



BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

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

Issue #025 April 2014



HISTORY LESSONS: Bryn children learn about the local heritage on the site of the old Bryn Navigation and (right) each child gets a chance to look at an old air shaft



Remembering Owen

The road signs commemorating Bryn-born actor Owen Jones are now in place on the road to Taibach. Owen was the first protege of Philip Burton, who would go on to mentor a certain Richard Jenkins who, after adopting his mentors surname, become one of the biggest Hollywood stars of all time. Picture courtesy of the South Wales Evening Post, full story online at: southwales-eveningpost.co.uk

MAKING HISTORY

BRAG teamed up with Bryn School for a fascinating new historical project guaranteed to educate local youngsters about their heritage in a fun and friendly way entitled Coal, Coal your country needs Coal.

This project has examined the role of coal in shaping Bryn and the surrounding area

as well as the metallurgical forces driving the mining of coal.

This will be presented to the village by the school on Tuesday, April 8, 6pm. The work is also being recorded digitally and will be available for viewing on the Internet. The photos above are from a field trip associated with the Project.



Sister run a success

BRAG worked with Cwmafan to make the Burton 10k run a sister run to the Bwystfil y-Bryn run. The runs were both great successes, and funds raised helped fund the heavily subsidised Christmas events at both Bryn and Cwmafan.

Play area progress

The first planning and legal consent phase of this project on the side of Bryn's tennis court has now been completed and BRAG has submitted an application for support of the implementation phase from the Big Lottery Fund.

Future Events

Keep an eye on the Village web site and the village hall's notice board for the latest information on what's happening in and around the village.

The Bryn School project is to be enacted on Tuesday, April 8, 6pm at Bryn Village Hall.

Got something to tell us about?
Email: markreesbrag@gmail.com

Spring has sprung!

Five more large sacks of daffodil bulbs have been donated to BRAG for planting around the village, and the BRAG committee members have been busy planting them around the village.

Last year we planted along the main road through the village, and these should come back year after year, so this time we've focused on some of the other grassy areas around the village. Watch out in the spring to see if daffodils pop up near you! The school were also given a number of bulbs for planting in the verges around the outside of the school.



GET IN TOUCH!

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Visit the website: www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk



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Councillors Surgery

The Surgery with the Councillors took place on the first Saturday of January. Only Councillor Marian Lewis was able to attend this Surgery, who confirmed that the resurfacing of Coronation Street was a priority for the 2014 budget.

Residents raised a number of maintenance tasks required in the village such as the drains that had once again become blocked. Marian agreed to progress this.

Concern was also raised about the developments taking place on the site of the old school. The site had been cleared over Christmas even though the Council were still awaiting required reports such as environmental surveys from the developers. Marian agreed to discuss this with the planning department.

Members of the bowls club pointed out that as from April they will be responsible for all the maintenance costs associated with the green and pavilion. So when the village children choose to play football on this green the cost of repairs to the green will make it very difficult to keep this long established club going.

Increasingly the social facilities of the village are falling on the village to maintain and if we cannot maintain them we will lose them. Please do your bit to keep the village a nice place to live.

The residents of Bryn thanked Councillor Marian Lewis for inviting local senior citizens for a night at Princess Royal Theatre. Those who had attended had a great time, and Marian aims to do the same again next year.

Surgeries are now on the first Saturday of every other month, the next surgery will be in May in the Bryn Community Centre.

Marian A Lewis

cllr.m.a.lewis@npt.gov.uk / 07974 656124

David Whitelock

cllr.d.whitelock@npt.gov.uk / 07866 763888

David Williams

cllr.i.d.williams@npt.gov.uk / 07967 489151

The council number is:
(01639) 686 868 or you can email them at contactus@npt.gov.uk

Cracking Christmas



The 2013 panto - Likely Story Theatre's Tinsel Tales - was a huge success which wowed the lively all-ages audience with their fantastical stories. But it was more than just theatre - there was a whole evening of festivities of offer.

The night kicked off when Santa and Rudolph set off on a sleigh ride from Bryn Primary School for a tour of the village. Many of the children followed Santa back



to his grotto in the Community Centre, where he dished out presents. The choristers from the Maesteg Gleemen were on hand to lead the carolling, while Anthony Bwye ensured everyone joined in with the Twelve Days of Christmas. Mulled wine and mince pies were served up, and helped create a real Christmas atmosphere.

