



Bryn. A nice place to be.

BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk

Registered charity number: 1158947

Issue 48 February 2019



Bryn, lle dedwydd I fod.

Distant Memories

The Christmas Holidays now seem like a distant memory but the local community certainly came together over this period. Cllrs Charlotte Galsworthy and Rhidian Mizen helped by Ellen & Enid at Cwmavon library, led a community group to raise funds to support Christmas across the Bryn and Cwmafan Ward. Over £8,000 pounds was raised, largely from public donations with some from local businesses and a secret donation of £2,000 from Mrs Clause. This funded decorations across the ward but also created a massive workload for volunteers everywhere in putting up the decorations and organising events. The activities also lit up social media with hundreds of people saying how it had brought back community spirit in the ward, reminding them of how it used to be years ago. Cllr. Charlotte has said on her Facebook page that having rekindled this community spirit she intends doing all she can to keep it going both across the year and in planning early for next Christmas.

BRAG worked alongside Charlotte and the Bryn Rugby Club to make Christmas special. As he has now done for the last few years, Dean Heycock donated a tree for the Bryn Community Centre, which BRAG decorated and lit up over Christmas. As well as decorating the interior of the community centre in time for the Thursday Club's Christmas dinner. Alan Thomas put Christmas Lights, provided by

Charlotte's group, on the large tree by his house on the hill. This was visible from most of Bryn. The Children's Christmas Party, at Bryn Rugby Club, on the Sunday before Christmas was very well attended and enjoyed by everyone. As was the evening, when The Maesteg Gleemen MVC entertained a packed venue with traditional songs and Carols.

In addition there were many other activities across the ward such as the switching on the

Christmas tree lights, the Festival of Lights, the pantomime, in Cwmavon, many from Bryn enjoyed the Bath Christmas market trip and much more in addition to the socialising taking place in our local pub, the Royal Oak and the Bryn Rugby Club, throughout the Christmas period.



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BRAG Now in its 10th Year

BRAG was formed back in 2009, so it feels like a good time to reflect back on the last ten years. Brag's main objective is to make Bryn "A nice place to be". To achieve this BRAG has worked with the Ward Councillors to have derelict buildings removed and sites tidied up for redevelopment. BRAG has secured grants to develop things like the picnic area where the colliery canteen



used to be, for a stone feature wall to be built at the start of the walk by the Royal Oak, and for damaged areas such as the bridge to be repaired. When the council no longer supported the play area and tennis courts BRAG secured a grant to rejuvenate the tennis court and install a Multi-Function Play facility.

When the council declared that they were going to close the village school, BRAG worked with other groups to

try to reverse that decision, unfortunately without success but we did then go on to secure grants to relocate the trim track from the school to the playing field so that it can still be used by the village children.

BRAG established the Beast of Bryn Race, this has spun off into a separate charity "Bryn and Cwmafan events". This organises the Richard Burton Race and is looking to support further events in the two villages. BRAG continue to take an active part supporting the events put on such as the Richard Burton Race.

In order to help maintain a close community within Bryn, BRAG have organised many events over the years. Regular ones being Halloween and Christmas, many others have taken place around St David's, Easter and summer. We are also looking to raise money to put on a Party in the Park again, hopefully with better weather this year. We are also working closely with other groups in the village to support their activities where it has been able. BRAG developed a village website and also operates a Facebook Page where news relating to the village is published and records events relating to the village from over a hundred years ago right up to present time. This Bi-monthly Newsletter is delivered around the village. If anyone has any interesting topics they would like to include in the newsletter just let BRAG know.

If you have your own ideas on how to improve life in the village, new members are always welcome so why not join BRAG and transform your ideas into reality and help us to keep up its work for another 10 years.

Stop Press Next coffee morning will be after the 6 Nations on Sat March 23rd. At Bryn Rugby Club. So far the Bryn coffee mornings have raised £100 for British Heart Foundation, £100 for Air Ambulance, £451 for Macmillan Cancer Support and £130 for Ty Hafan.



LOTTERY FUNDED

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