

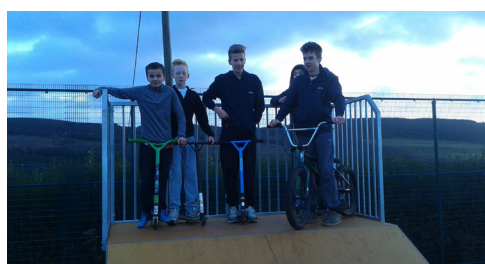


BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

BRYN: A NICE PLACE TO BE / BRYN: LLE DEDWYDD I FOD Issue #030 February 2015

Village Tennis Court Project

We are up and open for entertainment. There is still further work to be completed over the coming months, mainly on the tennis court, but most facilities are now in use.



Above: Bryn youth making use of the facilities. See the village website for more photos and information.



Dianne Thomas of BRAG opening the facilities

BRYN SCHOOL AND VILLAGE HALL

As is now common knowledge in Bryn, NPT Council have proposed the closure of Bryn School and the Village Hall. This proposal was put out for consultation and many of the Bryn residents and groups have responded. The School governors have submitted their proposals and the School support groups and BRAG have coordinated a village response. NPT Council will publish their response on 23/2/15 and the Councillors will vote on the proposed closure on 25/2/15 followed by a statutory notice on 2/3/15. A period for the submission of objections will then run from 2/3/15 to 29/3/15 and the outcome determined on 15/4/15. See the village web site for full details. A protest march is to be organised for 25/2/15.

Burton Run Presentations

Nearly 800 runners registered for the Richard Burton 10K in November. This was a record breaking total with £6000 raised for charity. The presentation night saw local charities from across our area benefiting from all the hard work BRAG and its supporters have put into this event.



Doug Johnson, committee member, presenting a cheque to Gavin Richards of the Cwmavon Scout Group at the new Tata Steel Training Academy.



Firemen presenting a cheque to the Fireman's Benevolent Fund for £600. These firemen ran the 10K in full outfits carrying a BA Cylinder on their back!

Get in touch! Visit the village website at: www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk



BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER



Rib Splitting Christmas Show



Once again, BRAG laid on the Christmas Festivities for the village.

At the start of December a Christmas tree was erected in the Village Hall and decorated ready for Santa's arrival. On Friday the 19th December.

Santa and his Elves toured the village meeting the children and handing out treats.

Santa then returned to his Grotto in the Village Hall where he chatted with each of the children and handed out selection boxes.

As the villagers started to roll in to the

Village Hall, the air started to vibrate with the sound of Christmas Carols being sung by all present plus Santa's Chief Elf taking the lead. Circus Berzercus presented "A Komedy of Errors".

This was rib splitting entertainment that was fully enjoyed by the adults and fully participated in by the children and Chief Elf. Mulled wine, mince pies and festive snacks and refreshments completed the evening.

The entertainment had been billed as appealing to all ages and on the night it certainly lived up to that.

Support the Village

The great benefits of living in a small village like Bryn were outlined in the last Newsletter. BRAG continues to fight to retain village life and has been very active in the fight to retain both the school and the Village Hall. Details of some of these actions can be found on the school section of the village website. The last Newsletter also outlined other facilities in the village we could lose, such as the doctor's surgery, if we do not support them. Please do your part in making Bryn "A Nice Place to Be".

BRAG Runs Score top Tata Award

The Bwystfyl y Bryn and the Richard Burton 10k Heritage Race came together to take first place in the Tata European excellence award for "Care for the Community". Graham Rowland and Shaun Tobin collected the award and featured in the Tata Journey newspaper.

Registered Charity

BRAG is now a registered charity, entered on the register of charities as number 1,158,947. As a registered charity, BRAG is committed to certain protocols required of all registered charities. For example, our registered charity number must appear on all formal communications, such as this newsletter, be recorded against our bank account, and included on any publicity produced, etc. There were also formal requirements for the transfer of BRAG to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status which have now been completed.

