

# Ystradowen Newsletter

Autumn 2020 Newsletters No.4

## What a Year!!

My thoughts as new Editor of the newsletter.

In the blink of an eye, we find ourselves in the last quarter of 2020 and hope everyone is managing all the changes we have had to deal with. We welcome new residents and say a fond farewell to those leaving.

As a small community, it is important that we know, in times of crisis, we can always rely on each other to support and help out when needed. On that note, we need to highlight the following.

Helen Drane

### Covid-19 Support Group

At the beginning of lockdown, we used the Village Hall booking phone to set up a WhatsApp Covid-19 Support Group. Flyers went out to every house in the village to inform them about it and soon 61 volunteers had signed up to help anyone self-isolating or shielding. We also had another team of 4 who weren't on the WhatsApp group so 65 people in total. What a team they were! Shopping and prescriptions were collected and delivered as soon as requested. More often than not, you are provided a same day delivery. The response was outstanding. It still brings a tear to my eye to remember the conversations I had with some very worried people who couldn't get supplies. Just knowing you were there was so valuable for people who were isolated and alone.

The group is still there and ready and waiting just in case we're needed. We will open the village Hall for the biggest party when we can all get together again. Huge thanks to every for your amazing and vital support

*Massive thanks to Corinne Roberts for coordinating the support group!*

Would also like to thank everyone at [Tudor Garage](#) who kept us supplied with essentials through lockdown, we are all so grateful to have this on our doorstep!

### ❖ Just Giving Donations

A huge thank you to everyone who donated in support of the Village Hall through the time of its closure.

We set a goal of £1000 yet through your generosity raised an amazing £2,490. We had to pay Just Giving transaction fees so the total received was £2,404.

### NHS Support

During the first three months of the pandemic NHS Staff were working round the clock. A big "Thank you" to everyone who donated toiletries at the 2 drop off boxes in our village and to those who delivered the goods to UHW, Llandough, Royal Glamorgan and Prince Charles Hospitals. Your generosity was much appreciated by the staff.

### Reopening of Village Hall

After 6 months, the Hall tentatively reopened during the second week of September. All Welsh Government guidelines were put in place and the VOG Council were consulted. Some of our regular groups decided not to return until a later date, but we have also had some new exercise and martial arts groups keen to start immediately. Our weekly children's dance and music groups have returned. There are now a limited number of adults allowed to keep the 2-metre distancing rule. The Hall is thoroughly cleaned after each session and we have added £5 extra to each booking to help with our cleaning costs. We will keep the Hall open unless the rules change.

*Thank you to all on the Committee in particular to Corinne Roberts and Keris Howard in managing all this activity and ensuring compliance with government guidelines are adhered to, which enables the Hall to continue to generate income.*

## Future Village Events

The YCSA committee are however, sorry to say, that we have to cancel all our social events this year, Cinema, Skittles, Quiz and Fireworks evenings. Also, for the first time since the Hall opened in 1987, there will not be a children`s Christmas Party.

Seems unlikely that the Christmas Carol Service in church will go ahead.

On a positive note, we still plan to have a Christmas tree on the green. Unfortunately, minus the carols and refreshments.

## Defibrillator

We now have a Defibrillator installed outside the main door to the village Hall. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we have been unable to provide face to face training. However, it is possible to view training on line. See Page 3 Penllyn Community Council for more information

## Get Involved - Ystradowen Community and Sports Association

Have you considered being more involved in what happens in your community? Then joining the YCSA could be for you!

We are always happy to welcome new members

A small group of volunteers who meet several times a year and are responsible for the upkeep, maintenance, finance and activity for the Hall and activity within the Village.

Our current Chairman, Chris Kipling, has decided to step down this year following 15 years+ service so we are looking for someone who would be interested in taking on this role.

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for his hard work and commitment during this time, so much has been achieved for us all.*

## Improvements to Village Hall and Parc Owain

### Parc Owain

With a £16,500 grant from the VOG Communities Grant a new Toddlers Playground has been installed between the All Weather and Petanque Piste. Yet another area, in addition to the playground in Badgers Brook, as a safe place for families to play. See page 3 Penllyn Community Council for more information

### Village Hall

We have been able to improve the hall with the following:

- Redecoration of Main Hall
- Sound proof doors to main hall and annex
- Disabled toilets to be installed by the end of February
- Hearing Loops installed in both the Main Hall and the Annex - this will enable anyone with hearing difficulties to better enjoy events like the cinema and presentations. All you need to do is put your hearing aid on "T Setting" and your hearing will be substantially improved
- Thanks to a grant from "The Simon Gibson Charity" a bigger Cinema Screen in main hall and Presentation Equipment (screen, projector, sound system, white board, flip chart etc) for presentations, seminars and screening sporting events etc in the Annex have been installed

With the improvements and completion of the new Annex we now have a Village Hall to be proud of with excellent facilities at competitive rates. Hope that we will be able to use to its full potential before long!