For more photos visit the village web site.

Foel Trawnant Wind Farm

Pennant Walters (Holdings) Ltd. held an information day in Bryn Community Centre in December. BRAG had requested this after many of the residents had complained to BRAG that they had been unable to attend the presentation in Nanty. It was however disappointing that only three non-BRAG members attended from the village. A number of councillors did attend.

Bryn Nature Reserve

Details for a new footpath from the Nature Reserve along the river were drawn up by BRAG members Graham and Paul in 2012 and were passed on to potential suppliers for estimates. Graham repeated this request and worked with Groundworks and the Forestry to start things moving again. This year we obtained approval for this and have submitted a plan for the implementation to the Forestry. We will look to link this with Drysiog Farm renovation in the future. The work does require considerable input by volunteers.

Bryn Calendars

The Bryn Calendars have sold very well this year, both to the Bryn Residents and to visitors of Bryn. What profit BRAG does make from these sales goes towards funding activities for which we generally cannot obtain grants for, such as this newsletter, so your custom is very much appreciated in its support of BRAG. BRAG will now start on putting together a theme for the 2015 calendars.

Charity status

BRAG is looking to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. What does this mean to the village? Find out at our next AGM in the spring. Details will be posted in the next Newsletter.

BRAG are always keen to have new members who bring new ideas and skills to the group. If you feel you have something to contribute to the village please let us know via existing members, through the web site or through Graham Rowland, the BRAG chair. If you are not sure what would be involved, arrange to sit in on one of our meetings before committing to anything.

GET IN TOUCH!

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Issue #026 May 2014

THE BEAST IS BACK!

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 31, 2014, from 10am until late



SCHEDULE

- 10am:** Registration opens
- 11.30am:** Runner Briefing
- 1pm:** 2K Competitors leave Community Centre led by Bag Piper
- 1.15pm:** Warm up provided by New Beginners Fitness
- 1.30pm:** 2K Starts
- 1.55pm:** Welsh National Anthem
- 2pm:** Main Race Starts and Activities start at the Bryn Welfare Ground
- 4pm (approx):** Live Music starts at the marquee including Fonz & Poets, Rasberry Jam, The Blims and Heat Beats.
- 11pm:** Close

The 31st May will see the fourth BWYSTFIL y BRYN event which is an increasingly popular running event that this year is part of the Welsh Trial Running Championships as well as a great fun day for the entire village and our guests to the village..

There will also be other attractions and food stalls as in past years, including bouncy castles, bucking broncos, gladiator fat suits, face painters, dinky donuts, fish and chips, roast hog, burgers, Tea and Coffee, Beer tent and much more.

Help with registration and other supporting activities is required. Please contact Graham Rowland by phone on 894895 or email at grahamrowland@live.co.uk



Coal-Coal, our country needs Coal

This was the title of the project by Bryn Primary School in collaboration with BRAG and the National Lottery Fund. The results of the 12 month long project were presents at the Bryn Community Center, on Tuesday the 8th of April 2014.

What a night it was, the Community Center was packed, the air was electric, and if you weren't there you missed out on a treat as the kids were absolutely brilliant - and the grown-ups weren't bad either! For those that missed the night who would like to see it, or for second helpings if you missed anything the first time, a video can be seen on the Bryn web site along with further information about the evening and the outputs from the project.

The displays around the room produced by Dafydd Bowen and the children, explained how the village had grown from a small farming community into a centre for mining as a result of the industrial revolution, before returning into its present form as a pleasant village surrounded by hills, forests, farms, walks and rides to keep anyone happy but most of all to being "a nice place to be".

Congratulations and a big thank you to the Dafydd Bowen, teaching staff, pupils, BRAG, NPT Council, TATA steel, The Miners Museum, Afan Country Park the ladies of the PTA who provided refreshments, the choristers, and everyone else who helped create such a special evening. Thanks also to The National Lottery Heritage Fund, for its sponsorship which leaves us with a lasting legacy.



