

YSTRADOWEN VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Summer 2017

Dear Fellow Villagers,

Welcome to the second edition of the Ystradowen Village Newsletter. The first edition was met with an extraordinary thumbs up from the village and beyond. Thank you again for all the kind messages posted on the hub, sent by email, text, and in conveyed person. Penllyn Community Council have expressed their full support for this community initiative and made a financial donation to its production. For this reason, we shall be delivering to Trerhyngyll and are keen to include news from our neighbouring village in the next edition. We have also secured sponsorship for the newsletter from Cardiff University's School of Law and Politics. We are very grateful to both of these organisations for their support.

In this edition, as we continue to welcome new residents to the village, we bring you news from our now regular contributors from local schools and groups, as well as up-dates on the on-going consultation events regarding the s106/Creative Rural Communities Grant bid, and the never-ending quest for Superfast (rather than super slow!) broadband.

Most importantly, in 2017, the village will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of our very own Big Build! 1987 saw the opening of the village hall built by the community for the community. We can reveal the exciting programme of events for Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September for all the family. Do put the date in your diary now and start preparing for the competitions!

With election fever over (for the time being anyway), we bring you information about those representing you at the different tiers of governance and how to contact them.

Now school is out for summer, this edition also includes a selection of activities going on in the local area over the coming month or so.

A huge thank you to all the contributors to this edition. If you have news that you would like included in the autumn/winter edition of the newsletter, want to join the editorial team, or would like to receive the newsletter in a different

format, please email us at the address below. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is 20th October 2017.

Sara Howells, Editor, ystradnews@gmail.com

YSTRADOWEN COMMUNITY AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION (YCSA)

The YCSA is a small group of volunteers who run the village hall, organise events to bring the community together for a bit of fun, and bring you this newsletter.

The YCSA held its AGM in May. Chris Kipling (Chair), Tony Williams (Treasurer) and Rod Howells (Secretary) were re-elected unanimously. Keris Howard, Fiona Sylver, Corinne Roberts, Alan Jackson, and Moira Howells, were all re-elected, and Spencer Shields, who has recently moved into the village, was elected as the newest member. A number of other residents regularly attend meetings and indicated their willingness to support the Committee with their activities. New members and new ideas are always welcome. For more information, or dates of the next meeting contact Chris (772726), Rod (771206), or Tony Williams (775420).

Important dates for your social diary!

- ❖ **Sat 16th & Sun 17th Sept - 30th Anniversary of the Village Hall celebrations – an exciting weekend for all the family.**
- ❖ **Sat 4th November – Annual Fireworks Display.**
- ❖ **Sun 3rd December – Children's Christmas Party (lunchtime) followed by the Lighting of the Village Christmas Tree – (early evening).**
- ❖ **Mon 4th December – Christmas event for Senior Citizens.**

YSTRADOWEN VILLAGE HALL 30TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

16TH-17TH SEPTEMBER 2017

It's the summer of 1987 – Rick Astley is topping the charts with his smash hit, Never Gonna Give You Up, or perhaps you preferred La Bamba by Los Lobos, both keeping Madonna and Michael Jackson off the top slot. Teenagers were swooning over Patrick Swayze in 'Dirty Dancing', chuckling over Eddie Murphy's antics in Beverly Hills Cop II, or being unnerved by the latest Nam film, Stanley Kubrick's 'Full Metal Jacket'. Here in Ystradowen, the YCSA were busy putting the finishing touches to the village hall ready for its official opening on 12th September 1987 by the Mayoress of the Vale of Glamorgan, Councillor Mrs. Evelyn E Lloyd.

Fast forward 30 years, and the YCSA committee are busy at work again preparing for the 30th anniversary weekend on 16th and 17th September. It will be a fun-filled weekend for all the family so block out those dates in your calendar, and start the count down.

A **raffle** will be held on both days with all proceeds being donated to the YCSA Committee's chosen charity for 2017, **Sands (Stillbirth and neonatal death charity)**. This charity supports anyone affected by the death of a baby and works to improve bereavement care and promote research to reduce the loss of babies' lives. www.sands.org.uk If you are a local business and would like to donate a raffle prize, please contact Keris or Corinne.

Saturday 16th September from 10.30am

For the **children**, all aspiring magicians will be enthralled by **Cool Dude's Magic Show at 11am**. From **1pm**, the mysterious **Science Boffin** will be showing children how to concoct potions that would rival those of Harry Potter, or should that be Hermione Granger.

From **10.30am**, there will be a range of stalls demonstrating the immense Arts and Crafts talent that is cultivated within the hall throughout the year from Vale Photographic, Vale Lace, Cutting Edge, Glamorgan Quilters, Goldwork Embroidery, and Ystradowen's Women's Institute. There will be a Food Zone with the chance to taste and buy food from local producers

as well as street food. Teas, coffees, cakes, ice-creams and lollies will be available in the village hall and a BBQ serving burgers and hot dogs in Parc Owain. We will all be treated to a dance and singing displays from local children from **2pm**.

