



# News From

Cantref Llanfrynach Llanhamlach Groesffordd  
Nant Ddu and Llechfaen

## Where We Belong – Ein Cynefin

[www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk](http://www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk)

-----**OCTOBER 2013**-----

### Community Spirit; Stunning Countryside; Near to Town; Peace and Quiet; The People; The Darkness.

What do you like about living here? This was the first question on the Community Council's Consultation Questionnaire, delivered to every home. We got the sort of answers which don't usually make headlines – community spirit, stunning countryside, near to town, peace and quiet, the people and the darkness were among your favourite things. The next question, 'What don't you like?' received fewer answers. There were some complaints and niggles – but the overwhelming feeling was that we like where we live.

Each community served by the council had its own particular problems – more about those inside the newsletter – but two major issues worried residents in all communities – roads and rubbish.

There are concerns everywhere about highways and traffic. In Llanhamlach the speed limit coming off the dual carriageway is felt to be too high, even when drivers obey it! In Cantref there is a plea for more passing places in narrow lanes. In Llanfrynach the new traffic-calming bollards by Ty Mawr are fine except that that the priority signs should give precedence to traffic leaving the village not entering it – in order to slow down the vehicles arriving in Llanfrynach.

The Council will be talking to the necessary people to see what, if anything, can be done.

The second big concern is waste management and recycling: there is not enough, it's the wrong sort, it's done badly or is non-existent. The problems change according to where you live.

Chair Ruth Brown has just received this email from Bethen Hodges, the Waste Project Officer at Powys CC, about the council's new recycling scheme: "Unfortunately, we will not be rolling out the new scheme in Llanfrynach and Cantref for a while.

### THANK YOU BARBARA

The Community Council is sad to be saying farewell to Mrs. Barbara Smith of Cantref, who has done sterling work as its clerk for the last two years.



Barbara Smith

Barbara has thrown herself into the job wholeheartedly, going on courses, taking part in the setting up of the community website and keeping all the council's records and minutes in terrific shape.

But her husband Ron has been posted abroad and Barbara wants to spend much more time with him in Saudi Arabia.

So we have a vacancy for a new clerk. The job takes on average about 7 hours a week. The pay is in excess of £3,000 a year. Details are available at: [www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk](http://www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk) or from [barbara.smith@llanfrynach-community.org.uk](mailto:barbara.smith@llanfrynach-community.org.uk)

The closing date for applications has been extended one week from 4th to 11th October.

"This is due to the fact that the villages are on 'satellite' or rural rounds, and the large lorries used for the collections on the new scheme have difficulty reaching properties on rural rounds like these.

"We are currently undertaking a review of the vehicles and rounds to provide a more efficient service in the future.

"This includes procuring new vehicles suitable for narrow access and until this is complete, Llanfrynach, Cantref and other villages on similar satellite or narrow access rounds will not be added to the new recycling scheme.

"It is likely that the new scheme will be rolled out in 2014, once the new vehicles have been procured. I am sorry if this is not the answer you were looking for".

# The Fruit; The Veg; The Stock; The Sports; The Shows!

The Show season has ended; the victors have pinned up their new rosettes and certificates on noticeboards. Groesffordd, Llanfrynach and the Libanus Show - held in Cefn Cantref - are all very different, but all great fun, and this year was no exception. For the first time the Community Council had a presence at each of them, with councillors talking to residents and encouraging them to come up with ideas and to fill in the Community Council Consultation Questionnaire. Roger Williams MP was pleased to see the Community Council being so proactive, listening to grass roots opinions; both he and Kirsty Williams AM have asked for the results of the survey to be sent to them. Full details of the survey will be on [www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk](http://www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk) or you can get them from your councillor.



**Councillor Bill Burrows talking with Roger Williams MP at Groesffordd Show**

## Local Planning Plea: Homes as well as Holiday Lets

One common theme from the questionnaire was the desire for more affordable housing and in particular for a more flexible attitude from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to the granting of planning permission for the restoration of old houses and the conversion of barns and other agricultural buildings to become residential homes rather than holiday lets, which has been the priority of BBNPA.

It does look as though BBNPA might have to take this on board in the light of the results of the BBNPA's own survey of residents in the national park which have now been published. You can find the report at <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk>, where section 10 supports this idea.

Whilst appreciating the income from tourism and holiday accommodation in the area, residents said they felt it important to give equal priority to people who will live in and contribute to community life; they see this as vital to the future health of our villages and hill farms.

