

CWLWM BRO

COMMUNITY LINK

APRIL/EBRILL 1991

Editorial Board: Alan Rosser, 'Brynteg',
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Obituary: Councillor W. G. Lamerton

Councillor William George Lamerton of 4 Temperance Court, Pentyrch, died peacefully on March 26th at East Glamorgan Hospital after a painful illness, endured with supreme courage.

Born at Penygawsi, Llantrisant, on 22nd April 1917, George (as everyone knew him) was one of four children. Like many of his generation, he worked in the iron ore mines. In 1940, he wed Esther Miles of Pentyrch, where they spent 51 years of married life. Their only child, Anthony George, was born in 1944.

After two serious accidents, George left the mines, to work for an Estates Company in Treforest. In 1950, Esther opened a grocery shop in Pentyrch, and George soon joined her in the business, which they ran for 21 years. Their shop on Mountain Road and home in Field Terrace became focal points. The Rugby Club Committee met in their front room, where fund-raising was planned. Raffle tickets were sold in thousands at the shop to ensure the Club's later financial prowess.

George's fine tenor voice was well-known. He joined the Llantrisant Male Choir at the age of 17, and in 1960 helped to found the Pentyrch Choir under the late Penry John. He belonged to the

popular Vagabonds Concert Party. A soloist and duetist, he also loved to take part in comedy sketches.

In 1969, he was elected at a Public Meeting to chair the Campaign Committee charged with the



onerous task of raising money to build a badly-needed hall in Pentyrch. This was arguably the most effective project ever launched in the village. It ended in 1976, when the magnificent new building was opened on the site of the former Bronllwyn Congregational Chapel. Afterwards,

George was made President of the Hall, and remained so until his death.

Elected to Pentyrch Parish Council in 1967, he had served continuously on that Authority ever since, he made an outstanding contribution to "Community Link", as a member of the Editorial Committee from its inception. George, who was tenacious in pursuit of objectives, was also a practical worker of exceptional dedication; always ready to lend a hand with maintenance work, such as repairing public seats, and to do the chasing for material for the "Link". He had boundless enthusiasm and energy for the causes he espoused, and was never happier than when working for the Community he loved so dearly.

In 1979, George made an unsuccessful bid for election to Taff-Ely Borough Council, whose loss was Pentyrch's gain, for he redoubled his efforts in the neighbourhood. There will be no greater testimony to the loyalty, commitment and truly remarkable service of William George Lamerton than the Village Hall that was so close to his heart, and which is now one of the most thriving centres of community life in Wales. His numerous friends and colleagues mourn his passing and extend heartfelt sympathy to Esther, Tony and family.

Editorial

What a way to run a country... yes, local government is yet again in the melting pot, just 17 years after re-organisation and less than 2 years after the introduction of the Poll Tax.

The present system clearly needed major review (no pun intended). Let us hope that Westminster gets it right this time and recognises that ordinary people's needs should be paramount and best dealt with at local level, and designs a system which will survive the test of time.

Although the Community Council's powers are limited (see pages 2 and 3), by exerting pressure and providing finance from precepts, it can and does instigate and encourage community initiatives and projects. The Council therefore set its Community Charge for 1991/92 at £8.50 so that the new council — elections are due on the 2nd May 1991 — is able to undertake this vital work when it meets.

With the coming of Spring, perhaps there will be a re-awakening of interest in local government at grass-root level. Remember, elections only occur every 4 years for Community Councils — so don't waste the opportunity to stand, or vote, in May.

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YOUR COUNCIL — WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Since re-organisation of local government in April, 1974 every district in Wales consists of one or more communities. "Community councils" were established in place of former parish councils whilst some of the former urban councils were replaced by "town councils" — thus the old Pentyrch Parish Council was succeeded by Pentyrch Community Council and Pontypridd Urban District Council was succeeded by Pontypridd Town Council.

A community council or town council is, in legal terms, a "local council" and forms the lowest tier of local authorities in Wales — the other tiers being district or borough councils and the county councils. Pentyrch Council is one of 10 Community/Town Councils in the Taff-Ely Borough area within Mid Glamorgan County Council area.

Pentyrch Community Council does not exercise all the functions or powers available to it but as a small local council, undertakes: footpaths maintenance and improvement; maintenance and provision of play equipment at a playground in each village; maintenance of the recreation ground and small sports pavilion in Gwaelod-y-Garth; provision of open spaces (notably the Community Council own Garth Common); and the provision and maintenance of bus shelters and public seats. It is also active on behalf of local residents in seeking to bring pressure on the Borough and County Council to carry out their functions and duties particularly in relation to highways, footways (pavements) public footpaths, street cleansing and the provision of amenities. It seeks to promote and support voluntary leisure and charitable activities and has an interest in any matter which can affect the lives of local residents — planning matters are a particular concern.

Pentyrch Community Council, in common with all local authorities, functions on a committee basis. The full Council meets once a month (excluding the month of August) — normally the third Monday of the month — when most of the day to day business of the Council is transacted. The Council also meets periodically to discuss matters relating to Forward Planning and Policy and Resources. Several small standing Committees of the council exist. Footpaths Committee (normally bi-monthly); Public Works Committee (normally only convened to meet on-site in



"Let's just blame that one on Taff-Ely..."

relation to problems associated with land or property); and the Community Link Committee which acts as the Editorial Board for this magazine. In addition there is a "Management Committee" to regulate the use of the Garth Newydd Recreation Field in Gwaelod-y-Garth.

Monthly meetings are held in the evening on a rota basis, at Pentyrch Village Hall, Creigiau Church Hall and Gwaelod-y-Garth Village Hall. Committee meetings are normally held at either of the two village halls.

The Council is solely funded at present through the Community Charge (Poll

Tax) and, unlike District/Borough and County Councils, receives no Government Grant. A small amount of income is collected from wayleaves etc. The precept for 1990/91 amounted to £32,745 — approximately £8.00 per charge payer in the Community Council area. It is collected by the Borough Council and paid to the Community Council in three equal instalments — 30th April, 31st August and 31st December.

Details of the 1991/92 forecast can be found in Community Highlights on page 6.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Prior to the restructuring of Pentyrch Community Council membership in 1984, a large disparity existed between electors per Councillor in each ward — a result of the enormous demographic changes in the area since the last war.

Ward	No. of Councillors	No. of Electors per Councillor
Creigiau	3	431
Pentyrch	6	256
Gwaelod-y-Garth	6	92

Re-structuring came about following the Review by the Boundary Commission in 1979, which aimed

to resolve such anomalies and ensure equitable and comparable representation throughout Wales in all Community areas.

The current position in the Pentyrch community area (see below), based on information provided by the Borough Council of Taff-Ely, shows that there is now no great disparity in the 3 wards.

Indeed, the population of each ward has increased proportionally over recent years and further restructuring is therefore unlikely for the foreseeable future.

Ward	1979 Electors	No. of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	1990 Electors	Electors per Councillor
Creigiau	1,384	5	277	1,814	362
Pentyrch	1,534	6	256	1,991	331
Gwaelod-y-Garth	553	2	277	724	362

COUNCIL POWERS

Generally speaking, community/town councils' powers and responsibilities, which are listed below alphabetically, are permissive and limited in scope.