*Special thanks to Chris Howard for obtaining financial grants which have contributed to achieving these improvements.*

### Fairy Story!

Special mention to John and Jill Evans in Badgers Brook Rise who created a Fairy Grotto at the side of their house. This has been admired and enjoyed by children and adults alike as they walk past. We all love a bit of magic in our lives and through lockdown this has genuinely captured the imagination!

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We are fortunate that crime is low in our area and lucky to have a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in operation set up by a group of volunteers and registered with the VOG. You may have seen signs on lamp posts around the Village.

Members receive a welcome pack containing more information and the only obligation is to report any suspicious activity to the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency and, when convenient, notify the NHW email shown below in order to inform other members to be vigilant.

Full details of how to join can be found on the website. or for more information contact.

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

## HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Visit our website - [www.Ystradowenvillage.com](http://www.Ystradowenvillage.com)  
This is kept up to date and contains lots of local information.



### To contact:

Use the "Contact" option on website  
or Email - [ycsainformation@gmail.com](mailto:ycsainformation@gmail.com)

### Find us on Facebook

Ystradowen Village Hub

## Penllyn Community Council

Penllyn Community Council has been very busy over the past year or so securing a number of improvements for the benefit of residents in Ystradowen and Trerhyngyll.

You will have seen a new bus stop in Ystradowen and several dropped kerbs to facilitate access for residents to the main village facilities. These were funded by the s106 money stemming from the Edenbrook/Badgers Brook Rise housing development and reflect the wishes of the community as expressed in consultations held by the YCSA in 2016 and a follow-up consultation led Penllyn Community Council in June 2017.

Penllyn Community Council has been working in partnership with the YCSA to secure funding of £16,500 from the Vale of Glamorgan's Stronger Communities Fund for an early years' play area in Parc Owain. We are delighted to see this project completed during such a difficult period and are very grateful to David Thursfield, Chris Howard and the contractor, Playdale, for ensuring the project ran smoothly, and for the input of Keris Howard and Corinne Roberts into its design.

Penllyn Community Council has been successful in obtaining a fruit garden from Keep Wales Tidy for The Well Green (Field) in Trerhyngyll. Residents of Trerhyngyll will be planting herbs, fruit bushes, fruit trees and wildflowers over the next few months for all to enjoy. We would like to thank them for their efforts and enthusiasm.

The Community Council is also very pleased to have been able to partly fund the purchase of a defibrillator for Ystradowen Village Hall and for making a contribution to the annual Christmas parties.

Finally, Councillor John Evans, has been working tirelessly to have the defects at the attenuation ponds at Badgers Brook Rise remedied by Bellway. We would like to thank him for his tenacity and do hope the issues are resolved soon.

Dr. Sara Howells  
Chair, Penllyn Community Council

This newsletter is available in Welsh on request

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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **YCSA Annual General Meeting Wednesday 11th November 2020**

**1930hrs**

- As a registered charity, we are legally bound to hold a public AGM, which usually takes place in the Village Hall followed by refreshments. As we are not able to follow this format due to COVID we will be holding a virtual meeting using ZOOM technology to ensure this can still go ahead. You will be able to follow the meeting on line and have opportunity to ask questions.

#### Committee

Chris Kipling -Chairman

David Thursfield -Treasurer

Rod Howells - Secretary

Corinne Roberts, Keris Howard, Hillary Hill, Tony Williams, Alan Jackson, Spencer Shields, Sam Tamang, Felicity Quance, Helen Drane, Moira Howells, Jane Hardwick, Fiona Sylver

Join from a PC, Mac, ipad, iphone or Android device.

You can also simply dial in by phone.

You will need to pre register your attendance for the meeting by going to the following link.

If you have previously provided your email details to be included in the village distribution list you will receive this newsletter electronically and can click on the link.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NCO7SEI8T3StHTgZHB98qQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NCO7SEI8T3StHTgZHB98qQ)

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

If you are unable to join in the meeting the proposed Agenda is shown below and you are invited you to submit any questions or queries by email prior to the meeting to **rod@rodhowells.com** or by contacting a member of the committee.

Clearly it is not feasible to provide everyone with hard copies of all supporting documents, but if required these can be requested by emailing **ycsainformation@gmail.com**

They will also be available to view on the website **www.ystradowenvillage.com**

#### **Proposed Agenda**

- 1, Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM
- 3.Matters arising
- 4.Chairmans Report
- 5.Treasurers Report - including retrospective items for approval
- 6.Election of Committee Members
7. Election of Officers (Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary)
- 8.Changes to the constitution
9. Any other business

Following the meeting the minutes will be available to view on the website