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. Anyone with articles, news or anything interesting please contact markreesbrag@gmail.com we love to hear from people in our community.

Surgery with the Councillors

This took place on Saturday 3rd Jan 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.

On this occasion, the Councillors aired their grievances with the village, reporting that the button on the pedestrian crossing had been superglued three times over the Christmas period requiring officers to have to come to deal with the situation. They also complained about excessive levels of littering and broken beer bottles. With Council resources already stretched they pointed out how such behaviour was detrimental to the village. They reported that after April there will be no litter picking in Bryn and that the local communities will have to litter pick their own areas. Littering should be reported on 01639 686868. NPT are now focusing on prosecuting litter offenders rather than picking up after them. They went on to provide those present with an update on issues that had been discussed in previous surgery meetings, most of which were still ongoing. BRAG thanked them for the resurfacing work on the Bryn to Maesteg road and their support in bringing Santa to the village. The reoccurring issue of the sewage leak on the corner of Neath Road was also raised. The next meeting will be Saturday 7/03/15, put this date in your new diaries now and come along to the Surgery. Your Councillors contact details are:

- **Marian A Lewis**
cllr.m.a.lewis@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07974 656124
- **David Whitelock**
cllr.d.whitelock@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07866 763888
- **David Williams**
cllr.i.d.williams@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07967 489151

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

Bryn Nature Reserve new walk

Work on this has slowed over the winter but should resume soon. A new board is ready to be erected and one of the two existing boards is awaiting repair. New way markers are to be obtained and erected.



BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

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

Issue #031 May 2015

NO GAS FOR BRYN

Over a very cold couple of days in February the gas supply to Bryn was interrupted when water got into the main pipeline feeding Bryn. The residents of Bryn very quickly discovered how much they rely on their gas supply which is normally taken for granted. Wales & West Utilities were quick to respond the incident with dozens of employees quickly in Bryn looking after the residents and tracking down the problem. Network Services Planning Manager Martyn Pallant, from Bryn, was one of the first to report the fault and within 45 minutes he had dozens of his colleagues on

site attending to the fault.

Martyn spent much of the next three days based in Bryn Village Hall, which became a customer drop-in centre and the incident's control room.

On the mountainside above Bryn, colleagues drained away water that had entered the main, and locating and repairing the split section. The problem was found to be water from a bog that was blocking the supply.

It took 16 hours to find the fracture on the eight-inch main in Bryn, but just 30 minutes



As a thank you to the village for their patience and understanding, Wales & West Utilities bought ten flower arrangements and vases for that week's over 50 club lunch, but the biggest reward was being able to turn the heating back on in our homes.



This photo shows the difficulty accessing the problem.

to repair it after checking 1,800 metres of pipe and digging 15 access holes for the inspection camera which located the crack where the water from the bog was coming in.

Here are some statistics from the incident:

- 220 Warm Packs, 400 fan heaters and 150 hot plates handed out
- 36 hours off the network for residents
- 50 Gas Supply workers involved on-site
- 1,800 metres of main checked to find the fractured section
- Thousands of litres of water drained from the main
- 12 updates to their website and 2,518 views of its incident page.

BWYSTFIL Y BRYN

On 30th May this year will be the fifth Bwystfil y Bryn event which has grown larger every year so far, both in terms of activities and runner numbers, and it is expected that this trend will continue. The planned agenda for the day is covered on the enclosed leaflet. This promises to be a fantastic event for the runners, their supporters and the people of Bryn and the surrounding area. Come along and enjoy all that is on offer.

BRYN SCHOOL AND VILLAGE HALL

As was common knowledge in Bryn, NPT Council proposed the closure of Bryn School and the Village Hall. The good news is that after discussions between BRAG and the Council a licence was agreed to allow designated key holders, associated with BRAG, the continued use of the Centre. Each of the main groups using the community centre now has a designated key holder associated with the group. This was introduced at the start of April and appears to be working well. There has however been one unfortunate incident in that the glass in the emergency exit door has been broken, presumably as an act of vandalism. In order to retain what few assets we have, they must be looked after. If you are aware of any acts of vandalism please report them

to the police on 101.