For those grown-ups wishing to re-live 1987 and show off your Patrick Swayze moves, **Saturday evening** is your chance. So book the babysitters and get out your glad rags for a night of **dancing** (no stilettos sorry!) and cavorting Ystradowen style with **live band**, 'The Blades' Tickets (£15 each) will be available and includes a glass of Prosecco, a Hog Roast and desserts kindly donated by Paul at The Meadow Vale. There will be a full bar, and a quieter area for reminiscing about those heady days of 1987.

Sunday 17th September from 10.30am

If you thought Sunday would be a quieter affair, think again! For the children, budding Mary Berry's can enter the **Ystradowen bake-off competition from 10.30am**, and for younger children there will be **face-painting and arts and crafts**.

There will also be a chance for villagers to show off their extraordinary talents at the **Ystradowen Mini-Village Show**. Time to get creative! All residents, young and old(er), are invited to enter a range of competitions (see the schedule at the end of the newsletter for rules, entry form and classes).

- An arrangement in a jar of home-grown flowers
- A collection of five home-grown vegetables arranged for effect
- Jar of preserve
- Afternoon tea for one: sweet and savoury treats on a tray
- A craft item celebrating the 30th anniversary weekend
- Holiday photograph
- Miniature garden
- Model using Lego to celebrate the 30th anniversary weekend
- Model of an animal using fruit and/or vegetables.
- Three small decorated cakes

Bring your entries to the marquee at the village hall on Sunday at between **10-30 - 12pm**. Judging will take place at **12.30pm**. The winners will be announced at **1pm**.

From 12-1pm, we shall have a village picnic (bring your own food) followed by **aces**, and a mixed **5 a side football tournament** (weather permitting) on the MUGA. So if Jessica Ennis-Hill, Usain Bolt, or Jonnie Peacock are your inspiration, bring along your trainers for a **1.15pm** start.

If dancing is not your style, or you want to relax after the night before, you will want to come along to **Sunday Afternoon Tea from 3-5pm** and be serenaded by the soothing voices of **Cor Meibion y Machlud**, competitors at the International Music Festival at Llangollen. Tickets £5.

Entrance for all village children and grandchildren for the entire weekend is free, and costs £2 for visitors.

Tickets are £15 each for the Saturday evening dance (7.30pm-12am) and £5 each for the Sunday afternoon tea (3pm-5pm). Tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance and will be on sale in the village hall on Sunday 3rd September 11-1pm and Monday 4th September from 7-9pm. Tickets limited. First come, first served! For queries, contact Keris (775640) or Corinne (772930).

Donations of cakes would be gratefully received for the Saturday. Please bring along at 10.30am to the village hall.

There will be no parking available in the village hall car park over the weekend and the pub will be open so its car park will only be available to clients.

For up-date and reminders about the weekend, please keep your eyes on the Ystradowen Village Hub on Facebook. If you are able to help on the weekend for a couple of hours or so, or want to donate to the raffle, please get in touch with Keris or Corinne.

SUMMER HOLIDAY ART COMPETITION

Whether you are a budding Constable, Picasso or Banksy, All the children in the village are invited to enter **art competition** and design a poster for the 30th anniversary weekend. All entries will be displayed in the village hall. The winning entries for each age category and will be chosen by an independent judge. Entries to be submitted to: 3 Badgers Brook Drive, Ystradowen, by Wednesday 23rd August.

All entries should be submitted on an A4 paper. Please write your name and address clearly on the back of your entry.

Entries divided into three age groups (0-7, 8-11,12-18).

Village Funding progresses to Stage 2

In the last newsletter, we brought you news that the YCSA had been successful in proceeding to Stage 2 of a bid to draw down funding from the Welsh Government to improve village amenities. The YCSA have been working hard on finalising the next stage of the bid. Here is an up-date from the Grant Lead, Chris Howard:

In February 2017, a preliminary grant approval was given to YCSA by Welsh Government for a £160,000 community project supported by £128,000 of Rural Communities Development Funding (RCDF). However some complications arose with planning and VAT implications of the YCSA carrying out the works rather than the Council.

Following the consultation event in January and further discussion with the Vale of Glamorgan and Welsh Government, the following decisions have been taken by YCSA in putting together a detailed Grant Application that will be funded by Welsh Government.

The RCDF Application will now include:

- *An Annex to the Village Hall and associated car park works at an estimated cost of £135,000;*
- *Construction of a competition-standard pétanque piste at Parc Owain at a cost of £7,000;*
- *Provision of a 'digital hub' for community computer access and training at the Village Hall at a cost of £5,000;*
- *Purchase of equipment for a community cinema at the Village Hall at a cost of £10,000;*
- *Purchase and installation of Heritage Information signs at Parc Owain and at a central site in the village at a cost of £3,000.*

With regard to the Badgers Brook play area proposals and the RCDF bid:

- *The Badgers Brook play area has been removed from the RCDF Stage 2 Application being made by YCSA. A sub-committee of the YCSA led by Rod Howells and Beccie Morteo is working with the Council to develop the Badgers Brook play area which will take into account the views expressed at the village consultation on the 14th June. The Vale of Glamorgan Council will procure and finance the play area from section 106 funding received from the Edenbrook developers with*

an expenditure ceiling of £50,000. Once the tenders have been submitted, there will be further consultation with the village, and work will begin early in 2018.