FISH ON WHEELS

Steve Thomas runs a family business providing a mobile fish and chip service. This is a new venture covering a number of villages in the Neath Port Talbot. Steve aims to start serving Bryn between 4pm and 7pm outside the village hall each Saturday, with a view to expanding. A full range of foods normally expected in a town fish and chip shop will be on offer.



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Councillors Surgery

This took place on Saturday 3rd May. Issues discussed included community policing, road safety, the new bowls lease in place and funding to support the club and tidying up the village before this year's Beast of Bryn.

The pot holes in the B4282 were a particular concern and the Councillors agreed to follow up on this.

Speeding through the village was also felt to have got worse again since the police stopped using the speed camera in the village so this will be re-introduced so watch your own speed in the 30 limit!

The councillors were shown examples of the recent vandalism in the village such as the broken tiles on the surgery roof. The community police are to be approached to restart visits to the village and the youth club.

As reported before, Coronation St. is to be resurfaced this year but no date has been set yet. Next meeting is 1st Sat in July.

Your Councillors contact details are:

Marian A Lewis

cllr.m.a.lewis@npt.gov.uk / 07974 656124

David Whitelock

cllr.d.whitelock@npt.gov.uk / 07866 763888

David Williams

cllr.i.d.williams@npt.gov.uk / 07967 489151

The council number is: (01639) 686 868 or you can email them at contactus@npt.gov.uk. The Community Police number is: 101 or 07584 771269

Nature Reserve walk

Work has started on a new Nature Reserve walk. Fallen trees have been removed, boggy areas drained and undergrowth cleared. Much work remains to be done but the path can now be walked with care. We still aim to link this with Drysiog Farm renovation in the future. The work does require considerable input by volunteers.

Foel Trawnant Wind Farm

You can keep up with and new developments of this proposed development at the company website: www.pennantwalters.co.uk/news

Fund Raising for Bryn School

Bryn Rugby Club continued with its Easter Tradition of organising a fundraising event over the Easter Bank Holiday. Following the last few years successful events in support of Help the Heroes, Wales Air Ambulance and RNLI, it was decided this year to support our local Bryn School.

Good Friday kicked off with an excellent night of music provided by 'SHE SAYS' a popular Cardiff band who got everyone up and dancing. Easter Sunday saw the ever popular 'BIKE RIDE', where a £5.00 entry fee saw 20 of our regular Easter Bikers start from the Old House in Llangynwyd, amble their way through the countryside and meet up at the first

rendezvous at the Twelve Knights.

This was followed by visits to the Sker, Taibach Rugby Club and back to the Bryn Rugby club for a well-earned rest and warm pasties.

The evening saw a well-attended quiz night with our favourite quiz master Glan Phillips, which rounded off an excellent weekend raising £560 for the school.

Special thanks to everyone who supports these events organised as usual by Martin Fitzpatrick.



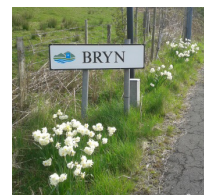
Breathe easy

The County Borough of Neath Port Talbot continue to work to improve the air quality in the borough. BRAG was invited to the 3rd Air Quality Event to hear about the progress being made. We heard how extensive air quality monitoring has been put in place, how industry is reducing its emissions, and how increasing traffic volumes were adding to pollution. Dr Rossa Brigha explained how air quality can effect health and why it is not the pollution that you can see that is most harmful, but the fine invisible particles such as those emitted from cars and buses that are the real problem, and how we can all help by walking and riding more.

Village Tennis Court

BRAG has been told the outcome of our application will be announced this June.

More Daffodils



Despite the very dubious soil into which many of the bulbs were placed this spring has seen a very good display of Daffodils in the village which we hope will only improve each year.

AGM

This has been differed until after the Bryn Beast and the announcement from the Lottery on the Park project.

Future Village Events

Keep an eye on the village web site and the BRAG notice board outside of the village hall for the latest information on what is happening in the village.

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Issue #027 June 2014

BEST OF THE BEAST

The village's fourth annual Bwystfil Y Bryn run and fun day, held on Saturday, May 31, was another roaring success.