Where a power is marked with an asterik the council may, in addition to exercising the power itself, help another body to act by giving financial assistance.

Allotments Provision and maintenance of allotments for cultivation.

**Arts* Developing and improving knowledge of the arts and the crafts which serve the arts.

Baths Provision of baths and wash-houses (which in modern terms may mean a launderette).

**Cemeteries* Provision and maintenance of burial grounds, cemeteries or crematoria.

Churchyards Power to contribute to the costs of a churchyard in use and a duty to maintain any closed churchyard where the duty has been transferred by the Church.

**Clocks* Provision and maintenance of public clocks, on churches or elsewhere.

Commons Power to protect any finally registered common which has no registered owner.

**Entertainments* Provision of any form of public entertainment and any premises for giving entertainments. (This includes maintaining bands or orchestras and providing for dancing.)

Footpaths Maintenance of public footpaths and bridleways.

**Halls* Provision of buildings for public meetings and functions, for indoor sports or physical recreation, or the use of clubs or societies having recreational, social or athletic objects.

Legal Proceedings Power to prosecute and defend any legal proceedings in the interests of the inhabitants. Power to take part in any public local inquiry.

Lighting Provision and maintenance of any footway lighting which lights roads or pavements provided the columns are not above specified heights.

**Litter* Provision of litter-bins in streets and support for anti-litter campaigns.

Mortuaries Provision of mortuaries and post mortem rooms.

Open spaces Provision and maintenance of public open spaces, pleasure grounds and public walks.

Parking Places Provision and management of car and cycle parks.

Parks Provision and maintenance of public parks and appropriate facilities.

Planning Local councils have a right to be notified of any planning application affecting their area and to make comments which the planning authority must take into account.

**Playing Fields* Provision and maintenance of land for any kind of outdoor recreation, including boating pools.

**Ponds* Power to deal with ponds, pools, or other places containing filth or matter prejudicial to health.

Post and Telephone Power to guarantee the postal or telephone authorities against a loss on a facility.

Public Lavatories Provision and maintenance of public lavatories.

Roadside Verges Power to plant and maintain roadside verges.

**Seats* Provision and maintenance of public seats on the highway.

**Shelters* Provision and maintenance of shelters for general public use and also particularly for bus passengers.

Signs Power to erect signs which warn of dangers or announce a place name, or indicate a bus stop.

**Swimming* Provision of indoor or outdoor swimming pools or bathing places.

**Tourism* Provision of facilities for conferences and encouragement of recreational and business tourism.

**Village Green* Powers to maintain the village or town green.

General Expenditure Power In any situation not covered by one of the specific powers described above a council may spend money on any purpose which in its opinion is of benefit to its area or to the inhabitants. The total expenditure by the council on all the cases under this general power is strictly limited by statute.



GUIDED WALKS

Saturday 20th April

Insect Crawl

Ranger Dai Hale will be in Tair Onen car park, Heol y Fforest, Tongwynlais, 1.00p.m., for any budding young scientists to explore the forest for bugs, beasties and creepy crawlies! Specifically for children, so only 2-3 miles long but of a couple of hours duration.

Sunday 21st April

Craig-yr-allt circular

A 5-6 mile ramble across Mid Glamorgan's largest common with David Jenkins. Meet at the Black Cock Inn car park (on the road between Tongwynlais and Watford, Caerphilly) at 2.30 p.m. The route will include Forest Fawr.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work

Guard against all risks of fire

Fasten all gates

Keep your dogs under close control

Keep to public paths across farmland

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls

Leave livestock and machinery alone

Help to keep all water clean

Protect wildlife, plants and trees

Take special care on country roads

Make no unnecessary noise

Our River... The Taff

In response to concern regarding the extensive river bank works on the Taffs Well side of the River Taff, the Council sought clarification as to the effect of these on people living in Gwaelod-y-Garth. The NRA, who are responsible for all Flood Defences, Water Quality and Conservation matters relating to rivers have responded:

"The work upstream of Pont Siôn Philip is being undertaken by British Rail and constitutes necessary maintenance on their bridge; work on the eastern bank of the river at Taffs Well comprised essentially construction of a flood defence embankment to protect low lying properties in Cardiff Road. This was the subject of full and detailed liaison with the County and Borough Councils and designed to have no hydraulic impact on the western bank. The residents of Gwaelod-y-Garth need have no apprehensions regarding either scheme.

"All the work has been undertaken in strict accordance with the requirements laid down by the Authority's Fisheries and Conservation Officer. A detailed Environmental Assessment was carried out as required by the Land Drainage Improvement works [Assessment of Environmental Effects] Regulations 1988 which in essence concluded that loss of habitat was minimal and had no significant impact upon the fishery."

WEATHER WHIMS — a personal tale

by Mary E Gillbam

ONCE AGAIN I take the weather as my theme. You might think that all that could be said about this has been said. No way. Each year has something new to surprise us with.

"The coldest weather for 100 years" quote the media in February. That was in the South-east - if true - not here - but the freeze-up hit us too, after 3 winters that had lulled us into a state of unreadiness with their mildness, if not their meekness. I was less prepared than most, having returned from two and a half months in the Southern summer the day before the first snow fell. Fortunately humans, together with cats and rats, seem able to tolerate a wider temperature range than most animals.

In Malaysia we had sweated our way round rubber, palm oil and pineapple plantations, to be revived by sea breezes riffling through the mangrove swamps where fishermen brought in their fish, squid, king crabs, prawns and turtles.

Western Australia was heart-struck in November, long before the unfortunate English cricketers arrived to swelter at 40 degrees celsius. (How could they be expected to win?). There had been exceptional rain in the North and a phenomenal hatch of locusts was moving south towards Perth, consuming everything in its path. Driving through the rattling hordes, we had frequently to get out and clear the radiator grid. The heat was conducive to boiling without this extra hazard. We escaped the mob

at the Pinnacles, which rose starkly from a plantless desert into which no locust would be tempted.

The cool swim at Shark Bay was delectable, and not only because of the wild dolphins, pelicans and others which rubbed shoulders with us in the pellucid waters. Then came Shelly Beach, 110 kms of blinding white cockle shells, and the Murchison Gorge, a strip of welcome water squeezed between torrid red cliffs, but the open country north to Caernarvon was still ablaze with blossoms, red and white spider flowers, pink and orange feather flowers, and hordes of kangaroos. (The locusts had bi-passed this stretch, and failed to make it to the equally floriferous Darling Ranges in the jarrah forests of the South).

Adelaide was hit by unseasonal summer deluges during our brief stay, but we were back in a scarcely bearable heatwave in the Murray Valley. We toiled up rocky slopes, seeking the shade of the gum trees and the bizarre 'blackboys' where almost the only flowers not shrivelled by the sun were golden everlasting. Citizens battled to keep hungry 'roos and possums off the young trees that everyone is planting in a Green effort stretching from Victoria to Queensland.

All unnecessary layers are shed in this climate. We scarcely saw a man in 'longs' anywhere north of Melbourne. And those Aussie men have lovely legs, fashioned by

early years of outdoor activity. (Don't try it lads, I hate to picture the lilly white shins and knobbly knees that might emerge from hiding there). Aussies, however, know all about the ozone layer. Many have had skin cancers removed. The broad-brimmed digger hat is a fact, not a myth.