- *The YCSA will fund £15,600 of the £32,000 needed for the locally funded element of the RCDF bid. The Vale of Glamorgan Council will fund the remaining £16,400 of the local funding from the section 106 receipts.*
- *Elements of the project that cannot be funded at this time will be earmarked for completion in a second phase as and when funding becomes available, but appropriate permissions will be sought at this stage from the Vale of Glamorgan in respect to works at Parc Owain for an Early Years play space and trim trail.*

We expect to submit the final Grant Application by the end of August and Welsh Government then have 90 working days to give us a decision. If the outcome is successful we aim to begin works in the spring of 2018.

Chris Howard oeseducation@icloud.com

Once again, a huge thank you to Chris Howard, Tony Cheeseman, David Thursfield and Rod Howells for their hard work and persistence in progressing the bid, and their determination to maximise the funds available to develop facilities in the village. As you will see, some initial items of expenditure planned such as the early years play area and trim trail in Parc Owain will now be completed in a second phase. Likewise, further equipment may be needed for the Badgers Brook play area once the outcome of the tenders is known. The YCSA are committed to exploring other funding sources, e.g. Big Lottery Funding, and putting on fund-raising activities over the next 12 months to secure these items. If you would like to be involved in this next phase, please get in touch with the YCSA.

Broadband Update

The poor broadband speeds in the village and the lack of definitive information on when and who will be connected to Superfast Cymru broadband network is of major concern to all villagers, and the frustration is palpable. Some residents are no longer able to run their businesses or work from home, and are having to find

alternative venues with better broadband connections. Even the completion homework can be a real source of frustration for families.

The mid-April deadline for completing the FTTP work reported in the spring edition of this newsletter has passed. A letter dated 21 July 2017 sent to Jane Hutt AM from Julie James AM, Minister for Skills and Science, states that work will be completed by the end of July with a further 6-8 weeks of testing and verification before superfast orders can be placed with a service provider. We do hope this is the case and there have been reported sightings of Openreach vans in the village over the past few months.

The letter explains that this delay has been due to BT experiencing unforeseen duct capacity issues that were only discovered once engineers were physically undertaking roll-out work. There has also been a need for additional planning applications to be sought incurring further delays. The letter also claims that BT have confirmed that some villagers can already access superfast broadband with a mixture of cabinet and fibre to the premises connection. If this is the case, it would be very helpful to know which postcodes are connected – please email ystradnews@gmail.com and ystradfibre@gmail.com so that we can keep track of all developments, however incremental they may be.

While the news from BT via Julie James is somewhat reassuring, she admits that she is not able to investigate the connection to specific addresses, or give a definitive connection date. More worrying is that recent correspondence from BT with Penllyn Community Councillors referred to further delays until November. In addition, the letter refers to a one-month open market review launched in January 2017 by Welsh Government to identify premises unable to secure a superfast broadband connection under the Superfast Cymru project in the first phase allowing them to extend availability in a second initiative. It also states that this was followed by one-month long public consultation launched in June to improve information on all residential, commercial and public sector addresses across Wales. Originally closed on 13th July, from the Welsh Government website, it appears that the deadline was extended

to the 27th July. This consultation required the public to review the status of their premises and review the provision of superfast broadband using an interactive map. This map can be accessed at <http://lle.gov.wales/map/ngaomr2017>

The concern raised by villagers is that this map identifies all the premises in Badgers Brook Drive, Close, and Rise (including the new Edenbrook estate), Sandy Lane and Highgrove as 'White' premises. These are *'those in which there is no qualifying broadband infrastructure and none is likely to be developed within 3 years.'* **Furthermore, the map does not identify many of the out-lying premises around Ystradowen.** It may well be that this map does not reflect more recent developments, but please do check your premise on this map and send feedback to OMR@wales.gsi.gov.uk

You can rest assured that a number of villagers are working hard to try to get more clarity on the issue including your representatives on Penllyn Community Council, as well as the village contact, Graham Roberts (ystradfibre@gmail.com)

The Welsh Government have also drawn our attention to **two funding schemes** which enable residents to secure superfast connections using alternative technology, e.g. 4G.

- **Access Broadband Cymru (ABC Scheme)**
Provides grants to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new broadband connections for homes and businesses in Wales (but not monthly rental costs). Only new connections which led to a step change in speed are eligible, i.e. at least double current download speeds.
- **Ultrafast Connectivity Voucher (UCV) Schemes**
Also available if you wish to upgrade to an ultrafast service (100+Mbps downstream, 30+Mbps upstream). The scheme provides up to £10,000 to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new ultrafast connections for businesses in Wales (excluding monthly rental costs).

For more information on both schemes, call 0300 025 8887 or email broadband@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Do keep the village and Graham Roberts informed if you are successful with obtaining funds so that we can get the best picture possible of what our options are in a rural community.