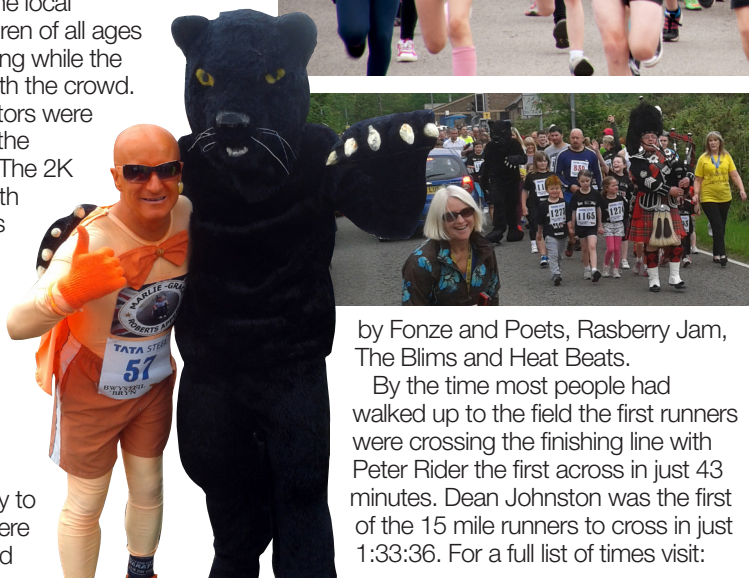
Leading up to the event volunteers prepared both the route and the village, clearing undergrowth, cutting grass, picking litter, putting up signs, erecting barriers, cleaning changing rooms and more. Much of this preparation was done in very wet weather but on the day we had ideal, warm dry conditions.

Registration started at 10am in the village hall, which quickly became a hive of activity. The WI provided refreshments, the visitors expressed interest in the local heritage displays, children of all ages enjoyed the face painting while the Bryn Beast mingled with the crowd.

At 1pm the competitors were led by the piper along the road to the Start Line. The 2K race took place first with nearly 200 competitors cheered on by the spectators.

Martin Brunnock, from Tarta Steel, and Lowrie Morgan, from S4C, opened proceedings.

Once the main race was under way the crowds made their way to the welfare ground where live music was provided



by Fonze and Poets, Raspberry Jam, The Blims and Heat Beats.

By the time most people had walked up to the field the first runners were crossing the finishing line with Peter Rider the first across in just 43 minutes. Dean Johnston was the first of the 15 mile runners to cross in just 1:33:36. For a full list of times visit:

bwystfilybryn.btck.co.uk

There was more than just music in the marquee. Food and drink were provided by Bryn's PTA as well as Dinky Doughnuts, Mr Chips and a BBQ. Children were entertained with bouncy castles, their own JCBs in a sand pit and rodeo rides. The large army truck also attracted a lot of interest. For the gambler, the duck race also proved very popular.

Highlighting issues

Partnerships and Communities Together (PACT) meetings are intended to give residents an opportunity to highlight the issues that are having an impact on their quality of life and to assist in deciding which issues are dealt with as priorities. These meetings are held in Cwmavon and may be attended by anyone from the Ward. BRAG attends these but anyone from the village would be most welcome. In the last meeting the police outlined how they were tackling a recent spate of opportunist car thefts in the area and also warned of a scam relating to the sale of memory foam mattresses. An update on the M4 junction closures was provided. Vandalism, dog fouling and speeding are common issues raised by residents.

Nature Reserve walk

BRAG, Groundwork and other volunteers have continued to develop this new walk. During June they installed a kissing gate into the Forestry area, drained some of the water logged parts of the walk and cut back some more of the undergrowth. Future work required is to continue to clear undergrowth, add route markers, install an information board and obtain funding for outdoor furniture.

AGM

This had been differed until after the Bryn Beast and the announcement from the Lottery on the Park Tennis Courts Project. Now that BRAG has had the go ahead for the Tennis Courts Project they need to become

a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The requirements for this along with an outline of the Tennis Courts Project will be explained at the AGM on Thursday, August 21, 6.30pm.

Bryn Rugby

The Bryn Rugby team's annual presentation night was held at the club on June 6th, with guest speaker Alan Bateman, who previously played for Bryn, Maesteg, Wales and the British Lions, with music from local band The Fleas, and a good night was had by all.

This rounded off a successful season, with the team making it through to a semi-final and final in the league and cup rounds. The team are now looking forward to another season, and offer a special thanks to all the supporters who turn up each week, rain or shine. New players are more than welcome.

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Councillors Surgery

This took place on Saturday 5th Jul. Issues discussed included the M4 junction closures and solar panel and wind farm applications. Notes were made by the councillors on issues concerning Bryn.

The next meeting is Saturday, September 1, at the new time of 11am in the Rugby Club. This new venue is to be tried to see if it makes it easier for more residents to attend.

Your Councillors contact details are:

- **Marian A Lewis**
cllr.m.a.lewis@npt.gov.uk / 07974 656124
- **David Whitelock**
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The council number is: (01639) 686 868 or you can email them at contactus@npt.gov.uk. The Community Police number is: 101 or 07584 771269

The Council also now have a free App for use on Tablets and Smart Phones called Looking Local. This can be used to report abandoned vehicles, anti-Social behaviour, fly tipping, graffiti, pot holes and road repairs, street lighting faults, street furniture damage, etc. See the Bryn website for further information on downloading and using this.

Nature Reserve Walk & Open Day

An open day was held on Sunday 22nd June with local wildlife experts giving wildflower/nature walks. It was held from 10-2 using the Bryn community centre as a base for teas and coffee. Cwm Walking organised an evening walk around the reserve on Wednesday 25th June.

Rugby Kit for Bryn School

After the successful Easter fund-raising event at the Rugby Club and an additional donation from the club committee, a new rugby kit has been ordered for Bryn School. A competition was held to design the shirt which will be ready for the new term.

New School Starters

Do you have any children of primary school age or any approaching their third birthday? We warmly welcome visits to our village school so please contact Mrs. Jefford or Mrs. Batchelor on (01639)896486.



Working at the car wash

The PTA organised a well-attended car wash outside the village hall on Saturday, July 5, to raise funds for the school.

Everyone enjoyed helping out the village, while the local cars gained an extra clean shine!

Bryn on the World Wide Web

Although Bryn is just a small village it does have quite a presence on the World Wide Web both in terms of information about Bryn and its residents, past and present, and information that can be useful for its residents.

The village website at <http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk/> is a good starting point. Peter Phillips, the BRAG webmaster, is constantly adding to this site and also provides links on the site to other resources of relevance to Bryn.

A new site was created as part of the Heritage lottery sponsored project "Coal, Coal our Country Needs Coal" which was presented by the Bryn School children at the Village Hall last April. The address for this is <http://www.historypin.com/channels/view/54358/#!photos/list/>

Our project was just one of thousands in the "All our Stories" projects that you can read about on this site. The products of this project will be a resource for the school and others for many years to come. The information boards produced were on display at the BWYSTFIL y BRYN event.

There is also a link from the Bryn Web Site to the run site at <http://www.bwystflybryn.btck.co.uk/>

Here you will find all the information relating to the entire BWYSTFIL y BRYN events as well as the Richard Burton run since 2013.

There are also links to the Bryn Primary School Web Site which contains lots of information about the school and its activities, links to the Neath and Port Talbot web site, links to local entertainment and other points of interest and more.

Next time you have five minutes, explore the web and if you find something interesting that you think we should add to the village web site then send us the details.

Tennis Court Project

BRAG received confirmation, in June, that their application for £86k to develop play facilities in the Bryn Tennis Court area had been successful subject to obtaining permission from the Council. This has now been publicised via the local papers and further details will be available at the BRAG AGM meeting.

Future Village Events

Keep an eye on the Village web site and the BRAG notice board outside of the village hall for the latest information on what is happening in and around the village.

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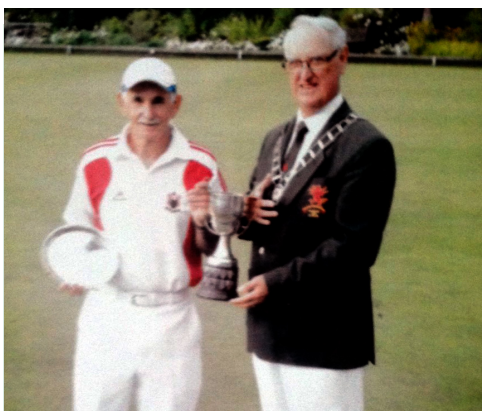
BRYN: A NICE PLACE TO BE / BRYN: LLE DEDWYDD | FOD Issue #028 October 2014

New walk for Bryn Nature Reserve

BRAG, Groundwork and other volunteers continue to develop this walk and since the last newsletter they have cut back the undergrowth across the path put in stepping stones across parts that were still water logged and commissioned the provision of a new information board.

Future work required is to continue to clear undergrowth, add route markers, install the new information board and obtain further funding for outdoor furniture.

The Biodiversity group have also arranged for the picnic area to be fenced off so that users of this area are not effected by animals grazing on the nature reserve.



Bryn's Welsh Champion

Mr Randall Tucker, from Bryn Hafod, won the title of Welsh Senior Bowls Champion in August this year, making him the first bowler from Bryn to win this honour. In the final, Randall beat Mr. D Griffiths, a former Welsh Senior Champion, 21-14.

Could you be a future champion? Why not visit the Bryn Bowling club and try your hand. New members are always welcome from all age groups.

School closure threat

BRAG have been told that NPT Council are considering further closures of schools and Community Centres in the Borough and that Bryn is one of the areas to be considered.

At the time of writing this article, Steven Phillips, NPT Chief Executive, stated that "the Cabinet has yet to take a formal decision to even consult on this matter, let alone instigate any actual closures." However, BRAG along with others in the village has already started

preparing the case for why the village needs to retain these facilities.

If this does go to consultation, BRAG will organise a village meeting and invite the decision makers as well as the Bryn Residents to the meeting.

BRAG look forward to the support of the entire village in presenting our case. BRAG also note the irony of these proposals after the NPT Council has just issued their LDP proposing a doubling in the size of the village.

Beast and Burton race news

Following another hugely successful Beast of Bryn race earlier this year, a presentation night, with live music and food, will take place at the Royal Oak on Friday, October 10. Everyone is welcome to celebrate one of Bryn's most popular events.

Meanwhile, the Beast's sister-race, Cwmavon's Richard Burton 10K, will take

place on Sunday, November 2.

Starting at Cwmavon's Community Centre, there'll be a 2K funrun at 10.15am, followed by the main race, a flat fast 10K, at 11am. This event falls under the BRAG umbrella, and promises to be the biggest yet, with post-race entertainment at the Cwmavon Rugby Club.

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New kits for the school



Bryn Primary School have been presented with a new rugby kit for the new school year from Bryn Rugby Club. Local fund raising by the Rugby Club & Bryn Community earlier this year provided funds to purchase a new kit for the school.

A competition was held in the school to design the kit which was won by pupils Lewis Dare and Gabby Hallow.

The new rugby kit was presented by members of the Bryn Rugby Club, Martin Fitzpatrick Lyndon James & Barry Warren.

NEW STARTER?

Do you have any children of Primary School age or any approaching their third birthday? We warmly welcome visits to our village school so please contact Mrs. Batchelor on (01639) 896486

in addition four new members were also elected to the committee. The minutes and presentations from the AGM can be viewed on the Bryn Web Site under the documents section.

Village Tennis Court Project

As reported in the last newsletter, BRAG received confirmation, in June, that their application for £86k to develop play facilities in the Bryn Tennis Court area had been successful subject to obtaining permission from the Council. Further details on this were presented at the BRAG AGM meeting and discussions are ongoing with the council.

Future Village Events

Keep an eye on the village web site and the BRAG notice board outside of the village hall for the latest information on what is happening in and around the village.

Councillors Surgery

This took place on Saturday, September 6, in the Rugby Club at the new time of 11am with the councillors meeting individuals on a private basis. This is the format that will now be used for future meetings.

BRAG will still continue to discuss issues effecting the wider Bryn community with the Councillors and work with them in the interests of the Bryn residents.

The councillors provided BRAG with an update on issues that had been discussed in previous surgery meetings where it was agreed what had now been completed and what was still ongoing. It had been noted that grass cutting around Bryn had been maintained despite the financial constraints that the council is having to address. This was seen as a positive however other budgets such as the resurfacing of Coronation Street was being displaced by more urgent demands but Marian did still hope this could be completed before the end of the financial year.

The next meeting will be 1/11/14.

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- **Marian A Lewis** 07974 656124
cllr.m.a.lewis@npt.gov.uk
- **David Whitelock** 07866 763888
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The council number is: (01639) 686 868 or you can email them at contactus@npt.gov.uk. The Community Police number is: 101 or 07584 771269

Do not forget that the Council also now have a free App for use on Tablets and Smart Phones called Looking Local as reported in the last newsletter. This can be used to report abandoned vehicles, anti-Social behaviour, fly tipping, graffiti, pot holes and road repairs, street lighting faults, street furniture damage, etc. See the Bryn website for further information on downloading and using this. BRAG would love to hear how you get on with this app.

AGM

The BRAG AGM was held in the community centre on 21/8/14. The agenda included the following:

- Summary of Achievements
- Accounts and audit report
- Membership and nominations
- Update on CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
- Update on Tennis Courts Project

The committee members present offered to continue on the committee, which was agreed by all present at the AGM, and

Halloween Event



A Halloween event is to be held on Friday, October 24, at 5pm through to 7.30pm in the Village School. This will include a disco and children's entertainment, a spooky walk, etc. There will also be prizes for best lantern and best costume. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

Christmas

As usual, BRAG will be staging a festive Christmas Event this year in the Village Hall on the evening of Friday, December 19. It will include entertainment by Circus Berzelius presenting A Comedy of Errors, and we will again be inviting Father Christmas and his friends. Further details will be posted on the Village Web site and the Village Hall notice board as they become available. A full programme for the event will also appear in the next newsletter.

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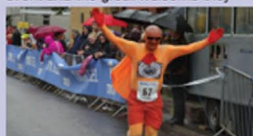
CHRISTMAS IN BRYN: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19



Record-breaking run

The Richard Burton 10K and 2K Races on the 2nd November in Cwmavon, under the umbrella of BRAG, was another great success. After last year's record numbers, this year smashed the record again!

Runners from all around the country have emailed BRAG to say how much they enjoyed the event and the great welcome they



were given at the event. Many of the runners are now competing regularly in both this event and the Bwystfil y Bryn.

Presentations were made in the Cwmavon Rugby Club. These were attended by the Mayor, MP, AM, Councillors and other local dignitaries as well as the athletes, spectators and volunteers. Celebrations continued with live music in a great atmosphere of achievement by Bryn, Cwmavon, Pontrhydyfen and all the athletes and supporters.



BRYN XMAS TIMES

5.15pm: Santa sets off
Santa sets off on his sleigh from Bryn Primary School for a tour of the village.

6.00pm - 6.45pm: In the Grotto
Santa arrives at Bryn Community Centre, where he'll be handing out some extra special presents to good little girls and boys from his grotto.

6.15pm: O Come, All Ye Faithful
Anthony Bwyne will lead a medley of much-loved traditional carols.

7pm: Show time!
The main attraction: Circus Berzellus present their Comedy of Errors.

Christmas celebrations

It's time to deck the halls, wrap the presents, open the advent calendar and heat the mulled wine: Christmas is back in Bryn!

BRAG will be staging their annual Christmas Event in the Village Hall on Friday, December 19, with mulled wine, mince pies and plenty more festive goodies on offer.

This year's entertainment will be Circus Berzellus' "A Comedy of Errors," with tickets available on the door at £4, or £3 for children and OAPs.

Come along and enjoy a great evening of all agas entertainment!

Bwystfil y Bryn presentation night

The Royal Oak hosted this prestigious evening on 10th October. Record amounts of money were raised at this year's Bwystfil y Bryn and donated to worthy causes such as Cystic Fibrosis, Mind, Air Ambulance, Scouts, Mountain Rescue, etc. as well as local causes such as Bryn Primary School, the Bryn over 55 Club, WI and Captain Beanies chosen charity.

Many of the runners also raised money through sponsorship which they donated directly to their chosen charities.

The presentations were followed by a free buffet laid on by Ryan, live music, dancing and laughter until the small hours.



GET IN TOUCH!

Email: markreesbrag@gmail.com
Visit the website: www.bryn-portalbot.btck.co.uk

Councillors' surgery

This took place on Saturday 1st Nov at 11am in the Rugby Club where BRAG continue to discuss issues affecting the wider Bryn community with the Councillors and work with them in the interests of the Bryn residents.

