

Dylan's aiming for the top

Not many people are aware that we have a World Champion living in our midst! 17-year-old Penyrheol resident, Dylan



Emery, is one step closer to his dream of becoming a World professional snooker champion. He's already racked up a host of titles : 2017 World U16 Snooker Champion, 2017 Welsh U21 Winner, 2017 Welsh U16 Winner, 2017 Welsh U18 Ranked Number 1 Player, 2017 Romanian Men's Open Winner, 2016 and 2017 Merthyr Tydfil Snooker League U21 Champion, 2016 Welsh U16 Event Winner, 2016 Welsh U21 Event Winner, 2016 European U18 Semi-Finalist and 2015 World U18 Semi Finalist.



Of course, like all budding snooker enthusiasts, Dylan has to pay for every trip he takes and every competition he enters, so is looking for sponsorship which would give him the financial support to enter all the events in

the snooker calendar throughout the UK and Europe in order to gain experience at an elite level. It would also allow him to enter the main events to gain a professional card, such as Q school, World Snooker Amateur Tour and the EBSA European Men's & U21 singles.

Hendre Junior School's Race For Life

Our youngsters are the generation that could see ground-breaking treatments and cures for cancer in their lifetime. They're the rising stars who could be the researchers and lifesavers of tomorrow. Pupils at Hendre Junior School wanted to do something special in the fight against cancer and by running their own Race For Life event, they did just that! Cancer Research UK receives no government funding for their research, so the more of us who join the fight against cancer, the more money we can raise to beat cancer sooner.



A past sponsor gained a substantial contract as a result of Dylan's photo being uploaded on social media by Thailand Snooker whilst he was playing in China. The photograph was viewed by over one million members of the snooker community and is still being viewed several months after it was posted. The sponsor's logo will be taken from the UK to countries throughout Europe as a result of the events Dylan attends. The company logo will go on the breast of his waistcoat, the sleeve of his shirt and on his polo tops which are used in tournaments. This would give the sponsor brand advertising on a massive scale as a result of media, social media and television commitments he will have in the upcoming season.

So, if any companies out there would like to help local boy Dylan achieve his dream and give him the financial backing to enter events and represent Wales at international level whilst getting maximum exposure, please contact him on kiddywinks82@aol.com.

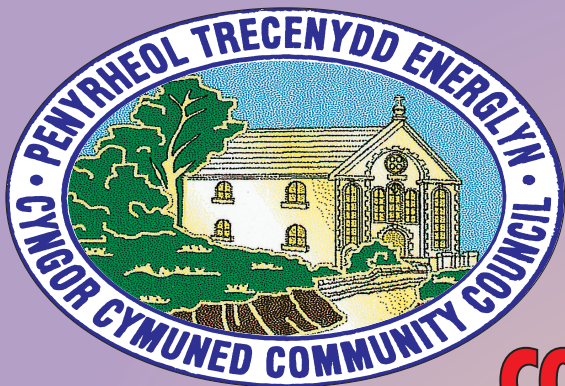
Youth Ambassador's Blog ...from page 4

community to attend. Here we hope to run and create enjoyable activities in which the young people can participate. However, my first focus is to seek volunteers who would be willing to run the youth club. As a result, I have advertised this opportunity and position within our community and to the sixth formers at St Cenydd Community School. I have unearthed an overwhelming amount of interest in this area and am planning my next steps to take this project further : for example, finalising volunteers whilst organising the qualification they will need in order to be eligible for this role. Moreover, I wish to find a venue in which the youth club will take place.

Overall, I will continue to share opinions and relay any concerns the young people of our community share. Please contact me for any more information, concerns or thoughts on 112sreesg@stcenydd.co.uk.

The pupils raised a massive £1057.50, so a huge congratulations to them for trying to make a difference!





CYNGOR CYMUNED
PENYRHEOL TREGENYDD ENERGLYN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NEWYDDION BRO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 54

December 2018



Chair's Welcome

The festive season is fast approaching and 2019 will soon be here! We recently received the excellent news that the long-awaited half-pipe skate park will be installed at Aneurin Park, Penyrheol, at the beginning of the year, which is something for the children to look forward to! Toddlers play equipment and keep fit equipment will also be installed in the park. Trecenydd Park will be next on the list for refurbishment, thanks to Community Council and Welsh Housing Quality Standards grants to areas with Council houses.

The litter problem within our community appears to be getting worse. Councillors would like to arrange a litter pick sometime in January and it would be great if residents could email the Clerk on ptecommunitycouncil@gmail.com if they have any areas in mind that are particularly bad and it would also be great if residents could come along on the litter pick itself.

Can I just take a moment to ask you at this festive time of family gatherings, to consider neighbours and those you think may be celebrating alone – not just the elderly, but anyone who is not fortunate enough to have company at

this time of year, or at any other time of the year for that matter. As we reflect back on 2018 - good times and bad - let's make a New Year's resolution to look out for each other, share each other's problems, recreate the community spirit and make our estates better places to live.

Finally, on behalf of the Community Council, myself and my family, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and may 2019 be a happy, healthy and safe New Year for you all. **Cllr Sue Dickens**



Croeso i Gymru!

Caerphilly Twinning Association played host again in July this year to their guests from Lannion in Brittany. They arrived at Penyrheol Community

Centre where their host families were waiting for them.

During their five-day visit they enjoyed visits to Barry Island, St Donat's Castle, Chepstow and



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Your Community Councillors

* These members also serve as Caerffili County Borough Councillors

Penyrheol



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Ms. Sue Dickens
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Mrs. Sian Skivens
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Mr. Lindsay Whittle*
02920 831076

Can I afford that loan?

I do not think the company that sold me a doorstep loan carried out proper affordability checks and now I cannot afford to pay it back. Can I get a refund?

citizens advice

The Financial Conduct Authority - which regulates the doorstep loan market - says a loan is unaffordable if you cannot make repayments without borrowing again.

Lenders must check your finances and situation - including future income and spending - to make sure you can pay back the loan.

You might feel your agreement was unaffordable if you were given a loan that was more than you could manage to repay and it caused you problems.

If you think you are owed a refund, first complain to your lender. List the ways you think their affordability checks were not properly done, the problems this has caused, and what you would like to happen.

The lender must acknowledge your complaint promptly and has eight weeks to respond formally or resolve your problem.

If you are not happy with their response, or they don't respond at all, you can complain to the Financial Ombudsman Service using a form on its website.

Should the lender agree with your complaint, they may agree to write off the balance left on the loan or refund

some of the interest you have paid.

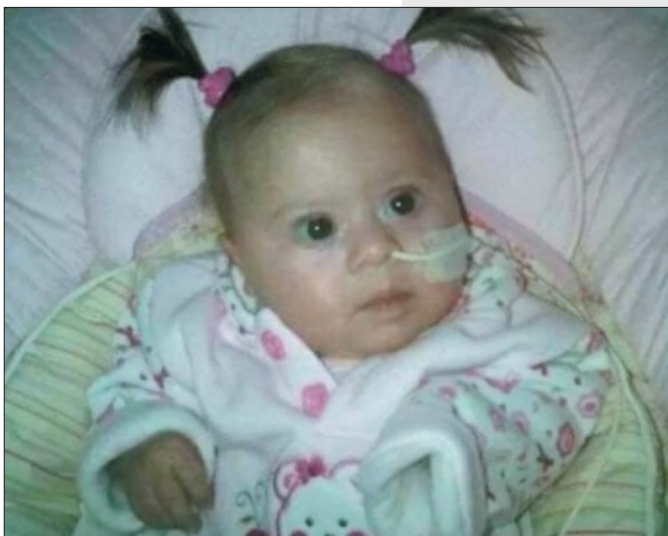
If they don't, and you have to take your complaint further, the Ombudsman can force the lender to write off the interest or even the remainder of the loan, and possibly order them to pay a small amount of compensation for your distress if they uphold the complaint.

The Ombudsman's decision is binding on your lender.

Citizens Advice Caerphilly Blaenau Gwent can provide free and impartial debt advice. Call in to one of our offices or outreaches, you can find the opening hours at www.citizensadvice.org.uk, or call Adviceline on 03444 77 20 20.

Our Bargoed office has moved to 1-2 Church Place, Bargoed, CF81 8RP.

Darcie's legacy



Friends and family went above and beyond to fundraise in little Darcie Roberts's memory and raised a fantastic amount which went to Energlyn Children's Centre, where Darcie had previously attended the nursery and attended for hydrotherapy, physiotherapy and visits to the dietician.



A fundraising evening was held at the end of September at Penyrheol Community Centre and, through ticket sales, raffles and an auction, a whopping £4,256 was raised. Darcie's family – Mam Kayleigh, Dad Gareth, brother Jayden and sister Maddison - were overwhelmed at the amazing turnout and would like to thank everyone for their support, kindness and generosity. Above are pictures of beautiful Darcie and her family.

Croeso I Gymru! ...from front cover

Dewstow Gardens (where the photo was taken) as well as skittles and an evening line dancing in Llanbradach Social Club.

Their visit ended with a lovely evening in Caerphilly Castle where they and their hosts were served with a three-course meal which was accompanied by harp music followed by a Disco.

Next year the Caerphilly members will visit Lannion.

The Twinning Association is always looking for new members to enjoy exchange visits. If you are interested in learning more please contact Caerphilly Twinning Association on membership@caerphillytwinning.org.uk or visit their website at <https://www.sites.google.com/site/caerphillytwinning>.

Your Community Councillors

* These members also serve as Caerffili County Borough Councillors

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Youth Ambassador



Georgie Rees
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Finally time to get our skates on!

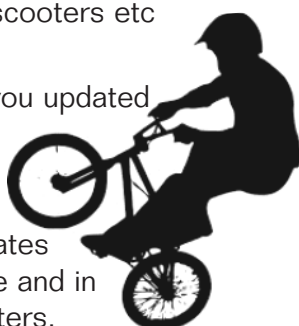


Following a youth engagement exercise with Gwent Police to gather young people's views and aspirations for the area, Penyrheol Trecenydd Energlyn Community Council supported a motion to develop a skate park facility for children and young people. However, once installed, it become obvious that the facility was suitable for younger children, but not youths. The skate park working group – consisting of Councillors, CCBC officers, residents' associations and skate park users - was revived and consultation took place with youths in the area, to find out exactly what kind of facilities/ramps they wanted.

PTE Community Council is delighted to now inform residents that funding was successfully sourced for an additional skate park via Caerphilly County Borough Council's Welsh Housing Quality Standards project and the Community Council also donated £15,000 towards the project. Work on the new and improved skate park will start in the New Year, still leaving in place the smaller skate park for the younger children.

Although located in Aneurin Park, Penyrheol (as there's space there to install it) the skate park will serve as a great amenity for all the youths who live within the Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn wards and beyond, not only for skateboarders, but for BMX, scooters etc as well.

We will keep you updated on the project, the designs and public consultation dates via our website and in future newsletters.



Neighbourhood News



During the summer period, the ward has been very steady with anti-social behaviour and crime. Patrols and daily interaction with the community and local businesses will continue to take place. We urge that any issues be reported to the Police. Alternatively, you can contact your ward team, PC Iwan Adams and CSO Katrina Hadji-Aghalar. Details can be found on Gwent Police website.

Currently, there is an increase in anti-social behaviour in the Castell Maen area, from Druids close to the shops at Castle view via the underpass. We are in the process of trying to identify certain individuals that have caused many residents/shop assistants to be alarmed and distressed by their inconsiderate behaviour. This will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly. Again, if you have any information or concerns, please contact Gwent Police.

A great concern of many is parking throughout the ward. This will continue to be an issue, however, it is being dealt with on a daily basis. From December 2018, all parking offences will now be dealt with by Caerphilly Borough County Council unless it is a public safety matter.

Our surgeries for the ward are every Thursday between 2-3pm, alternating between Trecenydd and Penyrheol Community Centre. Please check our website for further information: www.gwent.police.uk and enter the ward you're searching for in 'Your Area'.

Gwent Now is a free community messaging system for the Gwent area. It allows you to register to receive the latest crime alerts and community news happening in your local neighbourhood. If you would like to sign up, please visit our website, www.gwentnow.org.

