

CWLWM BRO

MAY/MAI 1992

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COMMUNITY LINK

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A postcard view of Pentyrch

Golygyddol/Editorial

Spring is in the air and with it has seen the fulfilment of one of the Community Council's many schemes to improve the environment of our villages. Hopefully you will have noticed the many hundreds of daffodils planted by the Community Council at the Ynys roundabout and at the entrance to the three villages. Spring also saw the coming of the General Election. Now that it is behind us, we face the prospect of a reorganisation of local government and the possible redefinition of our boundaries. But wherever the boundaries are drawn, the daffodils will continue to bloom.

O'r diwedd mae'r gwanwyn wedi cyrraedd ac yn ei sgil fe wireddwyd un o gynlluniau y Cyngor Cymuned i wella amgylchfyd ein pentrefi. Gobeithiwn eich bod wedi sylwi ar y cannoedd o gennin Pedr a blannwyd gan y Cyngor ar gylchfan yr Ynys ac ar gyrion y tri pentref. Gwelwyd hefyd ddyfodiad yr Etholiad Cyffredinol a 'nawr' 'rydym yn wynebu adrefniant llywodraeth leol ac o bosib newid ffiniau. Ond beth bynnag fydd canlyniad yr adrefniant hwn bydd y cennin Pedr yma o hyd.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURE

On the 3rd March 1992 the Secretary of State for Wales, David Hunt, announced proposals for fundamental changes to Welsh local government. In plans, described as bold, challenging and realistic, Mr Hunt proposed to replace the present 8 county councils and 37 district councils by 23 unitary authorities, responsible for nearly all local government services.

Mr Hunt's plans are designed to:

- * *bring back local government to local communities;*
- * *establish new all-purpose councils for the major centres of population;*
- * *remove one tier bureaucracy in local government producing greater administrative efficiency;*
- * *ensure better co-ordination in the provision of local services;*
- * *by simplifying the system, enhance public understanding of local government, and local government's accountability to the public.*

In South Wales, it is proposed to replace the 4 county councils and 17 district councils in West, Mid and South Glamorgan and Gwent, with 9 or 10 authorities.

Mid and South Glamorgan, new authorities are proposed for Rhondda, Cynon Valley and Cardiff; further views will be invited on how far these new authorities should extend into Taff Ely which will disappear completely after just 20 years of existence.

It is likely that Pentyrch Community Council area will be swallowed up by a new Cardiff City Council and, as with Lisvane, Tongwynlais and Radyr, we will lose our unusual 'Valley' identity and become just another suburb.

Do we really want this? Please let your Community Councillors know your views on this important subject, or write to the Editor of the *Link*. The Community Council should reflect local opinion and will be asked to comment on proposals in due course.

Local Government: The Way Ahead - 23 Unitary Authorities



PENTYRCH ART GROUP

Pentyrch Art Group continues to flourish. We now have 17 members, and have had a very enjoyable Autumn Term. We look forward to an equally enjoyable Spring and Summer Term.

During the last term and a half we had some very interesting demonstrations from local artists. These included Vernon Hill, Roy Carter, Rob Parslow, Arnold Lowry, Sue McDonagh, Betsy Llewelyn, and Jill Stacey. We are also very fortunate in having an oil painting demonstration by Len Beard, Roy Carter (of the South Wales Art Society) has made a second visit to us, and Sue McDonagh is returning in April to demonstrate in pastels. All the demonstrations were well attended and thoroughly enjoyable.

Meetings are held at Pentyrch Primary School, on Monday evenings, between 7.30 and 9.30pm. The membership fee is £10 per term.

We always welcome any new members, why not come along and join us?

For further information contact: Anne Peebles (890279) or Glenys Mullins (891241)

Gwaelod-y-Garth Village Hall

Early in 1967 it was decided by The Village Hall Committee that the MAYCRETE HUT built as a rest centre in the war years would have to go. It has been the social heart of the village and many different events were held there - whist drives, drama and dances - but the concrete floor was now past its best, the overhead gas heating was antiquated and it was suspected that there were rats under the stage.