Pavements

Penllyn Community Councillors, Morgan Smith and Ann Jarvis, met with residents at Ystradowen village hall on the 14th June to discuss the poor state of the pavements in the village, in particular the lack of dropped kerbs, and the inability to be able to walk along the pavement from one side of the village to the other in its entirety, or to Cowbridge. The Councillors have collated the views expressed and will be presenting a report to Penllyn Community Council so that the matter can be pursued with the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

COMMUNITY POLICING

In June, Penllyn Community Councillors were introduced to the new Neighbourhood Policing Officer/Swyddog Plismona Cymdogaeth for the area, PC Sian Roberts (55489). PC Roberts is due to complete her training shortly and can be contacted on her work mobile (07805 301644). You can also email PC Stuart Elson (4570) who is also part of the Vale of Glamorgan's Neighbourhood Policing Team and based at Llantwit Major Police Station on stuart.elson@south-wales.pnn.police.uk

Following recent posts on the Ystradowen Village Hub, councillors were advised that if members of the public have concerns that an offence is being committed (which is not an emergency) then they should not hesitate to call 101. You will then be advised on the next steps to take.

Facebook Village Hub

The **Ystradowen Village Hub** can be found on Facebook and now has 249 followers and 225 likes. Do check it out for the latest news, or to post your own stories/requests. As Facebook is not for everyone, the YCSA are exploring the option of updating the current website,

www.ystradowen.org.uk so that issues of the newsletter can have a permanent home.

The Meadow Vale opens in September

So it's now official. A new sign has been erected confirming that The White Lion has become The Meadow Vale and is on track to open on Wednesday 6th September. Former owners of The Llangenor Arms, near Bridgend, Paul Jones, and his business, Keith Griffiths, have spent the last year revamping the pub and transforming into a must-visit destination for all you foodies. The Meadow Vale will be open from Tuesday-Sundays from 9-4pm. It will serve traditional breakfasts as well as patisseries. Lunches and well as Sunday lunch and will have full bar.

The YCSA is very grateful to Paul for providing the desserts for the 30th Anniversary Celebrations Dance.

Wedding Bells!!!

Many congratulations to Mike, a familiar face at Tudor Garage, on his recent marriage to Beccie. We wish Mike and Beccie all the very best for the future!

SCHOOL NEWS

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Tymor yr Haf/Summer Term 2017

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is pleased to announce that it has been awarded an extension to its *'Lead Creative Schools'* grant by the Arts Council for Wales. The additional funding will enable Ysgol Iolo Morganwg to share with other schools its experiences, methods and the good practices gained on projects it has undertaken in the course of the past two years. During the forthcoming autumn term, Year 5 pupils will be working with

their contemporaries at Ysgol Dewi Sant on a science project.

Mae Ysgol Iolo Morganwg yn falch o gyhoeddi ei bod wedi llwyddo i ennill grant *'Ysgolion Arweiniol Creadigol'* pellach gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Bydd yr estyniad i'r prosiect yn galluogi disgyblion Ysgol Iolo Morganwg i rannu gydag ysgolion eraill ei phrofiadau, dulliau ac arfer dda sydd wedi'i sefydlu dros y dwy flynedd ddiwethaf. Yn ystod tymor yr hydref, bydd disgyblion Blwyddyn 5 yr ysgol yn cyd-weithio gyda disgyblion Ysgol Dewi Sant ar brosiect gwyddoniaeth.

Thank you to all who competed in the National Eisteddfod in May and congratulations to the winners. Thanks also to those pupils who performed on stage during *'Gwyl Fach y Fro'* in June.

Diolch i bob un a chystadlwyd yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ym mis Mai a llongyfarchiadau i'r ennillwyr. Diolch hefyd i'r disgyblion a pherfformiwyd yn ystod *'Gwyl Fach y Fro'* ym mis Mehefin.

PTA events this term included the Summer Ball in May and Summer Fair/BBQ in June. A *'Fizz Frenzy'* was also held as part of the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, the proceeds of which went to both Ysgol Iolo Morganwg and Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen.

Yn ystod y tymor trefnodd CRAFF Dawns Haf ym mis Mai a Ffair Haf/BBQ ym mis Mehefin. Yn ogystal, cynhaliwyd *'Noson Swigod'* fel rhan o Wyl Bwyd a Diod y Bontfaen; rhannwyd yr arian a godwyd rhwng Ysgol Iolo Morganwg a Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen.

It's hard to believe that another busy academic year has come to a close - all the best to Year 6 pupils as they bid farewell to Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, we wish you well for the future!

Anodd credu fod diwedd y blwyddyn academaidd arall wedi cyrraedd - pob hwyl i ddisgyblion Blwyddyn 6 wrth iddynt ffarwelio ag Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, rydym yn dymuno'n dda i chi gyd!

Cath Pugh

Llansannor CIW Primary School

"The Mountain School" was recently inspected by Estyn. The report highlights the school's strengths and praises the leadership of the school in particular. The school was judged as Good overall with excellent prospects for improvement. The report states that, "The school is a caring and supportive environment, which values all pupils equally." For a copy of the full report please see the Estyn website or the school website www.llansannorprimary.com In other news, the school will be benefitting from s106 funding from the Edenbrook development with plans for an extension underway.

Pendoylan CIW Primary School

It's been another busy term at Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School. The children have been very busy with a range of activities including an African drumming workshop for Reception and Nursery, the annual school rugby tournament and the Year 6 swimming gala. Mrs Baker put on a wonderful musical evening showcasing the range of talents throughout the school. Sport's Day was once again a great success with the 'Green, Green, Winning Machine' being crowned the overall winners. The Friends of Pendoylan hosted a Summer Ball to mark the occasion of Mrs Murray's retirement. It was well attended and generously supported by families and local businesses. A great night was had by all and the money raised will help to buy equipment and resources for the school.

