**Winner: Gareth Ayres (Port Talbot)**

**2nd place:** Matthew Reynolds (unattached)

**3rd place:** Andrew Wright (Port Talbot)

#### WOMEN'S RACE:

**Winner: Tammy Lewis Jones (Eryri)**

**2nd place:** Sandra Pinkham (Port Talbot)

**3rd place:** Meinir Jones (unattached)

#### The 6.8 mile race:

**Men's winner:** Dean Johnston (Neath Harriers)

**Women's winner:** Sharon Leech (Carmarthen)

**Defying the elements, the second annual Bwystfil Y Bryn race and fun day was a huge success.**

The heavens opened and unleashed a torrential downpour upon the village that night, on any other day, have made people think twice about leaving their homes. But far from dampening spirits, the Beast of Bryn persevered, and a fantastic day was had by all.

The athletes taking part more resembled swimmers than runners by the end of the race, but they were greeted by the welcome sight of a packed tent and a carnival atmosphere in the Bryn rugby field. To the soundtrack of some fantastic live music, cup cakes were devoured, alcohol flowed and, most importantly, the event, sponsored by Tata Steel, raised a lot of money for charity, principally the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

## GET IN TOUCH!

Email the editor: [markreesbrag@gmail.com](mailto:markreesbrag@gmail.com)

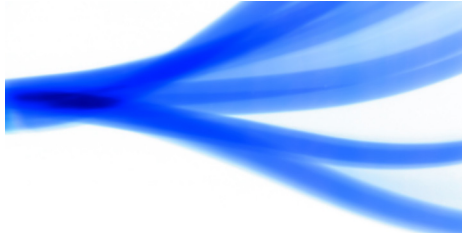
Visit the website: [www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk)



# BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER



## Broadband proposal



As reported in previous news letters, £1000 has been made available to residents in order to fund the infrastructure to support high speed broadband in the village.

Rather than accept the slow speeds currently being provided, the proposal suggests that residents group together in order to claim the available money, and then commit to a new service provider who will supply a considerably quicker service.

Far from being unique to Bryn, this is a concept that has been considered in other rural parts of the UK, the nearest being the Gower Peninsula. In Carmarthenshire, the Carmarthenshire Community Broadband Partnership were established to provide a similar service to the more remote areas of their county, and their website can be visited here: [www.ccbp.org.uk](http://www.ccbp.org.uk)

A village meeting will be organised soon to discuss the proposals.

## Donation

£150 of the money raised by the Beast of Bryn was donated to the family whose daughter tragically died on the same route as the race.

The incident, unrelated to the race itself, saw the girl airlifted by air ambulance from the scene. Our thoughts are with the family at this sad time.

## Charity fun weekend

**Friday 24 - Sunday 26**  
**@ Bryn Rugby & Social Club**

A whole host of money raising activities and events have been planned for the upcoming bank holiday weekend to raise funds for Cancer Research Wales at Bryn Rugby & Social Club. Come along to some (or all!) of the following for a great time, and help raise some much needed money for this fantastic cause at the same time.

**Friday 24th August**

### SPECIAL BINGO

House! Eyes down for a fantastic night of Bingo, with a guaranteed Felinfoel Flyer of £100.

**Saturday 25th August**

### BIKE RIDE

Members will be riding a special bike ride from Merthyr to Cardiff Bay

**Watch Live on Big Screen**

### SWANSEA CITY V WEST HAM

The Swans return to Premier League action with their first home game of the season. KO 12:30, club open from 12.

**Evening Entertainment**

### LIVE MUSIC FROM "COVER STORY"

Dance the night away with local band Cover Story - back by popular demand! Plus raffle and happy hour prices all night.

**Sunday 26th August**

### QUIZ NIGHT

Show off your brain power with a night of general knowledge quiz questions at the Bryn Quiz Night. Starts at 9pm.

## Wind farm proposal



Local councillors have advised us that plans have been proposed to establish a sustainable energy generating wind farm in Goytre, which could impact the village.

It is still early days in the discussion process, but the councillors are committed to keeping us informed of any developments as they happen, such as an application for planning.

## Blooming marvellous

A huge thank you to Ryan Edwards, who has been hard at work clearing the area outside of the pub, and has planted bulbs to add a bit of colour to the spot.



## Gone fishing

Skewen Angling Club are running coarse angling coaching sessions targeting carp at Gnoll Pond, Neath, from 10am until 3pm on August 4. Free of charge, and all bait provided. Contact Bryn resident Steve Easton for more: **steve.easton1@gmail.com**



# GET IN TOUCH!

Email the editor: [markreesbrag@gmail.com](mailto:markreesbrag@gmail.com)  
Visit the website: [www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk)



# BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

BRYN: A NICE PLACE TO BE / BRYN: LLE DEDWYDD | FOD Issue #018 October 2012

## Welcome...



As the nights draw in and a chill fills the air, its time to dust off the broomsticks, carve up some pumpkins and celebrate the second biggest holiday in the British calendar.