The bad news is that the Council and the Councillors on the Cabinet still appear to be determined to close the village school despite objections from BRAG, the School Governors, two of our ward Councillors and hundreds of residents from both Bryn and Cwmafan.

Details of the ongoing fight to save the school can be found on the village web site. The School Governors and the Friends of Bryn School continue to fight this terrible decision that was unanimously supported by all the labour councillors on the cabinet. Councillors Marian Lewis and David Whitelock opposed the proposal but are not on the cabinet and therefore had no vote.

Get in touch! Visit the village website at: www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk



BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER



Easter fundraising

Bryn Rugby Club hosted another successful Easter fundraising event over the Bank Holiday weekend for Ty Olwen Hospice in special memory of the late Robert Cooper and Allan Morgan.

Good Friday kicked off with music provided by our local band 'The Villagers' and dancing into the early hours.

Easter Sunday saw the ever popular 'BIKE RIDE', where a £5.00 entry fee saw 20 Easter Bikers start from Gnoll Park in Neath through various hosteleries along the way and back to the Bryn Rugby club for a well-earned rest and hot food. We welcomed a few new riders this year as well as the usual hardy souls.

The evening Quiz night included some younger members of the village and it was a lovely family atmosphere.

This rounded off another excellent fundraising weekend and the total raised so far is a staggering £827.

Special thanks as always goes to

everyone from the village and friends from outside who continue each year to support these events organised as usual by Martin Fitzpatrick.

Particular thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the event and everyone who donated prizes for the raffles plus a huge thank you must go to everyone who attend these village events at the Bryn Rugby Club and who continue to keep supporting these worthy causes each year.

Also at the Rugby Club on Friday 24/04/15 saw Liss Jones appearing. Liss, from Merthyr, successfully completed the knockout stages of this seasons 'The Voice' on BBC1 as part of Judge 'Rita Ora's' team. This was her second time at the club, last year she entertained us with her Lady GaGa tribute. This time she sang a variety of new and old songs to a full club and it was great to see the continued support from the village as well as some new faces.

Surgery with the Councillors

This took place on Saturday 7th March. Paul Bulmer was away so could not attend and report on this meeting. He did contact the council to ask about the litter picking which was to stop after April as reported in the January Surgery meeting. The council informed him that litter picking is to continue in Bryn as normal.

The next Surgery meeting will be Saturday 4/07/15 as Surgeries cannot be held just before an election so there will be no Surgery in May. Your Councillors contact details are:

• **Marian A Lewis**
cldr.m.a.lewis@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07974 656124

• **David Whitelock**
cldr.d.whitelock@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07866 763888

• **David Williams**
cldr.i.d.williams@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07967 489151

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

The Community Police number is: 101
or 07584 771269.

Bryn Nature Reserve new walk

The new information board has been erected and one of the two existing boards has been repaired and replaced.

New way markers are on order and will be erected around the route soon. It is good to see that a number of people are now walking this trail so if you have not yet walked it why not add it to your future plans.

Youth Club

It had been reported that the Youth Club in Bryn was to no longer operate from the Bryn Community Centre. However, after the successful negotiations to save the Community Centre, the Youth Club have confirmed to BRAG that it will now continue to operate as normal from the community centre.

Maesteg Gleemen recruiting

The Gleemen, who have entertained Bryn on many an occasion are currently looking to recruit new members. If you would like the chance to exercise your singing talent contact Steve Easton at 9 Coronation or call him on 07794938531

Bryn Centenarians

Congratulations to Eirlys Davies who reached 100 years old in April and Matti Jones who will be 100 in May. Both these grand old ladies were born in Bryn and spent their lives here.