The end of term has been a difficult time for all the staff and children with the tremendously sad news that Mrs. Jenny Edwards, a much-loved teacher, who taught at the school for many, many years has died after a very short illness. The school was still in a state of shock as the term came to an end and being supported by Father Edwin, Father Martyn and the Governors.

So we say goodbye and good luck to the Year 6 children who will be leaving Pendoylan to start their next adventure at secondary school. We also say goodbye and thank you to staff members Mrs.

Murray, Mrs. Jones, Mr. John, Mrs. Skelly, and Mr Parry, who shall be leaving the school. We look forward to welcoming Mrs. Vaughan, the new headteacher, who will be joining the school in September along with Mrs Grandfield and Ms. Charles. We also welcome the return of Mrs. Harris from her secondment as head of St. Nicholas CIW Primary School, and we shall be keeping Mrs. Edwards and her family in our hearts and prayers.

Beccie Morteo (Friends of Pendoylan School)

Wanted: News correspondents for Llansannor CIW Primary, Y Bont Faen Primary, and Cowbridge Comprehensive.

YSTRADOWEN VILLAGE HALL CLUBS & GROUPS

The villagers of 1987 who built the village hall would be thrilled to see that it is well-used and that a wide range of activities take place in the hall with calls for more!! Here we have the latest news from just some of the groups that regularly use the hall. To book the hall, please ring 01446 772 726. For more information about the activities, please contact the group organiser directly.

Summer Term at Brownies

We love it when the sun shines! It enables us to enjoy the amazing community facilities that we should feel very proud of. We have had a very busy term with 26 Brownies, aged 7-10, meeting weekly and enjoying a space away from school with a different group of friends.

We have completed two interest badges this term: our Cycling Badge, which involved showing our proficiency on the new Community running track at Y Bont Faen Primary School, and our Healthy Heart badge where we prepared a healthy meal, devised new games to challenge our heart to work harder, and kept food diaries to look at how to eat as healthily as possible.

We have had fun playing in a Samba band, making mosaics, painting gnomes for presents for Father's Day as well as the usual singing and playing games. Our Brownies are all really enthusiastic and always up for trying new and varied activities. We aim to recreate an environment that nurtures and protects whilst still challenging the girls to strive and reach their full potential. We are part of the world-wide family of Guiding and have strong governance structures to support everyone.

We took Brownies away on camp in the May half-term for the first time. It went very well and I think everyone who went would agree, it was a unique experience where we learnt a lot! Our last meeting will be bouncing on trampolines at Jump Jam. We will have a great time and it will send us off on our summer holidays on a high!

Brown Owl

If you require any information about 3rd Cowbridge Brownies who meet on Mondays 18.00-19.30 at Ystradowen Village Hall please contact Sarah (Brown Owl) 07717718410 or visit www.girlguiding.org.uk to get an overview of how great the guiding movement is.

St. Owain's Rendezvous Club

The Rendezvous Club was founded 18 years ago. Originally for retired people, and those approaching retirement, it is also open to anyone who wants to become socially involved with activities in the local community. It holds monthly **coffee mornings in the village hall on the 4th Monday of each month except August and December**. It's a perfect opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. All welcome and bring a friend. The more, the merrier! If you are interesting in joining us, please contact Stella Cheeseman (774827) or email stowains.rendezvous@gmail.com

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI)

We are a friendly club of 30+ members who meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall. We have guest speakers, walks, coffee mornings and a range of other activities –

definitely NOT 'Jam and Jerusalem!' We would be delighted to welcome you to our fold. Please contact the Bab Richards (Secretary – 775256) or Jan Foyle (President – 774362).

YOGA

If you have ever wanted to have a go at yoga, then come along to the village hall on a Monday evening at 8pm. The class lasts for an hour and a quarter and is suitable for beginners or those who already have some experience of yoga.

The class starts with a warm-up and then moves on to a series of postures, some of which are linked together in sequences. Each class finishes with a relaxation. Everyone attending the class is encouraged to work at their own pace. All postures can be adapted to suit different abilities.

Some of the benefits of yoga include improved flexibility and posture. It really is a great way to counteract the effects of sitting at a desk or in the car for hours every day. Yoga also improves our mental focus, reduces stress levels, and can often help with getting a better night's sleep. Please contact Rosalind to discuss or for more details (07538 544188).

JPJ School of Dance

Thursday night is dance night at the village hall with a range of classes for both children and adults.

4.15pm:	First Ballet and Tip Tap Toe
5pm:	Street Dance
5.45pm:	Grade 3 Modern
6.30pm:	Grade 2 Tap
7pm:	Ballet Fit
7.45pm:	Zumba

For more information, call 07867988068, email info@jpjschoolofdance.co.uk, www.jpjschoolofdance.co.uk

INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO CROCHET? DETAILS OF NEW WORKSHOPS COMING TO YSTRADOWEN SOON! KEEP AN EYE ON THE VILLAGE HUB FOR MORE UP-DATES!

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS!