Our Gippsland tour around the South-east was a delight of shaded forest and sea breeze, parrots and penguins, seals and shearwaters, sun and surf. And so via Canberra to the heart of civilisation in Sydney, with its opera. Just before Christmas dawned our northern suburbs became a bastion against raging bush fires, spawned by drought and lightning. One day I had photographed a fantastic stand of orange Christmas bells, sprouted since last summer's fires: the next day they had disappeared in a sea of ash under the blackened stumps of trees that are geared to recover from this sort of holocaust.

The fortnight on the Queensland border was hotter than ever. We stayed away from the deep and persistent typhoon floods around Townsville, but didn't escape the tropical 'scrub itch' (the Americans call this 'jiggers'). At the rate of 'one mite one bite' 10,000 of these noxious animals leapt off the tree ferns and lianas onto each one of us in passing. Quite a feat!

It was rain forest here, with koalas peering down on our balcony from the treetops, fruit bats clattering in their daytime roosts like the gannets of Grassholm and birds of every possible hue, bower birds and cockatoos brush turkeys and lyre birds, cuckoos and frogmouths.

Tasmania proved a welcome relief from the 100% humidity, the weather like the best of an English summer, with none of the expected mountain tempests and West coast rainstorms. Wallabies, nevertheless, wore woolier coats here, like the possums and wombats. The Tasmanian devils and spotted marsupial cats which came out at dusk to eat the proffered meat, were sleeker.

And so back from the wild county to the tameness of the big city. What did it have to throw at us this time? Answer: the great grandfather of all thunder storms. Trees came tumbling down, roofs were whisked away and hailstones fell as big as walnuts. Our road blocked by a giant Eucalypt, we skidded to a halt among ice balls piled 12 inches deep.

The ground either side was white and steaming. With a temperature in the eighties Fahrenheit, the ice passed directly into steam. Cattle were huddled shoulder to shoulder under a house verandah: horses were drenched and shivering, terrified by the lightening, roads ran like rivers and parched paddocks disappeared under water.

Did someone say only Britain has unpredictable weather? We took off for Bangkok, the ceiling of black clouds under the plane illuminated at intervals of a few seconds by sheet lightning as we crossed the dry Heartland. From the Himalayas it was dawn all the way, as we travelled at the speed of the Earth's rotation. It was snow all the way too: Afghanistan, The Caspian Sea, Moscow, Poland and Scandinavia - a northern passage to avoid the war zone.

I breathed a prayer of thanks for our equable oceanic climate. Too soon. Winds from the Siberian wastelands followed our plane home. The first two days of snow produced Fairyland in the Garth Woods. Then came the big freeze, with my garden blackbirds getting through 3 large apples a day - in preference to the proffered bread and fat.

Cardiff and suburban gardens came alive with fieldfares and redwings, woodcock came in from the woods, while bramblings and snow buntings, even waxwings, arrived in our patch from the inhospitable lands of Europe with the east wind.



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THE FRIENDS OF CREIGIAU SCHOOL

In the previous edition of the Link we learnt how parents support their childrens secondary education. Primary schools too receive a healthy dose of parental enthusiasm:

At the September AGM of the Friends of Creigiau School I discovered that over £5,000 had been raised in the previous year. The school could now swell its stock of computers, radio cassettes and books. In my staggered state, I was easy prey: Ten of us volunteered to form the new committee.

Just how do you prise-out that kind of money from young families with mortgages and Mutant-Hero mad children to support? I'm not sure what the children made of us at our first disco as we scraped up squashed hotdog sausage from the floor and

opened scores of bottles of blue pop. But there were plenty of smiling faces, albeit strangely blue.

After that, the Back-To-School-Reunion – Fancy-Dress Christmas Dance was plain sailing, a sell out in fact: 90% of the gathering had squeezed themselves into something resembling a school uniform. Hotdogs and ketchup were replaced by Spotted Dick and Custard. Liebfraumilch replaced Blue Pop. We could have had Blue Nun, I suppose !

So fund raising needn't be painful!

Watch out for these events:

Friday 26 April : A night at the Races

Friday 17 May : Quiz Night

Saturday 22 June : Summer Fayre

Chris Shute, Newsletter Person
FCS Chairman : Hugh Jones 891623

HOW OUR CHILDREN SEE US

We published a number of stories and pictures by local children in the last issue of the Link. Although we do our best to keep errors to a minimum, these do occasionally happen and the drawing published under the name of Mark Price in the last issue was in fact by Bethan Langmay of Pentyrch Primary School.

Sorry Bethan !!

In this issue, as promised, another of those marvellous drawings is published this one by Mark Price.

The Editorial Board would like to thank all the children who submitted work. It really was not an easy task deciding on those to include in the magazine



Picture: 'Old Pentyrch' by Mark Price, Class 7.

Letters

Its good to get letters. It shows that the Link is actually read and encourages us to continue producing the magazine. If you have something to say - please write.

Dear Editor

Community Link

I was interested in the articles supplied by the school children in the last no. of C.L. but would have been much more so if I had been told how old they were.

The code of 1 to 8 for classes (in a school attended for only 6 years (from age 5 to 11)) means nothing unless one is a parent or teacher. I am particularly intrigued to know how one gets to class 8 - or do they start here and work up to 1?

Congratulations on a well balanced journal. I have not yet stopped chuckling about the ode to the wheelie bin in an earlier issue.

Yours

A Reader

Gwaelod-y-Garth

Dear Mr Rosser

As an 'incomer' of 3 year standing I should like to congratulate you and the P.C.C. on another excellent 'Community Link'.

In particular I enjoy the articles about the history of the area.

Keep it up.

Yours sincerely

Chris Lyaan

The Rise

Heol-y-Parc

Pentyrch

Have You Got The Winter Blues

Why don't YOU come to our meetings?

Just you, or you can bring a friend

You can always start off as a visitor,

If you like us then join at the end.

You'll always be sure of a welcome

A cuppa, a biscuit or two

*And you'll also learn much, from the
speakers and such*

So join us we'd love to see YOU !

Gwaelod-y-Garth W.I. meets in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month except August.

April 91 Community Council Highlights

Playgrounds

Creigiau Playground

At the time of writing the playground is in good order:- the spring animal has been repaired; new swings have been provided by Taff Ely Borough Council (unfortunately not on safety surfacing since they were unsuccessful in getting Welsh Office Urban Aid grant to support plans they had for introducing a programme of safety surface installation throughout the Borough); and a new carousel on safety surfacing has been installed by the Community Council. It is understood that youngsters in the village are not too impressed by the latter as it does not revolve fast enough. This is because it is to BSI Standards and fitted with a speed restrictor - however, the manufacturers have assured the Council that it will revolve more freely once "worn-in"!

Memorial Park, Pentyrch

The Council has taken the plunge and let a contract for the full refurbishment of the children's play equipment in the Park. New swings and carousel are being provided and all new and old equipment will be set on safety surfacing. Total value of contract, to commence as soon as weather permits is £13,467.03 + VAT.