Future Village Events

An official opening of the new play area in the Tennis Courts is to take place in June. The play facilities are now in regular use by the younger element of the village residents and the new Tennis Court is to be made available after the Bryn Beast event. The Bryn Beast has been staged on the last Saturday of May for the last couple of years and it is intended to now stick to this date for future years.

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. Anyone with articles, news or anything interesting please contact markreesbrag@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 #032 July 2015



2k runners following the piper to the start line.



The Bwystfil y Bryn Race gets under way with a record number of runners.

BIGGEST EVER BWYSTFIL Y BRYN

The fifth Bwystfil y Bryn event took place on 30th May and was larger than ever, both in terms of activities and runner numbers.

There was an anxious moment when the children on the fun run were not turned back after 1km and continued along the route of the adult run. However, contrary to what was reported in the national press, the children were never in any danger. Mountain rescue, who were already at the event, assisting with marshalling and safety cover for the event, quickly mobilised their team and returned the children, and many of the

parents who were running with the younger children, back to the finish line. This was clearly very distressful for those parents that did not know what was happening and in future extra marshals will be used on this section of the race. This episode also had a knock on effect in delaying the start of the main race but once this was under way most people settled back in to enjoying a fabulous day as shown in the photos and the many emails we received from the runners.

Again this was a fantastic event for the

runners, their supporters and the people of Bryn and the surrounding area but even more important this and the Burton run raise thousands of pounds for charities supporting local needs. As normal, a presentation evening will take place in October in the Royal Oak to present cheques to the receiving charities and to celebrate this great achievement.

BRAG wish to thank all the residents who gave up their time to support our village again this year at The Beast.



First runner back Daniel Bodman wins the 7 miler.



Mark Hobbs is the 15 mile winner.



Sharon Leach wins the ladies 7 mile race.



Angharrad Mair wins the Ladies 15 mile race.

BRYN SCHOOL CLOSURE UNDER WAY

As is now common knowledge, the councillors on the cabinet have voted to close three village schools including Bryn Primary. Although BRAG, the School Governors, the Ward Councillors and Friends of Bryn School all put up strong arguments for saving the school, these did not win the day and the closure is now under way. BRAG will now work with all involved to try and

retain and relocate, in the village, some of the assets obtained for the school through the people of Bryn. This is clearly a very sad time for the village and especially for those directly involved. One small concession made by the council is that they will provide free places on the school bus for nursery children for the first two years.

Get in touch! Visit the village website at: www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk



BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER



Total Building Control donation

The photograph shows BRAG Chairman Graham Rowland, receiving a cheque for £1,140 from Ian Bain's Wife.

Ian's firm "Total Building Control of Swansea", supervised the contractors installation of the skateboard equipment and the upgrading of the tennis court in the Multi use games area at Bryn Park following a National Lottery grant of £86,000. BRAG would also like to thank Mark Dummer of Bryn who assisted Ian in this development.

The tennis court was painted, following the annual Beast of Bryn Run, and like the rest of the games area is already being well used by the village. An official opening is to take place on August 15th.

This will be held at the Tennis Courts with refreshments being served from the Bowls Pavilion. Music and games will also be laid on but should the weather prove to be inclement, this activity will transfer down to the Village Hall.



Surgery with the Councillors

This took place on Saturday 4th July. A number of maintenance issues in the village were raised which Councillor Marian Lewis said were being progressed but progress would be slow after the massive cuts undertaken by the Council. Items such as vandalism and litter were a waste on already overstretched resources and she encouraged anyone with any knowledge of these to report them to the police on 101. The next Surgery meeting will be Saturday 5/09/15 at 11am. Your Councillors contact details are:

- **Marian A Lewis**
cldr.m.a.lewis@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07974 656124
 - **David Whitelock**
cldr.d.whitelock@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07866 763888
 - **David Williams**
cldr.i.d.williams@npt.gov.uk
Tel: 07967 489151
- The council number is:** (01639) 686 868
or you can email: contactus@npt.gov.uk
- The Community Police number is:**
101 or 07584 771269.

