



News From

Cantref Llanfrynach Llanhamlach Groesffordd
Nant Ddu and Llechfaen

Where We Belong Ein Cynefin

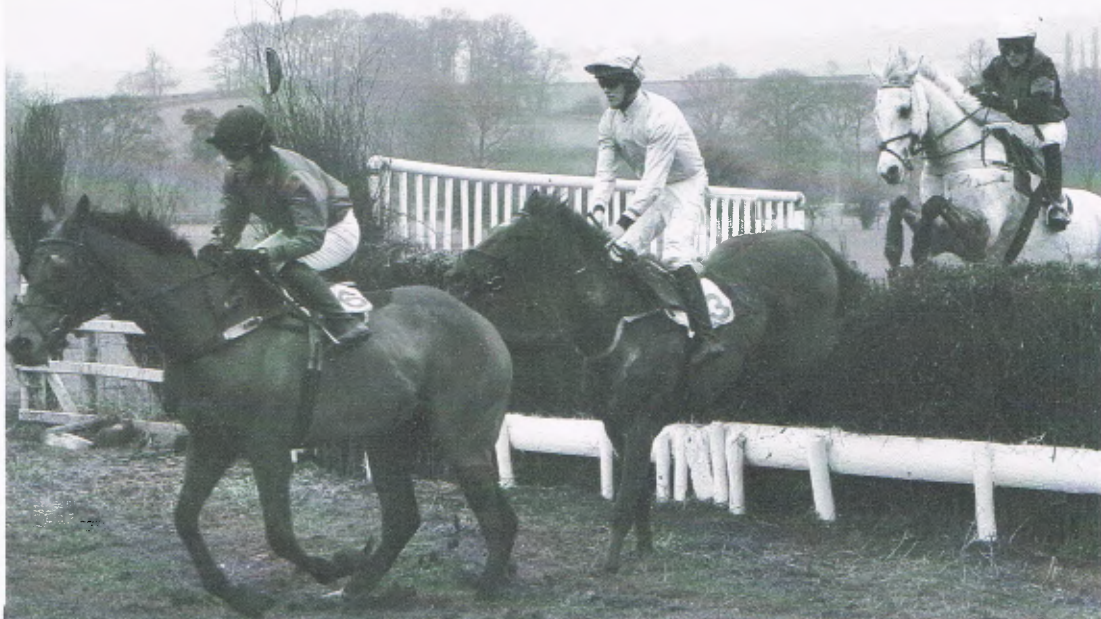
www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk

-----**MARCH 2013**-----

50th Brecon and Talybont Point to Point

Good racing with some very close finishes to excite the crowd marked the 50th anniversary of the Brecon and Talybont Point to Point held at Maesderwen, Llanfrynach on 8th March. Maesderwen, the home of Mrs and Mrs Parry de Winton, is the longest established point-to-point course in Wales. This year 95 horses were entered in 7 races and watched by an enthusiastic crowd of locals and visitors.

photo:
all-sport-photos.com



Men's Open: 1st Horse No 16 Yabora 2nd No 13 The Old Pretender. 3rd No 12 Silver Token

Ringmaster Be Informed Be Warned

A nasty spate of quad bike thefts has left local farmers and their families angry and feeling especially vulnerable at a time of year when lambing means they are often working in isolated yards and sheds all through the night.

Police Community Support Officer Steffan Rees emailed, "We have experienced a large volume of rural crime recently and want to encourage residents to register with our community messaging system Ringmaster."

People registered on Ringmaster are contacted by phone, text or email with messages alerting them to details of crime, suspicious incidents or scams. Ringmaster members are seen as "Community Champions" to act as contact points to spread the messages.

This system is entirely free and is the latest way of helping make communities safer by passing on up-to-date information from the Police or Trading Standards at Powys County Council

To join the Ringmaster Scheme go to <https://ringmaster.powys.gov.uk> or get a form from the administrator Nicola Dennis 01874 623420 email Nicola.dennis@powys.gov.uk

The Ringmaster System CANNOT be used as a way to report crime. All incidents of crime must be reported in the normal way, either through Dyfed Powys Police on 101, by using the 999 system or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

We've Kept it Tight But it's Going Up.