There are lots of funding schemes for rural communities and businesses. Here is some information on just a few of them. For further information, go to www.valeofglamorgan.co.uk

The Vale Council's **Creative Rural Communities (CRC)** team has launched a pilot project enabling rural communities to get together and share their thoughts on building community spirit. Funding of up to £1, 000 is available for innovative Vale of Glamorgan initiatives. Get in touch with the CRC team by calling 01446 704226 or by emailing create@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Wales Rural Network runs the **Sustainable Management scheme** which provides financial support from £10,000 to £700,000 for land management and collaboration activities. The scheme offers grants to collaborative groups looking to improve natural resources e.g. soil, water, woodland and carbon storage, improve biodiversity and habitat management, improve access and recreation opportunities, or increase green infrastructure and urban drainage. The deadline for bids closes on 5th September. For more information, contact Lowri Norrington-Davies Lowri.Norrington-Davies@wales.gsi.gov.uk or tel: 0300 062 2096

Sports Wales funding of £1,500 is available through the **Community Chest** scheme for community sport projects which increase participation and/or improve standards. For more details, contact the Sports and Play Development Manager, Karen Davies (01446 704793, KJDavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) at the Vale Council. Next deadlines for submissions: Thursday 31st August 2017; Thursday 2nd November 2017; Thursday 11th January 2018.

ELECTION FEVER!

It would have very difficult to have been unaware of the recent elections at both local and national

level since the last edition of the newsletter. In this edition, we bring you the results for Ystradowen, and details of how you can contact your representatives at local and national level. We hope to bring you more regular up-dates of how these important tiers of local governance are serving the area in future editions of the newsletter.

Penllyn Community Council

Penllyn Community Council consists of 11 councillors who represent the interests of the different parts of the community equally. Community councils are seen as the 'grassroots level of local governance in Wales.' The villages of Ystradowen and Trerhyngyll fall within the constituency of Penllyn Community Council (although Highgrove falls within that of Welsh St Donat's). There are five representatives for the Ward of Ystradowen. All were co-opted in May for a four year term and are:

- Morgan Smith, 'Hunter's Gate', 2 Ash Park, Ystradowen, CF71 7SR (07825417668)
- Mervyn Lewis, 'Long Acre', Ash Hall Road, Ystradowen, CF71 7SY (774201)
- Ann Jarvis, Ty Maen Farm, Ystradowen, CF71 7SZ (775038)
- Sara Howells, 3 Badgers Brook Drive, Ystradowen, CF71 7TX (771206)
- David Pugh, 'Brookville', Trerhyngyll, CF71 7TN (772023)

The Community Council meets on the first Monday of every month (except August) in Llansannor Village Hall at 7pm. All residents are welcome to attend. Details of members and the minutes of all meetings can also be found on-line at www.penllyncc.org.uk The minutes and other relevant information are posted on the noticeboard next to the bus stop/phone box.

There is currently **one vacancy** on the Community Council. If interested in this position, please contact the clerk, Mr. A.D. Williams, Clerk to Penllyn Community Council, 13 Wye Close, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan. CF62 7TF. Tel: 07813 318085 Email – penllyn.community.council@talktalk.net

Vale of Glamorgan Council

On the 4th May 2017, elections were held for the 47 elected members (Councillors) for the Vale of Glamorgan Council. This is the next level of governance in Wales and the Council has a legal responsibility to deliver services such as education, environmental health, social services and town and country planning. Three councillors were elected for Cowbridge, which includes Ystradowen:

- Geoff Cox (Conservative) 07720063547, gacox@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
- T. Hunter Jarvie (Conservative), 01446 709473, hjarvie@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
- Andrew Parker (Conservative), 07720 063550, AParker@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

The Council is led by the Leader and six other councillors who make up the Cabinet. The Cabinet uses its executive powers to make decisions about Council services, functions, corporate management including plans and strategies. The overall results of the local election has meant that the Vale Council has changed hands, from a Labour control, to a minority Conservative controlled Council. As a result, the three Conservative councillors for Ystradowen now sit in the Vale Cabinet. All three Councillors work closely with Penllyn Community Council.

National Parliamentary Election

Theresa May's snap election saw Alun Cairns (Conservative) represent the Vale of Glamorgan constituency, which has a population of just over 121,000, and covers 33,500 hectares. There are 650 MPs in total with 40 representing Wales. He was appointed to Theresa May's Cabinet as Secretary of State for Wales. He holds regular local surgeries, and can be contacted at Alun.cairns.mp@parliament.uk or 29 High Street, Barry, CF62 7EB (Tel: 01446 403814) or House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA (Tel: 0207 219 7175).

National Assembly for Wales

The Vale of Glamorgan is represented in the Welsh Assembly by Jane Hutt (Labour) who was elected in 2016 for a five-year term. Jane is one of 60 AMs in the devolved assembly which has primary law-making powers in 20 devolved areas including education, health, agriculture and the environment. Jane Hutt also sits in the Cabinet of the Welsh Government and holds the position of Leader of the House and Chief Whip. Jane holds regular surgeries for her constituents, and can also be contacted at jane.hutt@assembly.wales or call 01446 740981, 0300 200 7110.