OLD MINING DRAM AT SCHOOL

There is currently an old mining dram located at the front of Bryn Primary School. The two photos below show drams in use. The photo on the left shows the bottom of the incline where it finished by the Eagle brick works in Cwmavon. The photo on the right was taken at the top of incline above Bryn. Both photos were kindly provided by Port Talbot Historical Society.



Support Bryn — and Wales at the same time!

Bryn Rockets would like to thank all that turned up for the fund-raising quiz night at the Royal Oak. A superb turn out and a great night was had by all. Further to this, another quiz will take place at the Bryn Wanderers Rugby Club on Sunday, September 6th, followed by Wales v Israel UEFA Championship Qualifier. Doors open at 2pm, quiz starts at 2.30pm, Wales kick off at 5pm. All welcome, come along and support the Rockets and then Wales, who will hopefully make history. New players welcome – training Tuesday nights at Bryn Welfare Ground.

Bryn Village Hall repairs

The Village Hall continues to be used by the regular groups and for BRAG events such as the Beast. A number of repairs have been carried out by the Council since the village took on stewardship of the hall. This is an excellent venue so please do make full use of these facilities to help retain them for the village.

New nature trail open

The new way markers have arrived and are being erected around the route. Have you walking this trail yet? Why not add it to your future plans.

Michael Jones

The late Michael Jones (Tubby) was born in Ty Lat. He moved away from the village to find work, but he would often return here with his family and tell them about his boyhood in the village. They would sit on the bench on top of the "cwms". This bench went into a state of disrepair but the family have had the bench renovated in his memory.

Youth Club updates

Youth Club services have agreed to provide updates to BRAG about the Bryn Youth Club. These will be posted on the "What's On" page of the village web site.

Gleemen recruiting

The Maesteg Gleemen, who have entertained Bryn on many an occasion, are recruiting. If you would like the chance to exercise your singing talent contact Steve Easton at 9 Coronation St. or call him on 07794938531

Future Village Events

A ladies' fitness class has started at Bryn Rugby Club on Thursday evenings at 7pm. The taster session went well and instructor Patrick Kapida was pleased with the ladies performance! All ages and levels of fitness are welcome. Join in, get fit and socialise!



BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

BRYN: A NICE PLACE TO BE / BRYN: LLE DEDWYDD I FOD Issue #033 October 2015

PLAY AREA'S GRAND OPENING

The new £86,000 play area, obtained by BRAG through The Big Lottery fund was officially opened in style on 15th August 2015.

The venue, a Multi-use Play Area located in the Tennis Courts at Bryn, was officially opened by "Britain's Got Talent" star Paul Potts.

This area now includes a youth shelter, skateboard ramps, basketball net and a renewed tennis court. This village asset has been well used by the children of Bryn ever since it was installed in the spring. The opening event was also attended by Aberavon AM David Rees, who said on the day "This is an excellent facility much needed by the children and young people in Bryn and I congratulate Bryn Residents Action Group on their hard work in securing the funding for this development. Such facilities have shown to reduce antisocial behaviour in communities and offer young people and children an opportunity to enjoy sporting activities in a safe environment".



Flags flying and the ribbon ready to be cut

Councillor David Whitelock, who had also helped with securing the Lottery Grant, was there to celebrate the official opening along with our newly elected MP Stephen Kinnock.

As part of the day, a Falconry Display by "Black Mountains Falconry" was laid on as well as entertainment by "Pick A Mix Entertainment" who organised music and games for the children present. A Skate Board demonstration and coaching session was also provided and everyone present was able to enjoy the buffet and refreshments in the sunny outdoor setting.



The whole day was provided free of charge and funded by The Big Lottery. It had been a good turnout on the day with many people saying how much they had enjoyed the day and would it be a good idea to have a "Party in the Park" every summer.