On the question of whether to retain our current three wards of Llanhamlach, Llanfrynach and Cantref, residents in all wards voted by a good majority in favour of keeping the wards, particularly due to the different issues in the three localities. Both these issues will be discussed at a future Community Council meeting.

## Walk to Worship Gives £300 to Mountain Rescue

Almost 200 people got to the top of Pen y Fan for the Walk to Worship Service organised by Cantref Church with the support of the Brecon Mountain Rescue Team. It was a moving and happy service with a minute's silence being led by Brigadier Philip Napier, Head of the Army in Wales, to honour the six people who have died in the Beacons this year.

Afterwards about 70 walkers returned to Old Croftau, Cantref for a stunning tea provided by Llanfrynach and Cantref Women's Institute, which was very much appreciated.

The next morning, Cantref Church was packed for a repeat of the service for all those who could not make it to the top. A message from the Archbishop of Wales was read on both occasions.

At the Harvest Thanksgiving Brecon Mountain Rescue Team was presented with £300 from the church, raised from collections at the two services.



**Rowan and Finn Starkey of Cantref, who were marshals on the Walk, present Kevin Harding of Brecon Mountain Rescue Team with a cheque for £300, watched by Canon Janet Russell who took the Harvest Service**

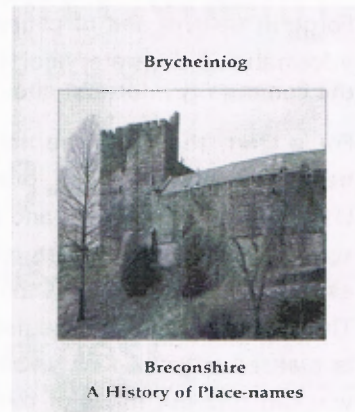
# Hot Off the Local Presses

Two local publications are currently vying for a place on local people's Christmas lists – yes some people really are thinking about it! They are both beautifully produced, good value and ideal for sending through the post.

## Brycheiniog: A History of Place-names by Malcolm Llywelyn

Ever wondered what the name of your house or village really means – what clues it offers to its origins? Well Malcolm Llywelyn's new book could provide the answers. This is from the introduction: "In reflecting on the origin and meaning of place-names we can discover an historical perspective of our environment and our social and cultural life. Place-names may describe a geographical feature of an area or refer to a person of historical or local importance. The aim of this book is to translate or explain the meaning of place-names and to record any knowledge of historical or cultural interest."

The book is available directly from Malcolm for £3.00 Phone 01874 665464 and is on sale at The Hours and the Cathedral Shop.



August – Wildflower Meadow

Barrie Whitehead

## So What Else Did You Want?

There were some great, and some slightly off-the-wall suggestions, to the community questionnaire, including ideas which have been in the pending tray for some time, waiting for an energetic entrepreneur or volunteer: a shop, a post office, a visitor centre etc.

The results of the questionnaire will shortly all be posted on the Council website [llanfrynach-community.org.uk](http://llanfrynach-community.org.uk).

All the issues you have raised will be addressed, as appropriate, by the Community Council or your Councillor, and an Action Plan will be drawn up.

## Can we have more community events?

### Yes you can – Over to you!

One common plea from was for more community activities to be organised. The Councillors agree! For having a good time, getting to know your neighbours and for good old-fashioned community spirit, what could be better?

But whilst no-one enjoys these events more than your Councillors who are committed to providing and supporting the Village Halls where these things can happen, it's up to individuals, clubs and groups to come up with the entertainment and special events – anything from bingo to Bach – it's your choice. For fun, for community activity of any sort – you're in charge – it's OVER TO YOU!!

## Scenes from the Beacons 2014 CALENDAR 2014

Several talented photographers who love capturing the light and the life of the Brecon Beacons have kindly donated photographs to be included in a 2014 Calendar, which is to be sold in aid of Cantref Church. From time-lapse images of dawn breaking over the Beacons, and a terrific view of the Milky Way over Pen y Fan, to pictures of Welsh sheepdogs, drifts of bluebells and flights of migrating birds, the calendar perfectly captures a year in the life of the Beacons.

On sale for £6.00 each or four for £20  
Contact Sue Brook phone 610010

## The Battle of the Hedgerows: Wildlife versus Road Safety

One new resident has asked why the hedges can't be cut more often to help with visibility and road safety. Over to one of the major hedge cutting contractors round here, Andrew Phillips (Flash) of Tylebrythos, Cantref.