For the last four years Llanfrynach Community Council has not increased the amount of money it asks to be added to your council tax (the precept) which covers the cost of local expenditure. Sadly this year it has not been possible to ignore a 5% increase in our expenditure and we have had to ask for an increase. As a guide, this will be £29.92. on a Band D Council Tax.

This precept is used, among other things, to pay for the clerk's wages, cutting grass in verges and playgrounds, maintenance and insurances of public buildings and training of councillors,.

For more details visit Llanfrynach-community.org.uk or ask the clerk to council, Mrs Barbara Smith. (details on back page). It was decided that no grants will be made to the Village Halls during 2013/14.

The total amount of the precept, to be shared between all homes, will be £9971.

Decisions Decisions Decisions

Community Consultation Planned

Currently none of the councillors on Llanfrynach Community Council has actually had to fight an election. We have all been returned unopposed or co-opted. This means many of you have never found us knocking at your doors at election time to find out what you think. But we do want to know. It is vital that in order to make the choices, which reflect the views of the community, residents tell councillors what they feel and what they want.

You can always give any of us a call or email us. But to make life even easier we have decided to run a proper Community Consultation, similar to the one we undertook in 2008. Among many items, you asked for then were for the Community Halls to be updated and for a regular newsletter. We are proud that the Council has helped deliver both these things and more. So what next? Rather than ask you to come out for a special meeting Councillors will be officially present at Llanfrynach Sports on 13th July and Groesffordd Show (date TBA) to talk about variety of local issues and look forward to the chance to listening to your ideas and concerns.

All One Ward?

This year the Community Council is considering changes on two fronts. The first is whether Llanfrynach Community Council should remain divided into three wards – Llanhamlach; Llanfrynach and Cantref – or whether to merge them. The advantage is money saving. Elections now cost money – even ones where there is no opposition – and the fewer wards there are the cheaper it is. Talybont on Usk for instance has just one ward. The disadvantage would be the potential loss of specific community councillors representing their own patch, places with distinct and very different needs and priorities from their neighbours. What should we do?

To Give? To What? Or Not?

The second decision concerns the long-standing tradition of giving money every year to certain local charities and a variety of good causes. Every year the Council has traditionally given donations of almost £1000 to good causes like Dial A Ride, our local Churchyard funds; Brecon Advice Centre etc. These are things from which many in the community benefit – but is it up to the Council to support them? What do you think?

Skies are not so Dark in Cefn Cantref

Following the official registering of the Brecon Beacons as one of only five dark skies tourism spots in the world, residents of Cefn Cantref thought this was a good moment to ask Powys County Council if the lighting on the Gypsy Caravan Site, which is much brighter than any of its neighbours, can be reduced. Though close neighbours have no wish to complain unnecessarily, the nearby barn conversions are now occupied and the lights from their site can be intrusive. Owners of holiday accommodation in the area would also like to ensure their visitors can make the most of the dark skies.

In response PCC is passing the ball to Brecon Beacons National Park Authority who are currently considering PCC's application for an extension to the temporary planning permission for the site. PCC's housing officer wrote, "In the event that an extension to planning permission is granted then presumably this will prescribe the level and direction of lighting deemed to be acceptable to the planning authority taking into account the safety and well-being of the residents. In the meantime we will endeavour to ensure that the lighting, and the way in which it is being used, has no adverse impact on other residents in the locality and ensure that residents of Cefn Cantref are encouraged to conserve electricity where possible."

Residents of the barn complex will be watching for consistency in the application of planning rules as applied to the two neighbouring developments.