Garth Newydd, Gwaelod-y-Garth

Quotations will be sought in the next financial year for the re-setting on safety surfacing of the snail climber.

Street Light

The street light on the footpath between Parc Y Felin/Parc Castell y Mynach, Creigiau is now installed and operating.

Grants/Donations made by the Council 1990/1991

The Council has made grants/donations :- **£250** to Cantorion Creigiau; **£100** each to Urd Gobaith Cymru, Taffs Well CEU Playschemes 1990, Creigiau Cricket Club, George Thomas Taff-Ely & Rhondda Macmillan Cancer Care Appeal and Pentyrch Bowling Club; **£50** each to Taff-Ely Volunteer's Support Scheme, Taff-Ely Drug Support Scheme, Pentyrch Rangers AFC, Pentyrch Junior Cricket Club, Pontypridd Community Theatre, John Groom's Association - re Jane Hodge Holiday & Activities Centre for Disabled People and the Royal National Eisteddfod; **£40** to Ysgol Feithrin Bethlehem, Gwaelod y Garth; **£25** each to Kidney Research Unit Wales 1990 Appeal, Samaritans - Bridgend Branch, Wales Sports Association for People with a Mental Handicap, DIAL Llantrisant & District, Kidney Research Unit For Wales - 1991 "Walk for Life" event & appeal, Shelter Cymru - 1991 appeal and the Nant Gwytheyrn Trust - promotion of the Welsh Language and finally; **£20** to the Spectacle Theatre. **Total Grants made £1,335.00.**

Community Council Precept 1991/1992

The Community Council originally resolved at its meeting on 21 January to continue to base its Precept on the equivalent of a Community Charge to each estimated full Chargepayer in the Community Council's area of £8.00 per head; however, it then became aware that, for the first time in its history, it would be charged directly by the Borough Council for the costs of the forthcoming elections in its area in respect of each Community Council seat contested. Formerly, these costs were met by the Borough - though reflected in the rate demands made on ratepayers in the Community Council area.

On the basis of the historic cost of elections (supplied by the Borough Council) and in recognition of the higher profile recently accorded Community Councils in the press it was felt that since more seats than hitherto could be contested in the May elections, the Council should be allowed to reconsider its precept. Under the terms of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 the Council has a duty to take into consideration all potential expenditure and the power is given to issue a substitute precept if it is not prepared to revise its original spending plans to accommodate these potential new costs. Consequently, at the Council's meeting held to discuss Forward Planning, Policy and Resources on 28 January, the Council voted narrowly 5/4 to base its precept on a revised equivalent of a Community Charge to each Chargepayer of £8.50 per head, rather than reduce the monies set aside for projects in 1991/1992. The decision will result in a precept of £37,086.00 for 1991/1992.

Subsequently this was challenged and the matter debated at the Council meeting of 18 February where the legality of the action was confirmed even if some Councillors (and certain members of the public present) were unhappy about the decision.

Final Farewell

I had thought that the December issue of the Link would have been the last occasion on which I wrote Community Highlights - it was not to be! However I can promise you this is my last contribution as Clerk - my successor has now been appointed [Mrs Hilary Roscoe, 4 Rhymney Cottages, Taffs Well CF4 7RP (Tel 0222 813106)] and will take over on 1 April. You vote for a new Community Council on 2 May, please use your vote - Community Councillors receive no remuneration for doing a job which I believe does improve the quality of life for local residents, if only by pressurising the larger Authorities into carrying out their local responsibilities - they need your support.

M.D.Stratford

24/2/91

WHATS ON - NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Gwaelod-Garth :-

Disco Dance in the Village Hall on Saturday 20 April 1991.

Village Hall Bazaar in the Hall on Saturday 11 May 1991 starting at 2 p.m.

W.I. Spring Fair in the Hall on Saturday 8 June 1991 starting at 2 p.m.

The Gwaelod -y-Garth Village Hall Committee badly need new members. The old guard is still carrying on but would welcome new blood and new ideas. Please volunteer.

If interested contact Molly Patmore on 810485

NEW HOPE

Four years after it was dissolved in an economy drive, the Borough Council of Taff-Ely has, following repeated representation by Pentyrch and other Community and Town Councils, conservation pressure groups and numerous concerned individuals, decided to re-constitute their Conservation Areas Advisory Committee.

Too often in recent years, inappropriate or unsympathetic developments have been allowed to despoil the conservation areas in our villages, at Gwaelod-y-Garth and Pentyrch. Perhaps, at long last, these very special and unique areas will be effectively monitored and monstrosities, such as that pictured below in Gwaelod-y-Garth, will not be allowed to mar the picturesque village scene.

The re-establishment of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee will at least provide a regular forum for Community Councillors to meet with the planners and make local views known.



Farewell Marian...

It's hard to believe it is only 3 years ago we welcomed Marian Stratford on board, as the new clerk. This Council can congratulate itself..... for what an excellent choice she turned out to be.

Her many years of experience with Mid Glamorgan County Council, particularly on the reporting and financial side, have been of tremendous benefit to the Council. She has set a very high standard for her successors to follow.

On behalf of all the Councillors..... I wish to thank you Marian for spending the past three years with us. Your reports have always been clear and concise, presented without bias and with the detailed information needed to allow proper debate. True, we've not always heeded your advice... but common sense has usually prevailed and so we have come to 'see the light' in the end.

Fortunately, the Community at large will continue to benefit from your boundless energy and expertise now that you will have time to spare for all those other interests which fill your life.

We wish you and your husband all the very

...and hello! Hilary



The new clerk: Hilary Roscoe and her two children.

The Community Council has appointed a new clerk, Mrs. Hilary Roscoe of 4 Rhymney Cottages, Taffs Well. Born and bred in Taffs Well, she lives there with her husband Stephen and two young children, Christopher and David.

Hilary is well versed in local government, having spent 13 years with Mid Glamorgan County Council, before leaving to have a family. She was also the first Clerk for Taffs Well Community Council after it was set up six years ago.

She is also deeply involved with voluntary Conservation Groups in the area, and interested in local history, with quite a collection of post cards showing how our communities have changed over the years. As Clerk, she hopes to continue the good work of those who have previously held the post and looks forward to a productive and rewarding time with Pentyrch Community Council.

Welcome on board, Hilary.

Editor.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

November 19, 1990 Meeting of the Community Council

Planning Applications Notified:

Weeks 41 to 44 (weeks ending 12th, 19th, 26th October and 2nd November 1990)

56/0867 Steetley Quarry Products PO Box 53 Rugby, CV21 2UT — proposed extn of limestone quarry, relocation of existing processing plant, new site entrance & landscaping works — Taffs Well Quarry, Heol Goch.

This application fell to be determined by the Mid Glamorgan CC as the minerals planning authority. It would appear that virtually all the reservations expressed by the Community Council and Communities Action Group in relation to the earlier application which is subject of the suspended Public Inquiry, in as far as they affected this Community Council area, had been met. Problems arising from working down into, rather than spreading further outwards from the existing pit, could mean that Morgantown will continue to be affected by blasting and, of course, by the new proposed entrance.

Approvals notified:

59/0558 Hunt, Post Office & Stores, Cardiff Road, Creigiau — demolition of derelict bakery and erection of one dwelling house [subject to conditions re access etc.]