Here in Wales, we have a long tradition of scaring ourselves at Hallowe'en with spooky tales steeped in the folklore and superstitions of the past. One of my personal favourites from the local area are the reports of the spectral monks from Margam Abbey, which have been seen floating along the mountainside at night by many a petrified driver on the M4.

Which ties in nicely with a special historical night at Bryn Rugby Club later this month, which focuses specifically on the Monks of Margam. While on the same night, there will also be a Hallowe'en disco at the community centre, and everyone is encouraged to dress up for the occasion – even the grown-ups!

In other news, the Beast of Bryn presentation night at the Royal Oak promises to be a superb night of music and entertainment, and BRAG even have a date with a BBC TV star – turn over for more!

Until next time, have a safe and happy Hallowe'en, and... *trick or treat?*

## Mark

*PS If anyone has any of their own local ghost stories, I'd love to hear them. Drop me an email at: [markreesbrag@gmail.com](mailto:markreesbrag@gmail.com)*



## Spooktacular family fun!

**SAVE THE DATE - OCTOBER 25**  
A night of Hallowe'en and history

**October 25 will be a busy night in Bryn as the ghouls and goblins of All Hallows Eve descend on both the community centre and the rugby club for two separate occasions of seasonal spookiness.**

Little devils throughout the village will get the opportunity to don their most gruesome of disguises as **Bryn Community Centre** plays host to a ghoulish **Hallowe'en disco**, sponsored by **Tesco's Maesteg**.

There will be prizes awarded to the most creative youngsters for the scariest looking jack-o'-lantern pumpkins, as well as the creepiest costumes – so dress to shock! Tickets £1, starts 6.30pm, children under six must be accompanied by an adult.

Elsewhere in the village, for the more historically minded, the **Bryn Heritage Society** will be recounting tales of **The Monks of Margam** at the **Bryn Rugby Club**. The Abbey is an important part of our local heritage, and should provide a fascinating talk. All are welcome, 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

Hallowe'en disco sponsored by **TESCO** Maesteg

## GET IN TOUCH!

Email the editor: [markreesbrag@gmail.com](mailto:markreesbrag@gmail.com)  
Visit the website: [www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk)



# BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER



Iolo Williams

## Best of the Beast

### Let's celebrate!

Following the exhaustions of the hugely successful Beast of Bryn race earlier this year (well, for those who were running in it, at least!), it's now time to kick back, relax, and reflect with a **special presentation night**.

Appropriately taking place at the venue that played host to the start of the race itself, the **Royal Oak pub**, there will be some fantastic live music

from Dave Lock and Fonz and the Poet. 7.00pm, Sat October 20.

### 2013: The Beast is back!

In related Beast news, **ENTRIES FOR THE 2013 RACE ARE NOW OPEN!** The event is already gathering huge interest, and was recently added to the database on [www.runningdiary.co.uk](http://www.runningdiary.co.uk), a comprehensive guide to all major running events with an extensive list of subscribers.

## Going green

Chairman Graham Rowland, along with the rest of the BRAG team, will be dusting off their dinner jackets and shining up their shoes following the wonderful news that BRAG have been shortlisted for this years Neath Port Talbot Environment Awards. The glitzy event, which recognises the hard work done by volunteers in their local communities, takes place in the Towers Hotel this November and will be presented by BBC wildlife presenter Iolo Williams. Full report and results from the night in the next newsletter – fingers crossed for a Bryn victory!

## Broadband update

The proposed plan to offer a faster broadband service to the community by switching to a new service provider continues to gain momentum. Enough interest has been expressed locally which would allow a grant from the Welsh Assembly to be awarded to pay for the new infrastructure that would be needed. In order to find out more, a discussion has been organised for later in the month, and is open to everyone in the village with an interest in hearing what a potential new provider would be offering:

**Wed October 24, 6.30pm  
Bryn Community Hall**

## PTA News

### Christmas Shopping

To coincide with the opening of the first door of the advent calendar, the PTA of Bryn School is organising a trip to Cheltenham. December 1, £14. Contact the school to book: (01639) 896486

### Language and Play

Parents of children four years and under looking to kickstart their education are welcome every Wed morning, 9.15am, Bryn Primary School.

## AGM update

The next AGM will be in November. Date to be publicised on the notice board outside the community centre and on posters around the village.

## Tidy Wales

Bryn's natural beauty will be receiving a timely boost thanks to a £200 grant awarded to BRAG from Keep Wales Tidy. The plan is to put the money towards a wild rockery in the Bryn Nature Park, which the local school children will help assemble.

## Bah, humbug!



It just wouldn't be Christmas without a panto, and this years will have a decidedly Dickensian feel

to it. The HUMBAG! Show will be heading to Bryn for a memorable night of festive entertainment on Tuesday, December 11. Full details in the next newsletter.

# GET IN TOUCH!

Email the editor: [markreesbrag@gmail.com](mailto:markreesbrag@gmail.com)  
Visit the website: [www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk)





# BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

BRYN: A NICE PLACE TO BE / BRYN: LLE DEDWYDD I FOD Issue #019 December 2012

## Merry Xmas!



For most people, Christmas is celebrated on December 25 – but here in Bryn, we like to do things differently.