Fund raising for the building of a new hall started immediately. A weekly house collection was organised, with a band of enthusiasts who were all allocated streets in the village, and people gave generously. Draws were held on the Grand National and Derby and car parties visited surrounding villages selling tickets, after which they adjourned for a sociable drink in the pub. Ideas abounded of which one of the most successful was the rule of pennies (or any other coins) which started at Salem Chapel and wound its way down the Garth Hill. Dances in the hall were many and varied and very well attended and the first carnival was an outstanding success with most of the village in fancy dress either on the decorated floats or walking with collection tins. Great support was given to the committee by Côr

Meibion Pontypridd who gave several concerts free of charge in Bethlehem Chapel to boost funds. We even managed to sell the old Maycrete hut, which was dismantled by the buyer who, unfortunately, as we heard later was never able to put it together again!!

At last the time came for positive action. In 1971 permission was given by the Welsh Education Officer for a new hall to be built on the site of the old hut. Many builders were contacted and many types of hall examined but it was finally decided that a pre-fabricated building was the best that could be afforded. An agreement was signed in March 1971 and

building started immediately. The hall was completed in November 1971 and a triumphant opening night was held on 10th December 1971, with Mrs Nest Jeremy performing the opening ceremony, many distinguished guests present and Côr Meibion Pontypridd providing entertainment. The village owes thanks to the Welsh Education Office, the old Cardiff Rural District Council and the Joseph Frazier Trust, which gave grants towards the building, but greatest praise of all must go to the efforts of villagers who supported the Committee every step of the way.



APPLIED.

PENTYRCH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Ten really useful functions for neighbourhood watch schemes.

To keep an eye out for water company officials during a hosepipe ban.

To find out who keeps pinching our parking spaces.

To warn you when door-to-door salesmen are in the area.

To find out who slurs 'My Way' at 11.30 every Friday night.

To push free newspapers through your letterbox when you're on holiday.

To log sightings of road sweepers.

To find out who throws the empty chip packets in your front garden.

To stop and search young men with short hair carrying Bibles.

To make a note of who takes stuff from builders' skips.

To pick off carol singers.

A neighbourhood watch is tailor made to meet the needs of individuals, families and the community it serves. In Pentyrch, one of the older watch's in the Pontypridd Division, it would seem to be working, as the crime rate is low compared to other areas in the division and this is very pleasing.

House break-ins have fallen considerably, hopefully being the result of better security and vigilance. Garage break-ins and thefts of bikes, particularly the expensive ones, fluctuate between the 'flavour of the month', and the degree of care taken. Thefts of, and from cars, including damage caused continues to be of concern, as it does not follow any specific pattern, although the usual time is between 1-5 am.. If you see anything suspicious ring 999. Do not assume that everything is alright. Other Police numbers are Pontypridd 404351 and 485351. CRIME DESK - 480446.

We still need wardens in some areas. Is your area represented? The benefits of representation for an area, are great compared to the time and effort involved.

After a lot of persuasion Pontypridd Police Division have set up a co-ordinators group which, hopefully, will generate more interest and information. The first meeting was held in February, when it was interesting to hear the views and concerns of people from other areas.

In addition, Pentyrch Community Council is represented on the Pontypridd Division Police Consultative Committee. At the first meeting of this committee held recently, representatives were asked to obtain the views of the organisations they represent on the 'Expectations of the Police'.

It is therefore important that individuals and families tell either their Neighbourhood Watch street warden or local councillor what they expect from the police. The Neighbourhood Watch wardens and Pentyrch Community Council will then be able to give me a clear picture of what people in the Pentyrch Community Council area expect from the police.

SPECIAL CONSTABULARY. If you would like to help your community, there is a recruitment campaign in operation at present for the 'Special Constabulary'. If you are interested please contact the police at Pontypridd. Street Wardens also welcome for Pentyrch and Creigiau Neighbourhood Watch' please contact Mike Jones (Pentyrch 891563) or Les Davies (Creigiau 892127).

Mike Jones, Co-ordinator, Pentyrch Neighbourhood Watch

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH RECIPE

Take 1 Co-ordinator
Add several Contacts
Mix in numerous Residents
Bind with local Police
Sprinkle generously with Vigilance
Fold in Regular Newsletters
Pour in an ample measure of Community Spirit
Sieve out any criminals
Combine all remaining Ingredients with a well-read copy off GOOD NEIGHBOUR magazine and you have produced a successful Neighbourhood Watch Scheme!!

