

Coed-y-Paen News

February 2016

Residents Association News

Events

Tuesday 1 March, Poems & Pints / Wine & Words. 7.45 pm in the Carpenters Arms. Come along with a piece of poetry, prose, news item, story – anything which has caught your interest and which you might share with others. Gerald Davies will chair the evening but will not be able to make the 7.30 start previously advertised.

The above is the only event in the diary at the moment, but ... following discussion at the AGM, we hope to organise something for The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations on 11/12 June, and later in the year will be the annual barbecue, another quiz, Goff Brangham's talk entitled "The Llangybi Murders" and a Murder Mystery evening. There will be another defibrillator training session. More news after the committee's next meeting.

AGM

13 villagers attended the AGM on 17 Feb – a small number but all were committed to the continuation of the association. John Hargreaves (Chairman) outlined the 7 or so events which had taken place during the year, some of which are recorded on the website. Particularly well supported were the barbecue and Christmas Dinner - attended by over 40 villagers at each. He also spoke about the Best Kept Village competition (which unfortunately we didn't win this year), the provision of the village defibrillator and the traffic monitoring undertaken by Dennis Perkins and Roger Hargreaves. In the 12 hours from 7am, they counted 598 cars of which 25% were on each of Darran Road (to Sor Brook) and the lower road to Usk, 30% were on the reservoir road and 18% on the top road. Dennis estimated that all but 3 were below the speed limit of 30mph in the village. There are ongoing projects such as maintenance of the churchyard, Millennium Garden, footpaths (which Graham and Gerald lead this year) and improved broadband reception.

John observed the sad loss of Ian Scarborough and Ian Sadler during the year, both of whom had been highly committed to village life. Ian Scarborough had been instrumental in setting up the Residents Association and had been at the heart of most village discussions and activities.

John thanked the committee members and also gave a special thanks to Val for her unstinting litter collection. The village would be much more untidy without her daily walks.

The Committee for 2016 - 17

Chairman John Hargreaves
Secretary Sue Rogers
Members Gerald Davies, Gina Davies,
 Dennis Perkins, Kim Rickets,
 Mary Sander, Jean Scarborough

Broadband

The issue of our poor broadband speed is frequently raised. Working from home is largely impossible and it's not just our younger population who would like to be able to use the internet for watching TV and films. Even 'surfing' is frustratingly slow for many of us. It will become increasingly important for most people to have decent access to the internet, so the lack of it will become a hindrance to selling properties.

It seems that BT have no plan to provide superfast broadband (which requires optical fibre) to the village so I have been investigating what we might achieve with a commercial supplier. In such circumstances, grants of up to £800 are available from Access Broadband Cymru for individual households, providing a certain minimum improvement in speed is achieved. The grant is not enough to cover bringing fibre or wireless broadband to individual properties but if enough householders join together to appoint a supplier, the combined grants could well cover most or all of the cost. This may however require as many as 30 – 40 householders to sign up, but the more grants available to the supplier means the more robust

the installed system can be. I have had a meeting with one supplier who thinks it possible to supply the village and only charge households £25 per month for unlimited broadband at 30Mb/s. (Another company I contacted would charge £40 per month.) Phone can be added to this, making the package not much more than BT. In response to my first email, 25 villagers said they are interested in faster broadband so if you haven't already expressed an interest (this does not amount to a commitment) please let me know. If you wish to know more about the technical or business detail, I can send you a summary paper.

Mobile Phone Reception

EE contacted us last year about providing a local (mobile phone) network in the village. They would provide aerials on a small number of properties but we would be responsible for paying for the power to the aerials and this could be somewhere between £500-1000 a year. The committee felt it not worth pursuing.

Sue Rogers

Church News

Services at Christchurch are as follows

March 6th Mothering Sunday

Holy Eucharist at 9am

March 20th Palm Sunday

Evensong - 6 30pm Distribution of palm crosses

March 27th Easter Sunday

Holy Eucharist at 9am

Services in April and May follow the usual pattern

1st Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9am

3rd Sunday Evensong at 6 30pm

All welcome !

Jean Scarborough

Llangybi Fawr Community Council News

[extracts from review given to AGM]

Firstly the good news – we have continued to support the church and CyPRA to the tune of £250 each. The not so good news is that we have felt it necessary to increase our precept for next year. You will be aware that Mon CC are having to cut costs because of a reduction in the grant from the Welsh Government. The upshot is that, although Mon CC will be increasing your council tax by, I think, 3.9%, they still have to make cutbacks in services. So they are looking to town and community councils to help fill the gap. One area where we will see a reduced service is in highways maintenance. For

example they propose to make only one cut of verges on rural roads this year, and regular schedules of road sweeping and drain clearing are likely to be suspended or delayed. So if we as a council want a second cut of verges, or a drain cleared we would be expected to pay for it. As a council we have decided to increase our precept by £1000 or about 10%. The effect of this would be to increase the annual contribution from a Band H property by about £4 from £34 to £38. This increase will hopefully enable us to get prompter action from Mon CC when we need it.

The second planning application for a house on the Mount site was rejected and we wait to see what happens next.

Graham Rogers

Llanbadoc Community Council

The council has purchased the telephone box by St Madocs and it is to become an information point. It will house, for example, walk leaflets. These are also available on the community council website.

The path care group, which includes Mervyn France, were runners up in the GAVO Volunteer Awards, recognising their hard work path clearing, fence repairing and way marking.

The precept is set to rise by 10% in the next financial year.

Hope & Homes for Children Christmas Buffet

The local committee would like to thank all who supported the 'Christmas Buffet' at 'The Old School', on 28th November.

£602 (including gift aid) was raised and this amount will be fund-matched so a grand total of £1204 will have been raised for this very worthy charity. What a wonderful result!

Your generosity is most appreciated and we would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Carol Orchard

Next newsletter

If you have any items for the next Newsletter, please send them to the editor, Sue Rogers, via coedypaenresidents@gmail.com or call on 672170.