Christmas arrives on Tuesday, December 11 for a spectacular night of Panto and presents - full list opposite - and let's not forget the mulled wine, too.

Have an amazing Christmas everyone, and a wonderful 2013!

### Mark

Email: [markreesbrag@gmail.com](mailto:markreesbrag@gmail.com)  
Twitter: @reviewwales

## Bryn beer!

A very limited edition beer, Cwrw Bwystfil Y Bryn, was served up at the Royal Oak especially for the Beast of Bryn celebrations - tasty!



## BRYN XMAS • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

# It's Christmaaaaas..!

Get ready for a traditional family evening of festive mirth and merriment as Christmas arrives early in Bryn this year.

The pantomime **Humbug**, based on A Christmas Carol, the ever-popular novella by Charles Dickens, will be the highlight of a night that also includes: gifts, mulled wine, mince pies, and even a visit from Old Saint Nick himself!

**Panto:** £3 / £2 Children / OAP. **Santa:** £1 per present



The Bryn Christmas tree arrives!

### BRYN XMAS TIMES

#### 5.00pm: Santa sets off!

Santa, accompanied by Rudolph, sets off on his sleigh from Bryn Primary School for a tour of the village.

#### 6.00pm - 6.45pm: Gifts in the Grotto

Santa arrives at his Grotto in Bryn Community Centre. Kids can meet Santa, and even get a special Xmas gift!

#### 6.15pm: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Tata Brass Band will perform a medley of much-loved traditional carols.

#### 7pm: It's Panto Time!

Mulled wine and mince pies served all night.

### Golden glow

BRAG have been working hard to plant six large bags of daffodil bulbs, which will add a fantastic golden glow to the village in the spring.



### Internet update

Work continues apace to supply a new broadband service to the village. Nearly 80 forms have been sent to the Welsh Assembly, and provider ResQ have started their planning.

## GET IN TOUCH!

Email the editor: [markreesbrag@gmail.com](mailto:markreesbrag@gmail.com)  
Visit the website: [www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk)



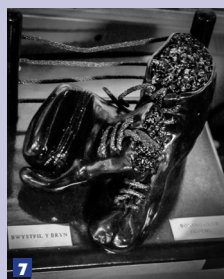


# BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER



## Simply Beastly!

A whopping £2,450 was donated to good causes at the Beast of Bryn presentation at the Royal Oak pub. A great night was had by all, and a huge thank you to everyone who helped, including David James of Marmor Memorials of Maesteg for the slate plaque and winners board.



1. Event organisers Graham (left) and Shaun (right) pictured with Tata Steel's John Ferriman 2. Tim Andrew, manager steel/slab, presenting Anna Tobin with a cheque for £200 for the Cystic Fibrosis Ward. 3. David Rees, AM Aberavon, presenting Janet Frances-Jones, headmistress of Bryn Primary School, with a cheque for £200. 4. Tony Pugh presents the Cystic Fibrosis Fund with a cheque for £50. 5 & 6. John Ferriman presents a cheque for £400 (left) to charity Mind, and £1,600 (right) to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. 7. Special boxing trophy created by Tony Pugh for the first member of a boxing club to complete the race.



## Halloween winners

Congratulations to the winners above for their extra-scary costumes and ghoulish pumpkins - boo!

## Lotto grant for skate park

Bryn has been given a kick-start to transform a disused tennis court into a skateboard park. Bryn Youth Club and BRAG also plans to create a youth shelter and tennis area next to Bryn Welfare Park as part of the project.

BRAG member Dianne Thomas said there were smiles all round when the village found out they were to receive a £3,750 grant from the Big Lottery.

"The grant will enable plans to develop an outdoor multi purpose sport and leisure facility to go ahead," she said. "BRAG has been given £3,750 by the Big Lottery in order to begin the legal procedures needed to turn a disused tennis court into a skateboard park, youth shelter and tennis area.



John Thomas said a skateboard ramp was desperately needed for the youngsters in the village. "They had a ramp eight to 10 years ago but it became damaged and was not replaced," he said. "There is nothing in the village for them. So Brag is working really hard for the youngsters."

## Tip is top for nature

Bryn Tip has been declared a local nature reserve by Neath Port Talbot Council. The site supports a number of locally rare and important plants and birds.

Council head of planning Geoff White said declaring Bryn Tip a local nature reserve would raise its profile in the community and encourage visitors from further afield. "Bryn Tip is of significant value for biodiversity and also as a community facility," said Mr White. "Declaration as a local nature reserve will secure its long-term protection and demonstrate the quality and quantity of the natural environment in Neath Port Talbot."

The two stories above were originally reported in the South Wales Evening Post by Bryn's No. 1 news reporter, Gill Roberts. Thanks, Gill!

# GET IN TOUCH!

Email the editor: [markreesbrag@gmail.com](mailto:markreesbrag@gmail.com)  
Visit the website: [www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk)