

Twin towns



Members of Caerffili and District Twinning Association enjoyed a warm welcome in Brittany this July during their latest visit to France. The Community Council is represented by Cllr Sue ap Hywel and regular exchange visits have been arranged over the past 28 years between the people of Caerffili and Llanbradach and their counterparts in Lannion and Ploubezre.

The visit this year started with an opportunity to browse in the famous Lannion street market before being welcomed by the town mayor with a drinks reception in the Mairie (Town Hall). This was followed by the annual boules tournament, with the Welsh team coming out on top after a tense competition under the scorching sun. The following days included a trip along the Linen Route, exploring the history of linen production in Brittany, a visit to a local craft brewery and a guided tour of the town of Treguier.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the twinning between Llanbradach and Ploubezre and a plaque was unveiled in the town to celebrate the occasion. The hospitality was as good as always, with two social evenings featuring local food and wine and traditional entertainment. The visitors were also able to spend an evening at home with their hosts.

The Twinning Association is looking for new members to continue these exchange visits. Next year it will host a group from Brittany before returning to France in 2021. Membership is open to all and a programme of social events is arranged during the year in addition to the visits.

Contact membership@caerphillytwinning.org.uk or visit our website at caerphillytwinning.org.uk. We are also on Facebook: Caerphilly and District Twinning Association.

Youngsters can finally get their skates on

Finally, we have managed to open a new skate park facility in Aneurin Park, Penyrheol. I hope that this new facility is used and respected by young people from the area and it becomes a facility enjoyed by future groups. It offers a meeting place, fun and fitness opportunity in the open air and a place to socialise.

I feel it needs to be mentioned that, to achieve this new facility for people to enjoy, it took considerable effort by a number of people over a number of years. This, perhaps, is the real impact of austerity on our communities.

The original idea for the skate park was generated from a forum of young people and Penyrheol Trecenydd

Energlyn (PTE) Community Councillors due to concerns about outbreaks of anti-social behaviour in public places and a need to understand the causes of young people's frustrations.

The lead on much of the efforts to assist came through the late Cllr Anne Collins. I had the honour of picking up some of Anne's work after her untimely demise.

The effort to improve facilities at both Penyrheol and Trecenydd parks has involved many people and organisations. Additionally, there were other measures put in place to tackle anti-social behaviour in the area. Key people in this effort have been former councillors, Michelle Britton and Carl Coombs, Cllr Jon Scriven and Helen Treherne, Clerk to the Council. Key activities have included new equipment at both Trecenydd and Penyrheol parks, amongst other improvements.

The Prince's Trust Cymru, Gwent Police, CCBC and PTE Councillors have all been involved in several initiatives to tackle the root causes of anti-social behaviour in the area and many initiatives are ongoing.

One thing that emerged was that the Community Council did not have a great understanding of the needs of young people in the area, so again an initiative to find and support a Youth Ambassador to represent young people in the area was commenced and we are now about to appoint the third successor into this very role. This has brought new perspectives to councillors' views and provides a conduit for communication back to young people in the area.

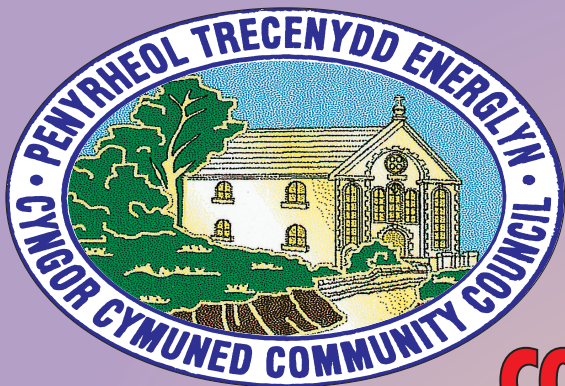
The latest improvements at Penyrheol Park were made possible by the injection of finances and support from the WHQS project and PTE Community Council, all orchestrated with the support of CCBC officers and the hard work of Penyrheol Community Association, to get the work done.

I feel we have delivered on what was requested by the young people a few years ago, but perhaps the bigger story is that the Community Council has listened, responded and continues to communicate with young people in the area, so that some of their issues and frustrations are recognised.

Rome wasn't built in a day and the skate park took even longer, but the aim was to learn, listen and respond; this is the real story here. All aimed at assisting people in our community, which, for me, is the most important lesson.



Pictured is CCBC Mayor Julian Simmonds - who was accompanied by the Mayoress cutting the ribbon to launch the skate park, alongside PTE Community Council Chair, Peredur Owen Griffiths. Cllr S.J.Skivens



CYNGOR CYMUNED
PENYRHEOL TRECENYDD ENERGLYN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NEWYDDION BRO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 56

December 2019



Chair's Welcome

It seems only yesterday we were wishing each other a Merry Christmas and we'll be doing so again in no time at all. Time seems to fly by and your Community Council has, as ever, been busy. In the autumn we opened the new skate park in Penyrheol, we've been litter picking in Trecenydd and soon the festive lights - funded by the Community Council - will brighten up the dark evenings. We are working closely with the authorities on your behalf with traffic, fly-tipping and many other issues that you bring to our attention. If you have issues you would like us to help with, please get in touch with any of our councillors and they will be happy to help.

As we head into the festive period, I'm reminded that 1 in 5 people spend Christmas alone. Our community is one that looks out for one another and I ask that we continue to be good neighbours and make time for those on their own this Christmas. Whether 2019 was a good year, a bad year or just one that went by in a blur, I hope that 2020 will be kind to each and every one of you.



Finally, on behalf of the Community Council, myself and my family, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi gyd!

Cllr Peredur Owen Griffiths - Chair

Festive fun

Penyrheol Trecenydd Energlyn Community Council will once again be holding a Community Christmas Concert on Friday, 6th December 2019 at Penyrheol Community Centre, starting at 7.00 pm. This year, we are trying something a little different, with a variety of performers.



Katy Lee Farr

Tickets are £3 and will be available from the Londis Shop, Troed-y-Bryn, Penyrheol and from any of the Community Councillors. ALL proceeds will be going to the Chairman's chosen charities: Christian Aid and Displaced People in Action. We hope to see as many residents there as possible, singing a few carols, with some mulled wine and mince pies.

Pictured is one of our fabulous performers, Katy Lee Farr.

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

He will be visiting all the ward's children at TRECENYDD Community Centre on Sunday, 8th December, from 3.00 – 5.00 pm. ALL children from the Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn wards are welcome. Santa will be accompanied by a children's entertainer, a face painter and maybe even a cheeky little visit from Woody, Spiderman, Elsa and one of the LOL gang!



Your Community Councillors

* These members also serve as Caerffili County Borough Councillors

Penyrheol



Mr. Bill
Allen
02920852043



Ms. Sue
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07887 351 916



Mrs. Sian
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02920 888798



Mr. Lindsay
Whittle*
02920 831076

Positive inspection report for playscheme

Two very successful Community Council-run playschemes were held again this year. In their 33rd year, both playschemes continue to offer free, fun-filled opportunities for the children of the wards.

This year, the Penyrheol playscheme was inspected by Care Inspectorate Wales and received a very positive report. A link to the report is as follows:

https://gov.wales/docs/cssiw/report/inspection_reports/19520_c_190902_e.pdf

The Inspector said, "Children enjoy and learn from a good range of interesting activities and experiences. They are well settled and relaxed in their surroundings and engage well with other children and their carers. Staff have good knowledge about the children's needs and provide nurturing, supportive care. The club is well supported by the provider and there are good relationships with the school where the service is held. There is a good ratio of staff to children and this ensures that children's needs are consistently well met. The environment is welcoming, attractive and exceptionally well-resourced both inside and outdoors."

To celebrate the success of the long-running playschemes, Penyrheol Trecenydd Energlyn Community Council welcomed Caerphilly County Borough Council's Mayor, Cllr Julian Simmonds and the Mayoress to the playschemes.

He was met by Cllr Steven Skivens, Chair of the Community Council's Playscheme Committee, who said, "It's fantastic to receive recognition that the Community Council has assisted children

and families in these wards for such a long time. I must give credit to all the current and previous community councillors who have consistently made the playschemes a reality, despite ever-changing legislation and laws making it more and more difficult to keep playschemes such as these running. Both playschemes are run by qualified leaders and playworkers, who tell me that they have just as much fun as the children and a big thanks go



to them for making the playschemes such a success every year.

The playschemes are run to encourage both organised and free play, as well as the chance to socialise in a safe, friendly environment. The children are taken on trips, attend local organisations and locations and undertake sport and activities under supervision. The children also get the chance to try out the mobile climbing wall supplied by CCBC and help make their own pizzas with Pizza Boyo!

It's great when parents and grandparents bring their children along to registration and relate stories of when they attended the playscheme. The playscheme is free to residents of the ward and offers low-cost trips, along with activities such as 'bring-your-own-scooter' day, slime-making, crafts, sports day and the much-loved home-made water slide!

A lot of hard work goes into making both playschemes a reality and I'd like to thank the headteachers and governors at both Cwm Ifor Primary School and Hendre Junior School for providing us with such excellent purpose-built venues."

Cllr Skivens thanked the Mayor for his visit and encouraged him to support other initiatives supporting families and children of all ages in the area.

Cllr Skivens continued, "One proviso for the scheme is, regardless of the weather, fun is a must and I think we all witnessed that today."

Pictured is the Mayor with children, staff and councillors at the Penyrheol playscheme and the children enjoying a 'bring-your-own-bike-and-scooter-day' at Trecenydd.

Future leader recognised with an award

The Community Council's Vice-Chair, Cllr Greg Ead, attended St Cenydd Community School's awards evening and was delighted to present the Community Council's School Community Award to Bethan Magwood.



Bethan has worked actively within the community for the last two years, assisting in the primary cluster

Your Community Councillors

* These members also serve as Caerffili County Borough Councillors

Trecenydd



Mr. Peredur
Owen-Griffiths
Chair
07739 731985

netball competitions several times as an umpire and has also run the Hendre Junior School Netball Club. Bethan has also coached sports sessions in other schools and has attended the 2K and 10K races in Caerphilly as a volunteer. Bethan has also been a great help in assisting with the Year 7 Netball team at St Cenydd Community School, along with the U11's Caerphilly Netball squad.

PTE Community Council is delighted to make a small token to recognise a Leader in the making within our community. Well done Bethan!



Mrs. Sue.
ap Hywel
02920 868346

Pictured is Cllr Greg Ead presenting the £100 award to Bethan.

Railways of Caerphilly



Mr. Andrew
Pennington
02920887244



Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn residents still have access to rail travel, but were once at the centre of a vast and complicated railway network.



Mr. Terry ap
Hywel
02920868346

The earliest form of railway in the Rhymney valley was the "Old Rumney Railway" (not to be confused with the later Rhymney Railway Company) which opened in 1826 as a horse-drawn tramway and ran from the iron works at Rhymney down the east side of the valley to Newport. It was only used for goods traffic and the nearest it came to Caerphilly town was at Bedwas.



Mr. Jon
Scriven*
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The railways finally came to Caerphilly on 25th February 1858, with the opening of the new Rhymney Railway Company's (Rhymney RC) single track line on the west side of the valley from Rhymney, passing through Energlyn and Trecenydd, then via Penrhos, down to Taffs Well, where it joined the Taff Vale Railway (TVR) to transport iron and coal from the

Rhymney Valley down to Cardiff Docks. Passenger trains began running on the line a month after opening.

The original Caerphilly Station was built on this line on the site of what is now Trecenydd Industrial Estate. The Station Inn, on Nantgarw Road was in front of, and named after, this original Caerphilly Station. From a junction built in 1865, just north of this station, the Aber Branch was opened for a mile west to serve the Tir Gibbon and Hendredenny collieries.

By June 1865, the "Old Rumney Railway" had been converted from a tramway to a standard railway and had been acquired by the Brecon and Merthyr Railway Company (BMRC). This was connected by a branch line from Machen to branches from the Rhymney RC line, which it met at Caerphilly near St Martin's Church. This was used for both freight and passenger services.

The Rhymney RC had problems getting enough access to Cardiff due to their dependency on the TVR and eventually built their own double track line to Cardiff at great expense, which included excavating a very difficult tunnel, over a mile long, through to Lisvane. This line was opened in 1871, together with a new Caerphilly Station on its present site, and the original Caerphilly Station at Trecenydd was closed. The original link from Caerphilly to Cardiff via Taffs Well was finally closed in 1982 and has become part of the Taff Trail cycle route.

In 1884 the Pontypridd, Caerphilly and Newport Railway (PC&NR) was opened. This connected Pontypridd, the Rhondda and Aberdare directly to Caerphilly Station and on to Newport via the BMRC. It closed to passengers in 1962 and to freight in 1965. The Aber Branch was later extended right up to Senghenydd to serve Windsor and Universal collieries and opened on 1st February 1894 with passenger service and stations at Penyrheol, Abertridwr and Senghenydd. It closed to passenger services in 1964 and to all traffic a year later. Many residents will have walked or cycled this route from Station Terrace, Penyrheol.

Because of the increase in coal and iron production and resulting congestion and costs at Cardiff Docks, the Barry Dock and Railway Company (later changed to Barry Railway Company (BRC)) was set up in 1884. The Docks and lines connecting them to the Rhondda were opened in 1889. In 1901 a new line was built from the BRC line at St Fagans to the Rhymney RC line at Caerphilly and then in 1905 connected directly to the BMRC on viaducts at Penyrheol and Pwll y Pant (commonly known as the Llanbradach viaduct). This line was only intended for goods and minerals but was occasionally used for passenger excursions to Barry. It was very successful but closed in 1937. You use this route if you drive on the Caerphilly bypass from Penrhos roundabout to St Cenydd Road and part of the way towards Pwll-y-Pant roundabout.

In April 1908 a new station called Beddau Halt was opened on Nantgarw Road by the Station Inn. This became Aber Junction Halt in 1926 then Aber Halt in 1968, shortened to Aber in 1969. Finally, Energlyn and Churchill Park Station was opened on 8th December 2013.

The pic was taken, probably in the late 1950s, from a train travelling towards Penyrheol Station and showing the remains of the Penyrheol viaduct which carried the Barry line to Rhymney, now the route of the by-pass. In the background, on the hill, can be seen Hendredenny Hall and to the left St. Cenydd School.

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 2020 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



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Clerk to the Council



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Search is on for new Youth Ambassador

Following on from the very successful appointments of Meg Owen and Georgie Rees, Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Community Council decided to recruit another Youth Ambassador. Before Meg's appointment, Councillors felt they were not in touch enough with the young people of the community and wanted to redress this issue. They really did want to know the views and concerns of the young people of today and felt this could only be done through the youngsters themselves.

Applications were sought from young people between the ages of 15 and 17. The candidates had to live within the Community Council's catchment area, or have a strong affinity to the wards, ie close family living in the wards, carried out work within the wards, attended school within the wards etc. The Council needed someone who could relate to local issues and build communication links with young people within the wards.

The main duties of the Youth Ambassador are as follows:

- To be a role model and advocate for the community.
- To be the young peoples' voice at Community Council meetings.
- To attend Community Council meetings once a month (if available due to school work/commitments etc) and attend infrequent other functions, as required.
- To acquire the opinions/views/concerns of young people within the wards and to report these back to the Community Council.
- To take part in any supervised media/PR activities, as required.
- To set up a 'youth' page on the Community Council's website.
- To make contact with other youth groups.

Following the end of October closing date, Councillors now have the very difficult task of shortlisting. So watch



Pictured are Meg and Georgie. The new Youth Ambassador has very big shoes to fill, but Councillors have every faith that the successful candidate will do an amazing job.

this space in the next edition of the newsletter, to find out who the new Youth Ambassador will be!

Wolfpack success



After years of being pushed from pillar to post and relying on the kindness of local rugby union clubs, Aber Valley Wolves Junior Rugby League Club finally found a new home last season in Aneurin Park, Penyrheol, Caerphilly.

The Club runs two U12 sides, two U14 sides, an U16's and U19's age group and it doesn't matter if you've never played rugby league before, as most of the boys hadn't played before they joined. The club is friendly and welcoming, with boys from union clubs from all around the surrounding areas.

Aber Valley Wolves has seen tremendous success over the past few years and this year we saw our U16's lifting the Grand Final Cup AGAIN and our U12's reaching the Grand Final in their first year. We also had representative honours in East Wales Origins, Wales U16s, Wales U19s, Wales Students and a first for Aber Valley Wolves, one of our players selected for a WIGAN scholarship!

Look us up on our Facebook page.

The coaches and players look forward to seeing you! Pics are of U12's and U16's in the Grand Final.



Neighbourhood News

During the winter 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 for any issues to 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: <https://gwent.police.uk/your-area/ward.html?wardId=CC03>.

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 are working with SYDIC (Senghenydd Youth Drop in Centre) to arrange workshops over the Christmas period.

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!

Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Ward Team



The heart of our community



We have two thriving community centres within our wards: Trecenydd Community Centre and Penyrheol Community Centre. If you would like to book either centre, please contact the relevant booking clerks - Trecenydd: 07852 683976 and Penyrheol: 07887 351 916. Below is a synopsis of what takes place at each community centre, written by the respective committees:

Trecenydd Community Centre

Trecenydd Community Centre is based in Second Avenue, Trecenydd. It is a busy centre and has many different activities going on. It is a large centre consisting of a large main hall, a small meeting room and two kitchens, one of which is a commercial kitchen. We are also disabled-friendly and have a free car park. We also have an outside patio area with seating.

The centre can be hired for many occasions such as birthday / christening parties. We also have an alcohol licence. It can also be booked for corporate events, we have a projector and a very large screen.

A Flying Start nursery takes place every morning. Monday evening, we have a Tae Kwon-do class, Tuesday evening a ladies' bowls club, Wednesday evening there is a youth club, Thursday afternoon we have an over fifties club for a game of bingo and Thursday and Friday evenings there is Karate. Sunday evening, we have a bingo club. Anyone wishing to know anything about these activities please contact the Committee. We have a Facebook page and a website: www.trecenyddcommunitycentre.co.uk.

We also hold regular events throughout the year, including a St David's Day concert, a family fun day every Easter Monday with a children's entertainer and usually a free face painter and an Easter bonnet parade, tickets for which are £2.00. We also have our pantomime on the first Sunday in December every year (1st December this year and it's Jack and the Beanstalk) again, tickets are only £2.00 and children get to visit Santa. This is a popular event so please get your tickets as soon as possible from any Committee member. We will also have a Carol Service (date to be decided, but we will put information on our Facebook page).

Trecenydd Community Centre Committee

Penyrheol Community Centre

Penyrheol Community Centre is based in Heol Aneurin in Penyrheol and has lots of activities going on during the week. The facilities can also be hired for birthdays, weddings, presentations, meetings etc at very competitive prices: £15 per hour for the hall, £10 per hour for the Lounge and £20 if you'd like to hire both. The Centre also has wi-fi which is ideal for meetings, a fully licensed bar, a large free car park, disabled access, large stage with lighting, one commercial and one smaller kitchen, full central heating and seating for 200. Below is a list of activities taking place at the centre:

Monday:

4.00 – 6.30 pm: Dance Unity classes.

6.30 – 7.30 pm: Tae Kwondo classes.

Tuesday:

4.00 – 6.45 pm: Ballet classes

7.00 – 9.00 pm: Golden Retriever Club of Wales dog training

Wednesday:

10.00 – 11.00 am: CCBC Tenancy Support session (for Council tenants to discuss rent/benefit problems etc)

10.30 am – 12.30 pm: Taoist Tai Chi class

11.30 am – 1.30 pm: Over 50's Club

4.00 – 6.15 pm: Dance Unity classes

6.30 – 8.30 pm: Black Rock dog training classes

Thursday:

12 noon – 2.00 pm, every third Thursday: The MS Society group meeting (will also be adding every first Thursday from Feb 2020)

9.30 – 11.00 am: Baby clinic

9.30 – 11.00 am: Tiny Talkers Group

7.15 – 9.15 pm: Rottweiler Club of Wales dog training

7.00 – 8.30 pm, every third Thursday: Community Council meeting

Friday:

7.00 – 10.00 pm: Taoist Tai Chi class

If you'd like to book either centre, please contact the relevant booking clerk as mentioned above.

The Committee is always looking for new committee members. Please contact us if you'd like to know more.



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FOOTBALL ?
LOOK NO FURTHER !!**

F.C TRECENYDD JUNIORS ARE CURRENTLY RECRUITING BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS!

CONTACT US TODAY!

ftrecenyddjuniors@gmail.com

Find us on facebook @FC Trecenydd Juniors

Rhys Heaven 07455291266
Mark Davies 07881278715

ALL OUR COACHES ARE DBS CHECKED FAW QUALIFIED AND FIRST AID TRAINED