Gwent Police worked with SYDIC (Senghenydd Youth Drop in Centre) and funded £200 for a Halloween workshop for local children in Penyrheol Community Centre. This included making scary lanterns, spooky skittles and other fun things!

We also funded £100 towards the annual Halloween disco run by Trecenydd Youth Club.

The festive season is soon approaching. Remember not to leave items and wrapped presents on view in your homes and vehicles. Also, make sure your property is secure at all times. Thieves are opportunists!

TELL US YOUR NEWS!

This is YOUR Community Newsletter so we'd love to hear your news. Maybe you're proud of someone's achievements or would like to tell us about something close to your heart. If you have something you'd like to share with the community in the June 2019 issue of the Newsletter please contact the Clerk on 029 2083 0666 or email her on ptecommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Your Community Councillors

* These members also serve as Caerffili County Borough Councillors

Energlyn



Mr. Greg Ead
07809 331200



Mr. Steven Skivens*
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Clerk to the Council



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A local hero - Tom Hopkins



Many people may recall Tom Hopkins from Bowls Terrace, Penyrheol, or as the Chairman at the Workmen's Hall in Caerphilly.

He was well-known in his community for his strong and determined political views, even on occasions as a very elderly man parading in public places with boards and placards proclaiming his political message.

I recall Tom as a large, gentle guy, who had time to talk and was always willing to engage in a conversation on just about anything.

As a teenager I recall him regularly coming across and sitting with groups of teenagers and chatting at their level. He knew these kids and knew their parents. He was engaging, interesting and came across as a knowledgeable man. Very few people had time or any interest to sit and talk with groups of teenagers in a social setting. One particular thing I noticed as a young teenager was Tom's hands: they appeared huge to me, but I dared not ask.

On occasion, Tom was ridiculed for his strong Communist views, but he stuck with it and often could argue down many commonly-held views; sometimes even hostile rejection, particularly when he canvassed for election.

Only in later years did I get an understanding of Tom's life history and an insight into where his beliefs and views had been developed.

Tom had originally lived at Salop Street in Caerphilly in a family of 14 siblings, leaving to join the Army at 18 years of age.

This took him to many parts of the world. I remember him saying to me, "People are people wherever you go in the world, they all want the same things." His army career took him to Soviet Russia, where his political views were crystallised into a lifelong belief.

Post-army, Tom earned a living as a travelling boxer with a fair (this explains the hands). Later he returned to Caerphilly and – like many young men at that time – it was down the pit. He worked as a miner until 1965.

Due to his strong and determined character, he became Chairman of the Caerphilly Workmen's Hall, holding that position for many years. He became a fixture there in his beige anorak, always chatting and laughing with small groups. He was very well-known,

very active and very proud of this position. Many will remember his opposition to the closures under the 'Beeching Cuts' in 1965 of the local railway passenger services. He led marches and spoke at rallies to oppose the cuts, (it's a shame that wasn't repealed, it may have alleviated today's congestion!).

His political activities led to him being selected onto the Welsh Committee of the Communist Party and furthering his political influence, just missing out on election to the Penyrheol and Trecenydd Council by some 38 votes. I recall my father exploding with rage when he heard that a "Commy" had nearly won. It was argued though that many young people had voted for Tom; fed up with years of socialism with no change.

Whilst many people may have said it's time to put my feet up and retire, as the years crept up Tom seemed to become even more determined. This led to his absolute objection to pay the then-Poll Tax, seen by many as unfair social engineering by the Government. Tom refused to pay and was jailed. This was still not the end of it. He went on hunger strike with a fellow internee, Cllr Ray Davies. Tom went on the longest with his protest, making him weak. He never fully recovered from this series of events. He died in 2005 at the grand age of 93, still a committed communist.

Whatever people think of Tom's political stance, it was borne from his personal life experience and reinforced by what he experienced as a miner and as a political activist.

What people may have missed is the gentle giant of a man who cared about his community. Cared and took time to get to know people. Stuck to his beliefs and committed to action to develop them. Supported his community as Chair of the Workmen's Hall, when many wanted to close it down. But most importantly, a man of gentle integrity and strong beliefs, backed up by a lifetime of determination. **Cllr Steve Skivens**

Youth Ambassador's Blog

As a part of my role as Youth Ambassador, I regularly attend and participate in monthly Community Council meetings. Here I spend my time representing the link between the young people of our area and the Community Council. As part of my role I have taken on projects in order to make our area a more pleasant place to live. For example, I am currently working on an eco-project highlighting the mass amount of litter. This is an area I felt I could involve our local comprehensive school, St Cenydd Community School. As a result, I have now built up a relationship between the Eco project team recently set up by pupils within the St Cenydd Community School's Pupil's Senedd.

Another project I am currently investigating is the idea of setting up a youth club within our community. This will consist of a safe and welcoming place for the children and young people of our



Georgie Rees

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The Bowls Inn – Gone But Not Forgotten



The Bowls Inn, at the bottom of Penyrheol, finally closed in 2011 after serving as a popular local to thirsty customers for at least 150 years and perhaps more than 300 years.

The present building - which still remains as a Tesco - is believed to have been built in the late 1930's, however the photo shows the pub as it was in the 1890's.

The earliest evidence of the site being used as a pub was gathered from the census of 1841 and later in 1851 the pub was passed on to Eli Price who described himself as a butcher, innkeeper and farmer. But it is believed that an original pub stood on the site as early as the 17th Century, serving Caerphilly foundry and farm workers.

In the 1970's the lounge was fitted with a carpet striped to imitate the look of the grass on a bowling green. There was also a restaurant on the first floor and a "jug and bottle" hatch where customers would knock the door and wait to be served from a hatch.

It was also a meeting room for the "Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes".

I am sure that plenty of Penyrheol and Caerphilly residents have fond memories of evenings spent in the Bar or Lounge

In 2009 the Bar was used in an episode of Doctor Who entitled the "Vampires of Venice". You can see a clip of this on YouTube as well as a short history of the pub prepared by a local resident if you search for "CAERPHILLY – The Bowls".

The doors shut in 2011 as it was claimed the Pub was uneconomic and although there was a number of complaints from residents the pub was converted to a Tesco Express as well as two other retail outlets being built in the car park. Tesco opened in 2013.

The Bowls Inn – gone but not forgotten!

Cllr Terry ap Hywel

Festive Fun

Penyrheol Trecenydd Energlyn Community Council will once again be holding a Community Christmas Concert on Friday, 30th November 2018 at Penyrheol Community Centre, starting at 7.00 pm. This year, we are delighted



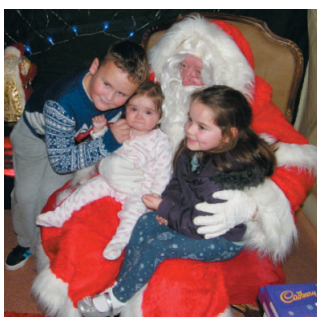
to welcome Côr CF1, who will be led by their dynamic Musical Director, Eilir Owen Griffiths, accompanied by the very talented Rhiannon Pritchard and joined by their wonderful female trio guests, Treble C. An evening really not to be missed!



Tickets are £3 and will be available from the beginning of November from the Londis Shop, Troed-y-Bryn, Penyrheol and ALL proceeds will be going to the two Chair's charities, The Alzheimer's Society and Shelter Cymru. We hope to see as many residents there as possible, singing a few carols, with some mulled wine and mince pies.

Also, Santa will once again be visiting the children of the Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn wards.

He will be visiting the ward's children at PENYRHEOL Community Centre on Saturday, 15th December and will be arriving at 5.00 pm. All children from the Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn wards are welcome. Santa will be making his way around Penyrheol before he arrives at the Centre, but his main focus will be to meet the children at the Centre, so we can't say exactly what streets he'll be visiting, it'll just be a flying visit.



Then, on Sunday, 16th December, Santa will be visiting TRECENYDD Community Centre and will be arriving at 5.00 pm. Again, all children from the Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn wards are welcome.

Santa will be making his way around Trecenydd before he arrives at the Centre.