BRAG intend providing future coaching lessons for all the activities available in the new venue and will publish details for these when available. Please can those interested contact Dianne Thomas on 896118 to register an interest and Dianne can then ensure you are kept informed of any arrangements.

FUNDRAISING RICHARD BURTON RUN RETURNS

On Sunday 1st November 2015 BRAG will be organising the annual Richard Burton 10k run at Cwmafan as they have done now for the last couple of years. The event will take place at the Cwmavon Community Centre and follow the Agenda below:

Young Skully.....	9am
2k Race Warm up	9.45am
2K Race Start.....	10.15am
10K Race Warm up.....	10.45am
10K Race Start.....	11am

Post-Race Entertainment will start at 2pm in the Cwmavon Rugby Club and run through to the evening. Live acts will include Young Skully, The Other Guys, Hot Squash and The Decades.



This event raised over £6000 for local charities last year. If you would like to take part this year, register now via the BRAG website or contact Shaun Tobin on s.tobin2@ntlworld.com or on 07854 604118.

Get in touch! Visit the village website at: www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk



BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER



Bryn Nature Reserve new walk



The new way markers have been erected around the route.

It has been good to see that this trail is now being regularly used by people both from the village and outside the area although disappointing that there are



morons around who think it is a good idea to remove the newly erected posts!

The rope swing, located half way along this trail, also appears to be a very popular attraction with the younger element.

Bryn School Closure

BRAG continues work with all involved to try and retain and relocate, in the village, some of the assets obtained for the school through the people of Bryn.

With the increased number of young children now having to use public transport to attend school the issue of speeding through the village has been raised by many of the mothers in Bryn. These concerns have been passed onto the councillors and the police who have promised to monitor the situation.

This is Halloween!

BRAG will be working with Bryn Rugby Club to put on a Halloween event at the club on Wednesday October 28th from 6pm to 8pm. With spooky fun from DaleyBee Disco, food and refreshments available to purchase, and competitions for the best dressed and best lantern.



BOWLED OVER!

Bryn WI and Bryn Welfare Bowls, An unlikely pairing you may think, but on a chilly evening in July the ladies of Bryn WI met up with the gentlemen of Bryn Welfare Bowls Club. The ladies held their monthly meeting in the Bowls Pavilion and after a brief introductory talk about the club and the basics of bowls, the ladies took to the green. For almost all the ladies this was the first time they had tried bowls. They were expertly guided and received encouragement from Gareth Jones, Brian Hughes and Graham Merriman. All the ladies agreed that it had been a very enjoyable evening and it prompted a few to consider the invitation of the Bowls Club to join as members. The Bowls Club also welcomed an offer from the WI to help out in some events next year when the club will be celebrating its 90th birthday and one of its members will be honoured in becoming President of



the West Glamorgan Bowls Association. This village club has much to celebrate after investing in the quality of the green, the Neath District Bowls League have asked the club to hold the finals of their competitions in Bryn. The club will also be awarded the Welsh Bowls Federation "Clubmark" for being well organised, reaching out to the community and having properly accredited, CRB checked, coaches. Randall Tucker is congratulated for representing West Glamorgan and for being part of their Welsh Championship winning team.

Councillors Surgery

The next Surgery meeting will be Saturday 7/11/15 at 11am. Your Councillors contact details are:

- **Marian A Lewis** Tel: 07974 656124
 - **David Whitelock** Tel: 07866 763888
cllr.d.whitelock@npt.gov.uk
 - **David Williams** Tel: 07967 489151
- The council number is:** (01639) 686 868 or you can email: contactus@npt.gov.uk
The Community Police number is: 101 or 07584 771269.

Young Bowlers Excel

Junior Bowlers Coaching Sessions were organised by the club throughout August, each Monday from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, for youngsters interested in giving bowls a go. The club were delighted with the response with up to 14 youngsters in attendance with some showing a lot of promise. The club is looking forward to next season when perhaps some of these may represent the club in competitions or matches.