Flood Plan for Llanfrynach

Many of you will have seen the flood events on your TV screens in villages across Wales over recent months. Most of these have been caused by intense storms over small catchments where, locally, the rivers and drains could not cope with the run off. This is the same type of flood risk in Llanfrynach with flooding from the Nant Menascin. Environment Agency Wales has now agreed to the Community Council's proposal (reported last September) for a Flood Plan to be produced and agreed for Llanfrynach. This will help both the Authorities (EA Wales and Powys CC) and the community to understand the risks, and to take appropriate action either before or during a flood. Similar Flood Plans have been, or are now being, developed by communities at risk across Wales on the advice of the EA. We will hold a meeting to involve residents when the necessary information is available. In the meantime, please be reassured that the risk of flooding in Llanfrynach remains low. Note also that Environment Agency Wales together with the Countryside Council for Wales and the Forestry Commission Wales will all merge into Natural Resources Wales on 1 April 2013. (Its website www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk will be operational from April). Flood management duties and local staff will transfer across into the new body unchanged.

Fight for Vehicle Access to the Gap Road

The powerful lobby, Trail Riders Fellowship, is fighting for the right to drive vehicles over the historic Gap Road, which runs from Cantref to the other side of the Beacons. The Community Council believed this matter had been settled but the TRF has complained it was not consulted.

It will be making its case to the Brecknockshire Committee of Powys County Council on 27th March. As objectors have already had an opportunity to have their say they will not be allowed to speak at the meeting. Llanfrynach Community Council will be writing to the Brecknockshire Committee to once again express their belief that this old drovers road is too fragile and too valuable for vehicles except for agricultural and emergency traffic.

This is a very complicated legal issue with a long history.

To express your views contact your community councillor or PCC Liam Fitzpatrick. (Details on back page)



Mr Bill Phillips, Pontbregarreg Farm, Cantref, driving his flock up The Gap Road in 1966.

From the high road to the low road



Repairs and Safety Improvements to A40

Sections of surfacing on the A40 from the Brynach Roundabout east through Llanhamlach broke up badly in the winter and potholes began to develop. Along with others, we called for early repairs and are grateful to Powys County Council (which operates this section for the North & Mid-Wales Trunk Road Agency) for the prompt patching that's been done. The Trunk Road Agency has a bid with Welsh Government for funding to completely resurface the length from the Roundabout through to Llansantffraed. Whether funds will be allocated in the fiscal year 2013/14 remains to be seen.

In Llanhamlach, the Trunk Road Agency is soon to lay high friction surfacing on the approach to the right turn off the A40 to Peterstone Court and the Church. This turning is a significant safety hazard and the special buff-coloured surfacing is a proven means of increasing skid resistance and driver awareness.

Groesffordd Matters

About 20 people turned up to a community meeting in the village hall for a lively meeting on several local issues.

County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick painted a clear picture of the fiscal situation that Powys is in and that set the scene really for much of the discussion. Clearly a bus service was out of the question but a suggestion of diverting the Abergavenny - Brecon bus the extra short distance into the village on Fridays (Market day in Brecon) was raised and Liam promised to look into this. An alternative use of taxis was also raised but was not well received, as users could not use their bus pass. Lynn Parry, Head of highways at Ffrwdgrech depot made it quite clear that healthy sycamore trees in the middle of the villages were not coming down. Much of the discussion then revolved about how the leaves and seeds were to be managed in the future. An annual trimming of the trees was proposed (and has since been done) and Powys County Council will sweep up the leaves at regular intervals when notified during the autumn. Much was said about the disposal of garden waste but no decisions were reached, as a representative of that department was not able to come to the meeting.

Llanfrynach and Cantref Women's Institute

invite you to an illustrated talk

by David Jones, OBE, FLS, AHRHS, DHM

at 7.30pm Wednesday 1st May 2013

Llanfrynach and Cantref Community Hall

Mr Jones has a lifetime's experience of some of the greatest gardens and plant growers in the country. For 30 years he was in charge of all the public gardens and Churchyards in The City of London (The Square Mile) plus many of the open spaces owned by the Corporation of London, for example Highwood Wood in North London. He has been an RHS Judge for some 25 years, judging, among many others, Chelsea, Tatton Park, Hampton Court, Gardeners' World Live (Birmingham), plus many non RHS shows including Shrewsbury, Harrogate and Cardiff. He was the first judge to introduce Britain in Bloom 'Champions of Champions' having judged this campaign for over 40 years. Mr. Jones will talk about his life in gardening with anecdotes about some of the people he has met, followed by a chance to ask some gardening questions. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