GARDENERS' CORNER

Gardening Club

The **Gardening Club** have been working hard over the last few months to keep the centre of the village looking glorious as the flowers come into bloom. They are very keen to recruit new members and meet on the **first Saturday in the month from March to October at 10.30am** (weather permitting) for about one and a half hours. Please contact Rose Ives (774809) or Mavis Burnham (774808). No gardening experience is necessary – just enthusiasm and gardening gloves.

Cowbridge Flower Arranging Club

In June, some of the Club's members were invited to demonstrate their talents at the 100th anniversary of Eglwys Dewi Sant, St. Andrews Crescent, Cardiff. The Festival and centenary celebrations attracted visitors from across Wales. The theme of the flower festival was 'In the Footsteps of the Saints', many of whom have a connection with the Vale. A beautiful display shaped from gypsophila arched over the main entrance and represented Brynach, a saint who settled in Nevern, Pembrokeshire, and inscribed 10th century stones to testify to the site's repute over the century. Another display was of Samson, who was educated at Llantwit Major. He later became an abbot of Caldey Island and established a monastery in Dol, Brittany. Other Vale saints

celebrated at the festival included Canna (Llangan), Cadoc (Llancarfan), Dyfrig (first Bishop of Llandaf), Cenydd (Llancarfan, Llantwit Major) and Iltud (also of Llantwit Major).

There were 140 displays in total. Despite the challenge of maintaining the displays looking fresh in the very hot June weather, they were a sight to behold, with the coracle being the star attraction. This particular display represented how the saints spread the Gospel across Wales. All proceeds from the festival were donated to Marie Curie Cancer Research Fund.

Cowbridge Flower Arranging Club meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Cowbridge Town Hall (Lesser Hall) at 7.30pm, and welcome new members. For more details, contact **Pauline Collins (01443 524051)** or **Barbara Gray (01446 774333)**.

Bordervale Plants, Nant y deri, Sandy Lane

Ystradowen's own plant nursery comes into its own in the summer months. Award-winning owner, Claire Jenkins, is always on hand to give you advice or new ideas for your garden. Opening times from March-early October are Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays from 10am-5pm. Often open on Mondays- Thursdays, but please call to make an appointment if travelling some distance. Tel: 01446 774036

www.bordervale.co.uk/www.icehaus.co.uk

National Garden Scheme

Claire also opens up her own gardens in the summer months to visitors for a small fee until the end of September. **The gardens will be open as part of the National Garden Scheme on Monday 28th August from 11-4pm.** Admission £3, children free and must be supervised. There is wheelchair access to top third the garden as well as the Nursery.

We are very fortunate to have two more private gardens open to visitors for a small charge to raise money for charity under the National Garden Scheme within striking distance of the

village (by arrangement only). First, **Bryn-a-Ddafad**, Welsh St. Donat's. Contact Glyn & June Jenkins, 01446 774451 or email junejenkins@bydd.co.uk www.bydd.co.uk/garden
The second, **The Corrie** can be found in Aberthin. For more information, contact Jean Baker, 01446 773325, jean@bakerlite.co.uk

WHAT'S ON IN THE SUMMER MONTHS?

For the kids...

There is plenty on this summer in the local area to keep the children entertained. Here is just a selection of what's on offer, but there is lots more information on the Vale of Glamorgan Council website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Children's Golf Training Camps

Following on from his successful sessions at local schools, Gareth Bennett GPA, is holding school holiday golfing camps at Cottrell Park from 9-3pm on 7th, 11th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 21st, 23rd August. Spaces allocated on a first come, first served basis. All equipment is provided where necessary. £23 per day. To book, please contact Gareth on 07980656659 or GBennett.PGA@hotmail.co.uk

Children's Summer Tennis Camp

Fancy your chances as the next Federer or Konta? Cowbridge Tennis Club are running children's tennis camps on Wednesdays in August (2nd, 9th and 16th) from 10am-3pm. £20 per child. Aged 8-14. To book, contact Mark Lewis on 07958302771. Sibling discounts available.

Join in the summer fun at Pendoylan!!

There are two holiday clubs being run in Pendoylan over the summer holidays. The Pendoylan CIW School After School Club run by Simply Out of School will transform into the Summer Holiday Club for the first three weeks (weeks beginning the 24th July, 31st July and 7th August) from 8-6pm, £32 per day, for children aged 3-12. There is an exciting

programme of events planned come rain or shine including sports days, bouncy castle, scouting activities, a visit from exotic animals, summer cooking, ice-cream van, disco and party games, and even a trip to Porthkerry Park! Contact Nikki Olphert for bookings:

For the fourth and fifth week of the holiday (week beginning the 14th and 28th August), a brand new holiday camp will be held at Pendoylan CIW School from 9-12pm 1-4pm for children aged 7-13. There will be a range of activities on offer including sports, arts and crafts, party games, bouncy castle, computing. £19 per session; £29 per day; £119 per week. For more information, contact Mr. John drew@summerfunpendoylan.com or Mr. Parry alex@summerfunpendoylan.com Places are limited. First come, first served.

Cowbridge Library Summer Reading Challenge

There are lots of events planned at Cowbridge Library this summer including the annual summer reading challenge:

- Bear Craft (Thurs 3rd August, 2-3pm, age 5+, £1 per child).
- Private Eye Kit (Thurs 10th August, 10-11am, age 5+, £1 per child).
- Character Modelling (Thurs 17th August, 10-11am, Age 5+, £2 per child).
- Cat and Dog Craft (Thurs 24th August, 10-11am, Age 3+, £1 per child).