The councillors provided BRAG with an update on issues that had been discussed in previous surgery meetings and proposals for night time resurfacing work on the Bryn to Maesteg road. The recurring issue of the sewage leak on the corner of Neath Road was raised.

The proposed closure of Bryn Primary School and Bryn Village Hall was also discussed. Marian Lewis and David Whitelock, the two Councillors present, both promised to support the village in their actions to fight this decision.

Centenary Birthdays for two very special residents of Bryn were also discussed.

The next meeting will be 3/01/15, put this date in your new diaries now and come along to the Surgery to let your Councillors know how you feel about the support the village receives from the Council.

Your Councillors contact details are:

- Marian A. Lewis
clm.a.lewis@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07974 656124

- David Whitelock
clr.d.whitelock@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07866 763888

- David Williams
clr.d.williams@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07967 489151

The council number is: (01639) 686 868 or you may prefer to email them at contact@npt.gov.uk

The Community Police number is: 101 or 07584 771269.

Do not forget the Council App for use on Tablets and Smart Phones called Looking Local.

Bryn nature reserve

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Biodiversity Group have now fenced off the picnic area so that users are not affected by animals grazing on the nature reserve. There has however been much misinformation comment in the village about the nature reserve and so the Biodiversity Group has produced a factual letter which they requested that BRAG deliver along with your normal village newsletter. Please take your facts from this accompanying letter rather than the rumour mill. Also remember that there are still minerals in the ground around Bryn and consider which you would prefer on your door step, a coal mine or a nature reserve.



Fright night scares at Bryn School

A spooky Halloween event was held at the Bryn School on Friday, October 24. It included a children's entertainer, spooky walk, best lantern and fancy dress competitions, spooky decorations and a bewitching atmosphere. This appeared to be greatly appreciated by the children - so much so, they've already asked for the entertainer to come back for future events!

Registered charity

It's official, BRAG is now a registered charity. On the 23rd October 2014 BRAG was entered on the register of charities with the number 1158947. This has been a long process requiring extensive evidence of the group's activities and governance but should greatly assist in supporting the group's credibility when applying for funds in the future. This has been a major factor in the legal issues around the big lottery grant for the Bryn Tennis Courts project.

Nature reserve's new walk

We are now awaiting the completion of an information board to document this new walk. To celebrate this achievement, BRAG are considering an organised walk along this new path on Boxing Day. If there is sufficient interest, we will publicise the details around the village and help you exercise off the surplus Christmas Turkey.

Village tennis court project

As reported in the last newsletter, BRAG received confirmation, in June, that their application for £66k to develop play facilities in the Bryn Tennis Court area had been successful subject to obtaining permission from the Council. BRAG's new charitable status should help in the legal requirements, with the Council, to move this project forward.

Support the village

One of the great benefits of living in a small village like Bryn is the community spirit. The down sides are we do not have a major supermarket within walking distance; we do not have any fast food outlets, cinemas, swimming pools, restaurants or

other facilities one would take for granted in a large town or city. Many of these things are accepted as part of village life and swapped for the other benefits. We do however still pay the same rates as people enjoying the benefits of city facilities and therefore must stand up and fight for what we do have in the village. If the school was to close this would have a detrimental effect on the saleability of houses in the village as well as the obvious effect on families with primary school age children. The main road into Bryn goes past the Village Hall. What would that look like boarded up and derelict?

There are other facilities in the village we could lose if we do not support them. For example, the pub, the bowls, rugby and cricket clubs, the doctor's surgery and the village shop.

Are you doing your part in maintaining the village community, are you going to join in with the campaigns to maintain Council Services? If we do not fight these cuts what will they take away from the village next?

New school starters

Everyone associated with Bryn Primary School is determined to make it the best school in the County. Show your confidence in this and move your children into this school. If numbers were to start to climb that would send the clearest message possible to the Council. If you have children of Primary School age or any approaching their third birthday please contact Mrs. Batchelor on (01639) 896486

Future village events

Keep an eye on the Village web site and the BRAG notice board outside of the village hall for the latest information on what is happening in and around the village.

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