Youth Club

Youth Club services have agreed to provide updates to BRAG about the Bryn Youth Club. These will be posted on the "What's On" page of the village web site.

Gleemen recruiting

The Maesteg Gleemen, who have entertained Bryn on many an occasion, are still recruiting new members. If you would like the chance to exercise your singing talent contact Steve Easton at 9 Coronation St. or call him on 07794938531

Bryn Fitness Class

The fitness class, at Bryn Rugby Club at 7pm on Thursdays, continues to go well. It is an opportunity for all to get fit and socialise.

"Decades" Night

Following the success of the Caribbean night in July, the ladies of the club are organising a "Decades" night on Saturday 14th November. Come dressed in the clothes of your favourite decade, or just come along and enjoy Ray's disco with music. It promises to be another great night.

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. Anyone with articles, news or anything interesting please contact markreesbrag@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 #034 December 2015

CHRISTMAS IN BRYN: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22



Club's Halloween parties are a spooky success

BRAG teamed up with the Rugby Club this year to put on a Halloween event in the club on 28th October. This was well attended and feedback from those attending was excellent. BRAG hope to make this an annual event with the Rugby Club.

The club also hosted another Halloween event for older spooks on the Saturday evening.



Santa Claus is coming to Bryn!

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

Once again, BRAG will be staging a Christmas Event in the Village Hall. This will be on the evening of Tuesday the 22nd December and will include entertainment by "Circo Rum Ba Ba" who will present Dress UP for Christmas.

The story line goes like this: Deep in the dark woods a wood cutter and his daughter are getting ready for Christmas. They have so little food and money that the wood cutter decides to leave his daughter and go into the city to see what other work he can get to pay for some seasonal cheer.

When he has gone, his daughter Olive who is brave and adventurous decides she will not stay on her own in the woods so she heads off into the city to find her father.

Once in the city Olive finds the shops and businesses where her father may have been and the whole adventure unfolds with hat juggling in Fat Cat Hats, China plate spinning at The Hairy Pear Cafe and opera at the Pig in a Wig shop. The story ends with a Christmas feast at the palace and acrobatics on the table!

This hugely energetic Christmas show is

BRYN XMAS TIMES

5pm: Santa sets off

Santa sets off on his sleigh from Bryn Rugby Club for a tour of the village.

6pm - 6.30pm

Santa arrives at Grotto in Bryn Community Centre where children can meet Santa, and even get a special Xmas gift.

6.15pm: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Anthony Bwye will lead a medley of much-loved traditional carols for all to join in on.

6.30pm:

It's Time to be entertained by "Circo Rum Ba Ba"

Mulled wine, mince pies and other snacks and refreshments served all evening. Get your Christmas festivities off to a great start and come along and enjoy a really great evening aimed at all ages.

magically told by a story telling giant Grande Dame and the whole adventure unfolds from her sumptuous dress. There is lots of audience participation and something for every age group in Dress up for Christmas by Circo Rum Ba Ba.

Tickets are available in advance from BRAG with any remaining tickets being sold on the door at £4.00 each, £3.00 for Children and OAPs.

Get in touch! Visit the village website at: www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk



BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER



Councillors' surgery

The next Surgery meeting will be Saturday 2/01/16 at 11am. Your Councillors contact details are:

- Marian A Lewis, Tel: 07974 656124
- David Whitelock cllr.d.whitelock@npt.gov.uk Tel: 07866 763888
- David Williams, Tel: 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.

The Over 55's Club

This club meets every Thursday afternoon in the village hall from 1.30 to 4.30p.m. There is a small charge but the club aims to give good value for money with the aim of providing an afternoon of bingo, refreshments, good conversation and above all laughter. Membership has increased over the last two years with members obviously from Bryn but also from Maesteg, Cwmafan, Port Talbot and Sandfields.