Booking is essential. For more information or to book, contact: Cowbridge Library 01446 773941, or cowbridgelibrary@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

For all the family...

Fishing

If you fancy a bit of quiet contemplation out in the fresh air, look no further than Ystradowen's own fishing lakes. You will find Sevenoaks Fishery on the main A4222 as you head out of the village in the direction of Pontyclun on the right hand side.

There are three lakes to suit all ages and abilities. All lakes are fully wheelchair accessible. Snacks and soft drinks are on sale. For more information, phone 01446 622236 or email info@sevenoaksfishfarm.co.uk

Walking (Border Vale Walks: Walks Nos. 54 & 55 – Ystradowen)

Valeway's is a registered charity that works with the community to reopen existing footpaths and to create a network of enjoyable self-guided circular walks here in the Vale. To celebrate the Millennium, a Valeway's Millennium Heritage Trail was created. Covering a distance of over 100km, it winds its way across the Vale of Glamorgan. One section of the trail takes in places of interest in Ystradowen and Talygarn. There is a 7 mile, 3 mile, and 3 and a half mile option. Maps of the route are available at Cowbridge Library, and online at www.valeways.org.uk

Valeways also has a summer programme of organised walks, and an annual walking festival. For more information, see their website and most recent newsletter.

Countryside Code

We doubt there is a single person living in Ystradowen who does not enjoy the peace and quiet of the lush green countryside to go for walks. Please take care to respect the Countryside Code when walking across agricultural land. In recent weeks, and in this very important lambing season, walkers have left gates open allowing animals to escape. Most importantly, dogs should be kept on a short lead (1 March - 31 July). This is for your own safety especially with cows and their calves in the fields surrounding the village. And always remember to 'bag it and bin it'. For more info, go to www.naturalresources.wales

Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show

One of the most important events on the Vale's calendar is the annual **Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show** which takes place at the stunning Fonmon Castle, Rhoose, and attracts over

20,000 people. A great day out for all of the family. It takes place this summer on Wednesday 9th August from 8.30am-7.30pm. Register to enter the Home-Produce, Floral, Crafts and Children's Competition by 5th August. For more information including directions, prices, schedules for the competitions and how to register, go to www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk

NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL CHURCHES

St Owain's CW Church, Ystradowen

The congregation of St. Owain's meet weekly at **11am on Sundays for The Eucharist**. All are welcome, especially families. On the **first Sunday of the month at 11am, there is a Sunday School** for children. On the second Sunday of the month at 11am there is a Family Service/Morning Worship. On the fifth Sunday of the month, a joint service is held in one of the churches of the Benifice. A Church Supper is held on the third Wednesday of the month. All villagers are very welcome to join the vicar, curate and parishioners at a local Vale restaurant. For more information about the Parish, please do not hesitate to contact Sue Squire (775556) or Sheena Sargeant (774703). To keep up-to-date with events, you can subscribe to the Parish magazine for a small fee.

Welsh St Donat's CW Church

We are a family friendly church set in the beautiful village of Welsh St Donats with links to Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School. We meet every Sunday at 9.30, apart from the 5th Sunday of every month which is a joint East Vale Group Service. Our Sunday Club will take a break over the summer holidays but children are of course still most welcome to the Sunday service. If you have any questions about the church, services or Sunday Club and links to the school please contact us welshstdonatschurch@gmail.com

All Hallows RC Church, School Rd, Miskin

You will find a warm welcome at the Parish of All Hallows, Miskin. Serving Llantrisant and the surrounding area, the parish priest is Father Allan Davies-Hale who resides in at St. Dyfrig's in Treforest and covers the University of South Wales and the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. **Mass is at 6.30pm on Saturday evenings and 9.15am on Sunday mornings**. On Sundays, children can attend the Children's Liturgy (term time only). Mass is followed by tea/coffee and biscuits in the church hall. Reconciliation at All Hallows is on the 1st Saturday of the month from 10.15-11.15am. Tel: 01443 402439 (Father Allan). Email: all_hallows@btinternet.com

The parish has a folk group, choir, UCM, and a lively calendar of social events. In April, the Spring and Easter Craft and Vintage Fayre took place. May was a busy month with over 20 children celebrating their First Holy Communion both in Miskin and in Poland. There was much excitement as one family from the Parish, who live daily with Huntingdon's disease, were invited to an audience with Pope Francis following the largest global gathering of those affected by the disease. The UCM went on their annual outing, this time to Oxford. The Marie Curie Big Tea Party raised £450, and a tea dance raised £206 for the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Our Lady & St. Illtyd with St. Cadoc Parish

The parish of Our Lady & St. Illtyd, Llantwit Major, with St. Cadoc, Cowbridge, serve the West Vale area. The parish priest is Rev. Fr. Mark J Rowles (01446 792381). Mass times are at 5.00pm on Saturday evenings at St. Cadoc, Cowbridge, and at 9am on Sundays at Our Lady and St. Illtyd, Llantwit Major. www.westvalecatholics.org.uk