He explained that there is a legal hedge-trimming season, which begins on 1<sup>st</sup> September and ends on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Some years ago he would start cutting hedges in August by which time they have really grown big and which would give him time to get, what is a huge job, done before the winter.

But the wildlife lobby fought hard in Wales, to have that date moved to 1<sup>st</sup> September in order to protect the habitat of birds and other animals. And that is now the law in Wales. In England however, hedges can be cut from 1<sup>st</sup> August, which continues to frustrate Welsh farmers.

The farmers who own the hedges pay for hedge cutting. As most contractors charge about £25 an hour, this is something they only do when necessary.

Flash is however allowed to tackle the ditches from mid-June, dependent on growth, when Powys County Council pay to clear a metre wide strip but not to encroach on the hedgerow. Often they don't ask him to start till later in the season so they only have to ask him to do the job once due to budget pressures.

So next time you are stuck behind a hedge cutter – give him a cheery wave – he's doing his best to keep everyone happy!

# The Community Communications Challenge

BY SUSAN BROOK

Keeping everyone informed about what is happening in the community is a challenge. Years ago word of mouth was a pretty reliable method – people regularly met each other in all sorts of places from the post office and village shop to the Forge in Cantref and of course the local pubs. The communal water taps in Llanfrynach were also places for passing on information – the water coolers of their day. Now all these things have vanished and we have to find new ways of keeping the community informed about things which matter to residents but which will never hit the headlines of the B&R.

For a start, there are the notice boards, and thanks to Tony Grannigan, we have nice new ones in Cantref and Llechfaen, and there are others in Llanfrynach, Groesffordd and Llanhamlach. By law, the Council has to post all sorts of official documents on them, and residents can use them to publicise events etc. The problem is that lots of us don't bother to look at them!

The modern version of the notice board is the world wide web and the Council is pleased with its new website – [www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk](http://www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk). Here you can find out loads of things, such as what's on at the WI; or at the local churches; Council papers council minutes and accounts; maps of the area; details of local businesses and accommodation; upcoming events and more.



And then there is this newsletter, edited by me on behalf of the Community Council. Its main purpose is to let people know what the Community Council is doing and to cover some local issues. To keep its independence, the Council does not accept paid advertising, and pays for the newsletter to go free to every home. After a long career in all sorts of journalism and TV, it's nice to have found a use for skills that I never imagined might have a real purpose in a country community. Do let me know if you have anything you think should be included.

Face book and Twitter and other social media are increasingly used. But not everyone is comfortable with IT. The IT lessons provided by the Council were very well received, but sadly, cutbacks mean that these will not be available to us again. If you would like lessons on any form of IT please let your Community Councillor know, and if enough people are interested the council will try to organise some.

I keep a long list of local email addresses, which I use to let people know of things when a newsletter is not on the horizon. I am very sensitive about over-using it, and try not to add to your ever-increasing email load. If you would like to be added to the list, or indeed to be taken off it, please let me know – my details are below along with all the other community Councillors.

## AND THE ANSWER IS A GIFT

Well done to regulars at the fortnightly quiz night at the Three Horseshoes in Groesffordd, who have raised over £200 which has been donated to the Welsh Air Ambulance and a local charity concerned with children in Africa.

## BEACONS BENEFICE

There are now six churches in the Beacons Benefice – the Talybont Group and the Beacons Group having been joined together.

For details of services and other information please go to [www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk](http://www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk): Go to Local Organisations and then Beacons Benefice. Or contact the Benefice Secretary, Jackie Williams: 01874 665357 [jwilliams647@btinternet.com](mailto:jwilliams647@btinternet.com)

## Members of Llanfrynach Community Council

### CANTREF WARD

Mrs Michelle Davies 625454 [shldavies@aol.com](mailto:shldavies@aol.com) Mrs Susan Brook 610010 [sue@crofftau.co.uk](mailto:sue@crofftau.co.uk)

### LLANFRYNACH WARD

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Mr Stephen Williams 665776 [s.williams667@btinternet.com](mailto:s.williams667@btinternet.com)

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Dr Mervyn Bramley 665267 [mervyn.bramley@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mervyn.bramley@blueyonder.co.uk) Mrs Norma Higginson 66578 [normahigginson@live.co.uk](mailto:normahigginson@live.co.uk)

**Clerk to the Council:** Vacancy – please contact your Community Councillor.

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

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