56/0804 Harvey, 2 Llys Dyfrig, Creigiau — conversion of garage to living room and erection of a conservatory.

Refusal notified:

56/0726 Burke, Broadlands Nursing Home, Llantrisant Road, Capel Llanilterne — residential sheltered accommodation (outline)

December 17, 1990 Meeting of the Community Council

Planning Applications notified:

Weeks 45 to 47 (weeks ending 9th, 16th & 23rd November, 1990)

56/0886 James W. Smart, Garage & Store, 1 Cardiff Road, Creigiau — car jet wash (detailed).

56/0921 Rank Organisation, Whyteleafe, Surrey — 1 set of Halo illuminated letters & symbols on land at M4 - Capel Llanilterne.

56/0933 Dr. G.R.A. Hunt, 2 Maes y Sarn, Pentyrch - change of use of land from grass verge to house garden.

January 21, 1991 Meeting of the Community Council

Planning Applications notified:-

Weeks 49 & 50 (weeks ending 7th & 14th December, 1990 and 4th and 11 January 1991)

56/0996 Evans, 6 Springfield Close, Rhiwderin, Newport - outline application - replacement of dwelling house at site of Llwynypia, Mountain Road, Pentyrch.

[The Council resolved to oppose the application on the following grounds - sporadic development; undesirable intrusion into open countryside which, if granted, could lead to further applications, resulting in linear development along Mountain Road].

56/1001 Hodgson, 4 Clos Darren Las, Creigiau - 5 bedroom dwelling plus detached garage incorporating artist's studio (detailed) - land adjacent to Tynant Road, Creigiau.

[The Council resolved to oppose the application on the following grounds - sporadic development; undesirable intrusion into open countryside which if granted, could lead to further applications, resulting in linear development along Tynant Road; problems of access on a dangerous corner].

Planning Approvals notified:-

56/0671 D.M.Clements, 62/64 Cardiff Road, Taffs Well - change of use Twyn Shop, Heol Goch, Pentyrch from retail to office use.

56/0784 Castle per Edwards, Timothy Rees Close, Llandaff - detached house with garage on land rear Heol y Berry, Gwaelod y Garth. [subject to certain conditions].

56/0886 James W. Smart, Garage & Store, 1 Cardiff Road, Creigiau - car jet wash (detailed). [subject to restrictions on hours of operation].

(i) At this meeting the Council noted the letter from Mid Glamorgan Planning Authority [ref 56/0867/90 - Steetley Quarry Products - extn of Taffs Well Quarry, Heol Goch, Pentyrch] enclosing plans showing the new quarry amended access and inviting comment on the proposal. The Clerk pointed out that the proposed roundabout would give access to new office development proposed by Davy Monk & Co which had been approved on appeal, by the Secretary of State for Wales.

(ii) The Council also approved the Clerk's action in opposing the appeal made to the Secretary of State in respect of - Town & Country Planning Act 1990 - Sec 78 Appeal against refusal for outline consent for one dwelling on land adjoining "Tynewydd", Heol Goch, Gwaelod y Garth - A & A Jones.

February 18, 1991 Meeting of the Community Council

Weeks 4 & 5 (weeks ending 25th January and 1st February, 1991)

No Planning Applications within the Community Council Area notified.

Planning Approvals notified:-

56/0921 Rank Organisation, Whyteleafe, Surrey - 1 set of Halo illuminated letters & symbols on land at M4 - Capel Llanilterne.

56/0799 Davies, Dwrlyn Cottage, Llantrisant Road, Capel Llanilterne - change of use from residential to public house and restaurant [subject to planning condition re car parking, landscaping hours etc etc].

**Clerk to the Council.
24/2/91**

IN SEARCH OF CWMDERI

The lady from Hengoed was obviously concerned. She had written to complain that Meic Pierce, the local cafe owner had been buying in ordinary vegetables, plastering them with mud (etc) in the privacy of his back yard, before displaying them for sale as organically-grown vegetables. Shouldn't we warn his customers what was going on? Then there was the gentleman from Llangennech who wrote to Reg Harries last year, advising him that his wife, Megan, was heading for - if not already steamily embroiled in - an affair with their son's schoolmaster. Sometimes the contacts have been even more direct: the scene, Tesco's, the time, Saturday morning - "Hello Derek, I'm glad to see that your burns are getting better. It must have been a dreadful experience!"

All expressions of concern of course, and all the more remarkable when you consider that the recipients are not real people, but rather the characters that populate that imaginary, yet somehow tangible, small West Wales town - Cwmderi.

No Brigadoon this location, materialising once every century; Cwmderi appears, albeit on your television screens, Monday to Friday, five days a week. It's the fictional setting for the BBC's longest running "soap" - *Pobol y Cwm* - now shown on S4C and steadily attracting top viewing figures.

It was seventeen years ago when the series first appeared on BBC Cymru, and then only once a week for a run of thirty episodes. Seventeen series later, we are producing in Llandaf, one hundred and ninety-six episodes for each series - including a Christmas "special" edition. What makes *Pobol y Cwm* even more remarkable is the fact that each episode is recorded on the actual day of transmission - something unique in television terms. Of course, the storylines and scripts have to be prepared well in advance, but it does mean that we are able to insert highly topical items into an episode if warranted.

Characters could for example discuss the changes in the budget, the results of a sporting fixture perhaps - even the daily papers on sales in Maggie's shop are that day's editions!

All this immediacy calls for a highly organised production schedule. A typical day runs like this:

- 8.30 a.m. - rehearsals start in the studio.
- 10.30 a.m. - the start of the day's recording.
- 1.00 p.m. - lunch.
- 2.00 p.m. - more recording.
- 6.00 p.m. - finish all recording, final editing.
- 6.40 p.m. - ON AIR!

At the same time recording is taking place in the studio, a small single-camera unit is also working on locations not too far away. Part of the success of the series has been due to the realism of using actual places, and we are well served by locations in the area covered by this magazine.

If you wanted to find Cwmderi on a map (don't bother, you won't!) you should be looking somewhere in the Glendraeth Valley - the Crosshands, Tymbl, Pontyberem district would be a good start.

Of course, with the restraints of our production timetable, actually travelling to that area would be impossible, but how lucky we are to have, on our doorsteps as it were, all the elements that are needed to create Cwmderi.

No problems with the topography - a valley is a valley! The view from the top of Rudy Mountain outside Caerffili, down to Trethomas, perfectly substitutes for Cwm Gwendraeth.

The two Renault Espace vehicles used by

the single-camera unit are certainly no strangers to many readers, I'm sure. They can be found parked outside the primary school at Gwaelod-y-Garth - with the sign having been changed to Ysgol Gynradd Cwmderi for the duration of recording - or outside Ebenezer Chapel in Efail Isaf, changed to Bethania, Cwmderi. Maybe they might appear in Tongwynlais, or Ffynnon Taf (how many of you have spotted the famous Arthur of Arthur's Stores on the opening titles?).

There is no one place that substitutes for Cwmderi - over the years, as the series has grown, the stories have dictated various locations - impossible then to find all our requirements in one village. So it is that Cwmderi is really a composite. The search for Cwmderi could take you as far afield as Peterston-Super-Ely for the exterior of the Deri Arms; a country house near Cowbridge for Y Plas, Tristan Bowen's ancestral home; Castle Heights near Tongwynlais for Breeze Hill Golf Club, somehow still standing after the explosion!

Whether we have filmed in the street, or in people's homes, we have always been made to feel welcome. Our production teams are well aware of the value of good public relations and would never inconvenience members of the public in any way. Often, at the end of a

day's shoot, it's been reported back that a shopkeeper for example, whose premises we might have taken over for an hour during the morning, was delighted to have assisted us, thanked the team for their courtesy, and please - come again whenever you need to!

May I then, through the medium of COMMUNITY LINK, take this opportunity, on behalf of BBC Wales and my colleagues who work on *Pobol y Cwm*, to thank all of you who have allowed us to film on your premises, whether they be schools, chapels, shops, private lanes outside your houses, in your gardens - wherever - and in anticipation of your co-operation in the future.

One final word, and this is to those of you who might have just moved into the area or don't understand Welsh - there are sub-titles on every episode of *Pobol y Cwm*. You will find them on page 888 of *Cefnax* during the evening transmission. For the following lunchtime's repeat at 12.10 p.m., you don't even need a special set, since they are included on the actual picture. I hope you continue to enjoy life in CWMDERI - after all, it belongs to all of us!

ROBIN DAVIES-ROLLINSON
PRODUCER: "POBOL-Y-CWM"



Sgt. James and his wife Beth, the headmistress (Ieuan Rhys and Eirlys Britton) discuss the script with director Cliff Jones outside "Cwmderi" school in Gwaelod-y-Garth.

EISTEDDFOD YR URDD

Don't forget the National Urdd Eisteddfod will be at Tonyrefail between the 27 May and 22 June of this year.

Make a note - put it in your diary.

This Eisteddfod is the largest children's festival in Europe. They will be there in their thousands, from every corner of Wales, competing or taking part in the numerous competitions, ceremonies, Gymanfa Ganu and musical events of all descriptions. Many will be there representing schools in our Community and, if previous years are anything to go by, they will return with great honour.

Tonyrefail is less than 10 miles away. It is not every year an event of such major importance comes to our area. So if you have never been to an Eisteddfod before, or haven't attended one for some time, now is your chance to make amends.

You won't be disappointed. The 'field', or 'maes', is a hive of activity, with hundreds of stalls and lots to see, and innumerable events in both English and Welsh. You are bound to find something to interest you - and you're sure to enjoy yourself thoroughly.

See you there !!

Please help!!

The Pentryrch Urdd Eisteddfod Hospitality Committee is appealing for people willing to accommodate two children for one or two nights during Eisteddfod week - 27th to 30th May. If you can help, please contact Heulwen Hughes (Pentryrch) on 891753, Sylvia Davies (Creigiau) on 891559, or June Huws (Gwaelod-y-Garth) on 810149.

"OUR GLENYS"

An appreciation of Glenys Sadler, long standing and long suffering Chairlady of CRAMAC

Because of her current ill-health, Glenys Sadler is finally standing down as Chairlady of Creigiau Recreational Area Management Committee, or CRAMAC as it is fondly known in local circles. She will be sorely missed by all of those who have used Creigiau recreational facilities over the years.

I doubt if many of Creigiau's residents realize just how much the village owes Glenys for helping to establish the strong sporting base that many of us now enjoy here. It was 12 years ago, in 1979, that we first heard Taff-Ely was to purchase and dedicate the strip of land between Heol Pantygored and the allotments for Creigiau's recreational use. From the outset Glenys was in the thick of the planning and negotiations with Taff-Ely for the facilities wanted. It helped, of course, having a husband working for Mid Glamorgan County Council who knew the ropes - who could ensure that the right people were contacted over field drainage, road laying, building and all the other contractual work which had to be undertaken.

Glenys' energy was boundless and her love of tennis ensured that the two expensive-to-maintain grass courts along Cardiff Road were replaced by three spanking new all-weather hardcourts. Her daily negotiations (which went on for months) with the Welsh Sports Council and Taff-Ely to raise the finance to pay for these courts would leave even the managing director of a sizeable company breathless and exhausted. Glenys managed it all virtually single-handed.

The pavilion was opened in 1982, with Glenys and Brian Parry, the first Chairman of CRAMAC, to the forefront yet again in planning and all negotiations. If one were to list all the problems, the occasions when contractors turned up on the wrong day or brought the wrong materials with them it usually fell to Glenys to sort them out!

Glenys took over the chair from Brian Parry in late 1982 and has re-

mained Chairlady ever since, devoting much of her spare time to the job.

She has tried to resign previously but nobody has been willing to take on the awesome task and so she has carried on with the same zest and enthusiasm regardless.

In preparing this appreciation I idly looked through minutes of past committee meetings. After all, now the facilities are largely in place it looks like the job might be a doddle. Not a bit of it, I fear. The general site management involves all sorts of activities which one could hardly dream of: tree preservation and re-planting, litter bin maintenance, gate erection, plus key holding arrangements, general booking of the pavilion for parties and other functions, additional storage facilities, cleaning and painting of pavilion and so on and so forth....

And we haven't even mentioned the annual village Carnival yet: a huge responsibility for co-ordinating all the participating groups and activities, for which planning normally starts a good six months in advance.

We have much to be grateful to Glenys for and we can only hope that CRAMAC will somehow manage without her. On behalf of the sporting clubs, the Welsh pre-school education groups, and all her friends associated with CRAMAC we send her our warm and heartfelt best wishes for a full and speedy recovery. Thanks, Glenys.

Hugh Foot

TAFFS WELL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE UNIT

The contract of the Employment Training Unit of the C.E.U., which rose like a phoenix from the ashes of the Manpower Services Commission, has been terminated by the Training and Enterprise Council of Mid Glamorgan. The Unit which has been in existence since 1982, was considered to be one of the best training agencies in Wales. Yet it has not even been granted one star out of a three-star maximum by T.E.C. It was promised, where contracts were terminated, that T.E.C. would ensure sympathetic transfer of trainees to other schemes. It now seems that this will not happen: the best they will be offered is jobs on the factory floor or on assembly lines - even though many had obtained City & Guilds certificates and others were on their way to specialist qualifications.

This has been a happy Unit; the trainees and staff have worked well together and their combined efforts have been successful and much appreciated.

The Directors of the Company have tried to avoid liquidation and ensure, among other things, redundancy payments for long-serving members of staff.

It is also hoped to keep Easter and Summer Playschemes in operation and to keep the farm in operation on an independent basis. The future of these will depend on the generosity of grant organisations such as Pentyrch Community Council, which has already agreed to part-sponsor the playschemes and volunteers.

Dr Kim Howells, M.P. has agreed to act on behalf of the Unit. He has already enlisted the support of Ron Davies, M.P. and Wayne David, our Euro M.P. It is hoped that their efforts will meet with success and the slur, when T.E.C. failed to grant even one star status to the Unit, will be removed.

Molly Patmore



*"International tickets? No,
I was lucky this year
— I couldn't get any."*

A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

In this issue of the Link, Don tells us yet again of the marvellous characters who populated the Pentyrch of his childhood, and relates a few more of the fascinating incidents to occur in this little corner of Wales during a most momentous time in our history.

During the War the local Home Guard and the Fire Service could rely on our support during their practice sessions which, it seemed to me, were always carried out in great humour. Camouflage training at Bronllwyn fields, where Maes Y Sarn now stands, was edifying! Parade ground drill in the school yard was better than going to the pantomime! One interesting episode involved marksmanship training in a dingle over the Forlan fields. Although the Home Guard had been issued with Lee Enfield 303 rifles and a clasp of five bullets, for some unexplained reason they were using the much smaller 2.2s for target practice. Upwards of a hundred spectators sat around under the trees applauding every shot until a calamity happened. A gun jammed and a variety of implements were produced and passed across in an attempt to dislodge the offending bullet. Pocket knives proved unsuccessful; a screwdriver was not equal to the task. At that point, Frank T, a local bootmaker, approached with a First World War bayonet, which for some reason he had in his possession, and was about to proffer it when the gun went off. He fell to the ground clutching his lower leg and the whole crowd rushed to his aid; except, that is, for a quick-thinking boy who ran like a greyhound to fetch Dr. Gladys Aitken whom he knew to be visiting a nearby dwelling. The good lady doctor, with great speed and dexterity, applied the requisite tourniquet and dressed the wound. Frank's recovery was rapid and soon we were calling on him at his cobbler's shop on the way home from school to be shown where the shell had passed through his shin!

Combat exercises involving detachments of the Regular Army and the Home Guard were a joy. The village throbbed with the rumble of military vehicles passing through and we placed ourselves as near as permitted to gun positions at well camouflaged roadside points in order to get the best view of the combatants. The boys who had the most rewarding experience were those who were able to see Mervyn H. throwing clods of turf with perfect aim and unseating several of the advance party of motor cyclists as they came around High Corner!. He had secreted himself with a painstakingly prepared supply of clods (or 'clodges' as we preferred to call them) behind the wall of Jack Lloyd's bailey above the high steps. Before his place of concealment was eventually discovered, he had put the fear of hell into at least a dozen dispatch riders who had not the faintest idea as to where the missiles were coming from. Mervyn would have continued to triumph if he had not become a little too ambitious in trying to bombard a Bren-Gun carrier with a shower

of earth and grass as it was driven slowly and suspiciously around the corner. Unfortunately for him, the vehicle was conveying some of the 'Top Brass' who were supervising the operation. His capture, which was both sudden and summary, was greeted by loud booing from the local kids!

Sometimes we were allowed to take part in mock battles and air-raids which were organised in order to sharpen the reactions of the local defence volunteers and the Red Cross. We would act as messengers between the units and on some occasions act as 'injured' residents. I vividly recall having my head bound with realistic looking red-ink stained bandage and my legs being put into firm splints before being carried from the 'Ambulance Station' (actually, the old wash-house alongside Ianto Crydd's house at the top of Temperance Road) to the refuge of Horeb Chapel vestry. Once, the stretcher bearers had to put me down carefully at the roadside whilst they were solemnly asked to identify themselves to a passing Home Guard corporal. This mystified me because the four were intimately known to the corporal. After all he was my father and three of the stretcher bearers were his cousins!

The Observer Corps was another organisation which captured our imagination. Their hut stood on high ground above the junction of Mountain Road and Ty'ncoed Road and from that vantage point those knowledgeable volunteers scanned the horizon and the sky above the Vale night and day for the expected visitations from enemy 'planes. Like bird watchers in more peaceful times they brought to perfection their ability to identify the tiniest flying object silhouetted against the sky. On one occasion, after the 'all-clear' was sounded following a

Twining

The Taff-Ely/Nurtingen town Twining Association is two years old and thriving. It now has over 70 members and is deeply involve in forging links between the two communities.

The Association is setting up an 'Accommodation List'. If you would like to participate, please contact the Secretary, Mrs Mary Jenkins, on 0443 404168 (evenings) or 0443 407811 (daytime).

You need not feel, if you commit yourself to the 'List', you will be pestered... this is not so. If you were asked to take a visitor and it was not convenient at the time, you only have to say and other arrangements will be made.

daylight raid, we emerged from the improvised shelter in the school 'underground' only to find that a Spitfire was chasing a German fighter plane towards the Bristol Channel. The stray aircraft had lost contact with its squadron and was heading for the safety of the clouds which hung more or less above Peterstone. Our headmaster and his deputy, both stalwart Observer Corps men, became locked in fierce argument regarding the identity of the planes. Any one of the boys could have given precise details of make and model if they had only been asked, such was their knowledge too of such matters.

One lazy summer afternoon, a group of young lads stood talking at Horeb corner when the deafening drone of an aero-engine in trouble drew our attention to the sky above St. Fagan's. With heads raised in astonishment, we saw a Spitfire in a vertical dive about to surprise the good people of St. George's or thereabouts. We heard no actual crash but there was little doubt that the 'plane had come down. Immediately the older boys sped off on their bicycles to investigate, leaving the rest of us forbidden by our tender years to take part in such an adventure. Nothing was ever found but the event is officially noted as one of the mysteries of the war over Wales.

Don Llewelyn ©1990



MUDIAD SY'N DOD A CHYMRY
CYMRAEG ADYSGWYR YNGHYD

A society that brings Welsh
speakers and learners together
through the Welsh language

Now You're Talking!

WELSH LEARNERS: There are a great many people learning Welsh in this area and it has been suggested that a "Cyd" - learners meeting in social surroundings to practice Welsh conversation - should be formed.

Anyone interested please contact
Gordon Bunn

Low pressure

Welsh Water wishes to apologise for the disruption to water supplies experienced by people in Gwaelod-y-Garth as a result of the recent cold spell, which badly affected the reservoir at Rocks Level and caused innumerable bursts elsewhere.

The water mains on Mountain Road is being replaced at present, to enable them to take the Service Reservoir out of use, and the water supply situation should therefore improve considerably when the new main is finally commissioned in the next few weeks.

KEEP WALES TIDY

Litter is one of the curses of our age. It used not to be so but now, wherever one looks, in fields, hedgerows, in villages and towns, there it is - litter of all kinds. Quite apart from the dumping of large items which, deplorable as that is, can be dealt with (and those responsible prosecuted if people are alert), the hurling of bottles, cans, crisp packets, sweet papers etc. onto grass verges and into the hedges on our village roads is far more worrying. Litter bins are largely ignored and, even, where these have been filled, some now take great pleasure in deliberately emptying them on the ground around. Children, when spoken to about litter, respond with abuse.

The Conservation Groups do their best by organising litter pick-ups but, sadly very few volunteers turn up to help. Let us hope that the new Environmental Protection Bill will eventually solve some of these problems which so despoil the beauty of our villages. We appeal to everyone to give some thought to this, to avoid carelessness themselves and to educate and, if necessary, take action against their children when they offend.

At a recent meeting of the Community Council to discuss expenditure in the



forthcoming year, the litter problem in our community was again a major consideration. Because the law strictly limits the hours of casual employment our little band of workers are unable to spend any more time on the task of collecting litter.

It was therefore decided that a concerted effort involving the whole community should be made to improve the situation. A sum of £1500 has been put aside, i.e. £500 per village, for community clean-ups. It is envisaged that there will be five litter collections during the year in each village and that community groups or clubs should be awarded up to £100 per collection to satisfactorily clean up an area designated by the council.

We feel that this idea could have several benefits for the community; Not only would our litter problem be reduced, community groups (it would be invidious to mention names!) will be able to realise a small income while assisting their particular village. Interested groups are invited to contact the Clerk of the Council for further information.

AWARDS

At a recent presentation evening Claire Osmundsen of Maes-y-Sarn, Pentyrch, a ranger with Cardiff Rural District was presented with her Queen's Guide Award, the most prestigious honour in the Girl Guide Movement.

The silver brooch and certificate were presented to her by Patricia Teagle, Deputy Chief Commissioner for Wales.

Claire embarked on this challenging award three years ago.

Her county assessment panel were delighted with the work she had produced in the seven varying clauses.

One was a survey of the parts played by the media (newspapers, radio and television) and how they affected the lives of of Pentyrch inhabitants.

The local issue giving public concern was the proposed extension of Steetley Quarry.

Activities involved were varied, from gaining her Ranger camper's permit in atrocious weather, decorating her guides bathroom, to producing a most intricate embroidery and becoming fluent on certain aspects of the workings of the EEC, the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

Claire's enterprise expedition, was a three day study of the City of Bristol, with three Ranger companions.

It was no easy award to gain.

Princess Margaret, the associations president will officially present her with her award at Kensington Palace later in the year.

District Commissioner Myra Thomas's comment, well done Claire.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Bethan Ellis Owen of Queen Charlotte Drive, Creigiau and Lisa Snowball of Dyserth, Pen-y-Waun, Pentyrch - both pupils at Ysgol Gyfun, Llanharri, for their success in this year's Western Mail St. Davids Day Essay Competition for Schools (Welsh Language Section -

PENTYRCH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch can help forge community spirit. It is not only about crime prevention, it is also about looking after the vulnerable members of society and improving the quality of life for everyone.

It is therefore important to understand and appreciate that Pentyrch Neighbourhood Watch follows these thoughts, endeavouring to gain the support and help of all sections of the community.

Regular monthly meetings are held which provide an excellent forum for wide ranging discussions. They last an hour.

Various events have been held over the past two years, e.g. village meetings on house security, drugs, bike marking and a childrens car security competition.

It is very encouraging therefore to see a fall of approximately 50% in the number of house burglaries/house breaking in the last two years since the current Neighbourhood Watch has been operating. It seems that the greater emphasis on house security and awareness may have helped.

Unfortunately, with thefts of and from cars, Pentyrch seems to be following the national trend, with the former trebling and the latter doubling. This despite two campaigns run by the Neighbourhood Watch in the last year. There needs to be a greater emphasis on car security by car owners and awareness from the community. If you see something suspicious report it, either by ringing 999 or Pontypridd 0443 404351, 404352, 404804, 485351 Make a note of the person/s or car description, and car number. If you are able, ask for the name (or reference) of the person taking your call.

The Neighbourhood Watch would be very pleased to give advice on Home and Car Security.

In addition, membership of the Neighbourhood Watch provides a reduction in House Insurance premiums (5-10% depending on the Company), updates on a nationwide information, and the forum for discussion.

If you would like further details, please contact Mike Jones, Chairman Pentyrch Neighbourhood Watch, 1 Penffordd, Pentyrch Tel no 891563

A GOOD FIGHT.....BUT !!

On February 26 Mid Glamorgan approved the new Steetley Extension Application: a package which will protect the rims, the SSSI woodlands, the caves and most of the Iron Ore Workings - as well as takings heavy traffic from Heol Goch. It was a significant improvement on their previous plan but those who already suffer the effects of vibration are unlikely to be totally satisfied since Steetley will have another 30 years of quarrying on the Lesser Garth.

The Glamorgan Gwent Archeological Trust have undertaken an initial survey of the iron ore workings and declared them to be of national significance. Dating from 1565, the workings form a significant part of a well documented industrial history of this area and are probably the largest such complex in Europe. In a second phase of the archeological investigation, John Breakspear, of Taffs Well, and his team of cave divers will survey the vast, underground lake as part of a commission by Steetley.

David Walker, Estates Manager for Steetley, has spoken of the Company's plan to make the iron pits accessible to the public. It is sad, therefore, that the largest shaft - the earliest part of the workings, will be transected by quarrying. Brian Davies, curator of the Pontypridd Cultural and Heritage Centre, has commented that it is 'contradictory to identify a site as of national importance and then accept the destruction of that part of the workings that makes it so'.

It is to be hoped that common sense will prevail and the Company will move the northern line of extraction a few yards so that the sixteenth century shaft can be saved for posterity.

Norma Procter February 1991



The survey team at work.

PAYING FOR WATER

The Community Council's views were sought on the system of charging for water and sewage when the current arrangements, based on rateable values, becomes illegal on the 1st April 2000.

After considerable discussion, Councillors remained divided on which system would be most equitable and fair and it was agreed that the various options should be published in the Link for readers to make their own minds up.

There are three main approaches under consideration:

(1) Flat-rate Charge or Licence Fee

The company charges each household the same amount irrespective of its size. A simple and cheap method, but there is no incentive to save water and charges will not reflect different sizes of households.

(2) Metering

The company installs or approves a water meter somewhere on the service pipe between your internal stop-cock and their main in the highway. It sends a periodic bill based on the amount of water used. Generally it is assumed that this is also a good guide to how much sewage is produced, although sometimes the basis of the sewerage charge is different. There

would be an incentive to save water but installation costs (up to £200) are high and meters inside the house would need to be read.

(3) Banding (or "Stepped Charges")

Your home is placed in a band with others of the same kind, i.e. detached, semi, terraced, or flat. The company then charges the same amount each year to all homes in that band. This assessment is cheap if done from the outside but should it allow for the size of garden, or be based on the number of kitchen/ utility/bath/shower rooms, or water appliances?

The way forward will probably include a combination of different charging methods with the balance changing over time, giving customers an element of choice and allowing companies to adopt the most appropriate method for their specific circumstances

HOW CAN YOU MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN?

If you have views on this subject please write to.....

The Director General
Office of Water Services
Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street
Birmingham B5 4UA

VANDALISM

There has never been a time when youngsters have not taken pot-shots at lights, rapped on doors and run away and so on... but behaviour in the past has fallen short of the deliberate vandalism and public nuisance that occurs in our villages at the moment. Small children are disturbed at night by riotous behaviour in the road outside their homes and benches, notice boards, telephone boxes and play equipment are constantly damaged and defaced, in some cases by obscenity.

It should be realised that this involves considerable expense for all of us as the repeated replacement of many of these items comes from the Community Council precept. Another aspect is the danger involved to children in playing on damaged pieces of equipment and the possibility of tragedy as a result of someone not being able to use the telephone.

We know we are talking about a minority, perhaps mainly from outside our villages, and we appreciate that it is very difficult for villagers to report people, or children of people they know but, for the good of everyone, they need to overcome these doubts. This could then be the start of the end of vandalism.

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