All welcome on the night but it would be helpful if you

RSVP Sue Brook 01874 610010 email sue@crofftau.co.uk

At our regular meeting at 7.30pm on Wed 3rd April the WI will welcome Rev Michael Hodgson – one of Brecon's most entertaining speakers. For a taste of your local WI why not come along?

The Well Mannered Bonfire!

Have you been cutting back garden shrubs and hedges? The easiest way to get rid of those prunings is to burn them but for the sake of your neighbours and passing traffic, think for a moment before striking the match. Bonfires are not illegal, and will only constitute a "nuisance" if you have them often. But: Can the material be composted or dried out for use in your log burner? Can you take it to a garden waste recycling skip in town? As a householder, you can take tree prunings (not large branches) to Ffrwdgrech in a vehicle or single-axled trailer.

And if you must burn: Let evergreens and other green material dry out for a week or two before burning. Choose a still day or when the wind is blowing away from neighbours. Check whether anyone is out in their own garden, or hanging out the washing.

Welcome Norma

Mrs Norma Higginson has joined Llanfrynach Community Council, bringing us up to our full strength of nine councillors. Norma, who has been co-opted onto the council, has lived all her life within a thirty-mile radius of Brecon. She was a civil servant with the MOD, specialising in IT, until her retirement in 2009. Norma and her husband David moved to Groesffordd in 2010.

Llanfrynach and Cantref Community Hall

AGM

7.30pm Monday 8th April 2013

In the Hall.

Everyone is welcome to join the trustees for refreshments and to look at the work done during last year.

We will be discussing plans for 2013/14 and would be very interested to hear suggestions for further improvements, events and fundraising.

Do Come. It's Your Hall!

From the Internet To the Notice Board

The promised lessons in IT are about to start in Groesffordd Village Hall. Dates for the training are: 22nd April, 29th April, 13th May & 20th May. There will be 2 sessions a day running from 10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm. The sessions are provided free by a scheme run by the Welsh Government called Communities 2.0. You can pick what you want to learn – how to make the most of photographs, social networking, making a spread sheet – you choose – contact clerk Barbara Smith (details below) if you are interested. Total beginners are especially welcome. Places are limited. The community councillors who took advantage of lessons on how to set up a website found them very easy and fun. And all this IT is not to forget the value of the traditional notice board – new ones are being made for Cantref and Llechfaen.

Members of Llanfrynach Community Council

CANTREF WARD

Mrs Michelle Davies 625454 shldavies@aol.com Mrs Susan Brook 610010 sue@crofftau.co.uk

LLANFRYNACH WARD

Mr Charles de Winton 665493 charles.dewinton@btinternet.com
Mr Stephen Williams 665776 s.williams667@btinternet.com
Ms Ruth Brown 665262 ruth-brown@tiscali.co.uk

LLANHAMLACH WARD

Mr. Tony Hamnett 665265 ahamnett@onetel.com
Mr Bill Burrows 665301 bill.burrows101@btinternet.com
Mrs Norma Higginson 665781 normahigginson@live.co.uk
Dr Mervyn Bramley 665267 mervyn.bramley@blueyonder.co.uk

Clerk to the Council Mrs Barbara Smith 623947 barbara.smith777@btinternet.com

County Councillor Mr Liam Fitzpatrick 665492 or 07817 071247 (mob) cllr.liam.fitzpatrick@powys.gov.uk

For Groesffordd Village Hall: Mr Tony Hamnett 665265 ahamnett@onetel.com

For Llanfrynach & Cantref Community Hall: Mrs Jackie Williams 665357 jwilliams647@btinternet.com

New Councillor



Mrs Norma Higginson