For members who have difficulty with mobility, there is a minibus to take them to and from the Village Hall. They have monthly treats either in the Centre or organised trips out of the village that normally end up in a Pub for a meal and a drink. In December Caterers will provide a Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall followed by a Christmas Party with games, prizes and presents. Why not go along and give it a try and find out why so many keep going back every Thursday?

Bryn School Closure

BRAG are continuing to work with all involved to retain and relocate, in the village, some of the assets obtained for the school through the people of Bryn. This is proving a very slow process but progress is being made. The bell from the school, now located in the community centre, is rang at the start and end of every meeting of the Over 55s Club. The WI said they will also start this new tradition. The video of the last school concert is now on the Bryn website.

Skateboard and Tennis

BRAG has proposed the provision of skateboard and tennis coaching in the new facilities next year. However, in order to do this BRAG needs to have evidence that there is such a need so please register your interest with Dianne Thomas on 896118.

Rugby Field

A lease from the Council for the Rugby field has now been signed by the Bryn RFC & Bryn CC as well as BRAG to include provision for the Beast of Bryn annual event. Details of this lease will be added to the village website along with the other leases relating to the village.



Thousands support charity fun run

Sunday 1st November saw thousands of people descend on Cwmavon to witness the 33rd running of the TATA STEEL Richard Burton 10k. With fantastic local support, the visitors were able to enjoy all the splendour and wonderful community spirit that this area has to offer.

The race saw a record number of participants, nearly 700 taking part in the 10k and over 300 in the "go run for fun", family fun run.

This is now the third time that BRAG has organised this race and they were delighted to see another record turnout for the event.

Dewi Griffiths of Swansea harriers won the men's race in 30:24 and Clara Evans, Pontypridd Roadents, was triumphant in the ladies race at 36:46. Cwmavon triumphed

over Ponrhydyfen in the inter club challenge and took away the keenly contested Matthew Mizen Trophy. Cwmavon had the most supported group, winning 'the Lesa Hitchings memorial trophy' taking away £250 to donate to a charity of their choice.

Thousands of pounds were raised, and to follow the ethos of why the race was set up in the first place, the moneys will be shared between local community group's organisations and charities.

Post-race entertainment took place in Cwmavon Rugby Club with four live bands running through in to the evening. A presentation will be hosted by Tata in the Tata Training Academy. For further details visit the BRAG website or contact Shaun Tobin on s.tobin2@ntlworld.com or on 07854 604118.

Youth Club

Bryn Youth club is not currently operating due to staffing shortages. BRAG has been told that they are currently recruiting and the Bryn Youth Club will be resumed once the situation has been resolved. Youth Club services have agreed to provide updates to BRAG and these will be posted on the "What's On" page of the web site.

Bryn IT Club

BRAG proposes to start an IT (Information Technology) Club in the Bryn Community Centre on a Tuesday Afternoon from 2 to 4pm. This will cover many of the tools useful for living in the 21st Century such as buying computers, smart phones and computer tablets, using the Internet for free phone calls around the world, saving money when shopping, social media and much more. There will be a small charge of £2 per session to cover costs. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th Dec.

Bryn Fitness Class

The fitness class, at Bryn Rugby Club at 7pm on Thursdays, continues to go well and will resume in the New Year. There will also be Yoga at 6pm on Mondays.

Future Village Events

With the festive season upon us there are many activities being planned by the Rugby Club: Fri Dec 4th, comedy duo New Tomfoolery, on Boxing Day local band Left Hand Drive, and on Sunday 27th Dec a football match between Bryn Rockets & Bryn Wanderers, kick off at Bryn Welfare Field at 1pm, followed by our own local band The Villagers in Bryn Rugby Club from 7pm till late. On New Year's Eve, Ray Wheaton's Disco will be seeing us into the New Year. All these are free admission.

Keep an eye on the BRAG website and notice board outside the village hall for the latest on what is happening in and around Bryn.