Dog Fouling and the Law

There have been several complaints to the Community Council about the problems that dog-fouling is causing in our children's play areas, on the playing field at Gwaelod y Garth and, more generally, in our streets and lanes.

There has been much publicity lately about the danger posed to children's health by infection with the common dog worm, which can be found in the excrement of dogs. Specific cases of loss of sight have been quoted. Although the level of risk is not high, even one child affected in this way would be a major tragedy.

On a more mundane level, there is an aesthetic problem: dog fouling on the pavement is unpleasant to look at - and even less pleasant to deal with if one inadvertently steps into it.

The Mid Glamorgan county Bye-law in operation within the County states:

"No person being in charge of a dog shall allow the dog to foul the footway of any street or public place by depositing its excrement thereon.

Any person offending against this bye-law can be fined.

The Community Council have ordered notices for the area to remind people of this bye-law. Initially, they will be sited at the Frog Pond in Creigiau and in Georgetown - a place where many people walk their dogs.

Dogs are good and reliable friends to many of us. The Community Council hopes that this reminder about the bye-law will encourage all of us to be more considerate to the needs of humans when attending to the needs of our dogs.



"I reckon we'd need a JCB for you Fido!"

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

The Environmental Protection Act, which came into force on the 1st April 1992, contains a number of sections on the control of dogs, including the requirement to seize and detain all dogs believed to be strays found within the area of the Authority.

The relevant sub sections 1 and 2 of Section 149 read as follows:-

(1) Every Local Authority shall appoint an Officer (under what ever title the Authority may determine) for the purpose of discharging functions imposed or confirmed by this Section, for dealing with stray dogs found in the area of the Authority.

(2) The Officer may delegate the discharge of his functions to another person, but he shall remain responsible for securing that the functions are properly discharged.

Taff Ely Borough Council has appointed a Dog Warden and, if you need to report a stray dog, you can contact him on (0443) 224017.

Postcard Collection

Readers will recall that we printed a postcard view of Efail-y-Castell, Creigiau, in the last issue of the Link. Owen Davies has supplied us with the above interior view of the house, then in use as the local Post Office, and pointed out that demolition occurred in about 1950, not 1930 as stated in our caption, after it had been allowed to deteriorate by the landlord, Wingfield, who apparently allowed the same fate to befall many similar cottages in Gloucestershire during this period.



DUTY OF CARE

From 1 April 1992, NEW LAW on waste, means all reasonable steps to look after waste you have and prevent its illegal disposal by others. If you break this law, you could be fined an unlimited amount.

Do you produce, import, store, treat, process, transport, recycle or dispose of 'controlled waste'? If you do, the duty of care applies to what you do.

The law requires you to do certain paperwork and to take all reasonable steps to meet the duty. What is reasonable depends on who you are and on the circumstances.

The Government has issued practical guidance on the duty of care and what is reasonable in different circumstances. This is in a Code of Practice (see Further Advice).

What about ordinary household rubbish?

You are not under a duty of care for the ordinary household waste produced from your home by anyone who lives there.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

December 16th 1991 Meeting of the Community Council

Planning Applications Received

56/91/0835 Creigiau Golf Club

New club house facility including changing and social areas

Council objected - proposed site in an elevated position in open country side, would result in destruction of trees protected by T.P.O. and was outside village envelope.

56/91/0859 J.G. Stephens, Woodfield, Capel Llanillterne

Dwelling (outline) land adjoining Woodfield House

Council objected - intrusion into open countryside

56/91/0865 Churchills Future Investments, Penylan House, Capel Llanillterne

10 executive houses (outline) land adjacent to Penylan House

Council objected - intrusion into open countryside and would be in contravention of local plan with regard to density of dwellings

January 20th 1992 Meeting of the Community Council

Planning Applications Received

56/91/0881 Creigiau Golf Club

New club house including changing and social areas

No objection subject to adequate parking provision being made

56/91/0899 D.J. Rowley, The Gables, Brynteg, Llantrisant

Residential development (outline) land to south & west of Station Houses, Creigiau

Council objected - outside of village envelope, contrary to both County Structure Plan and Borough Council Local Plan

56/91/0927 Adas Government Buildings, Cardiff

Advertisement sign at Steetley Quarry, Taff's Well

Council objected - sign would detract from successful reclamation scheme

Notification of Permission to Develop

56/91/0613 Dr C.T. Benedict, 37 Heol y Pentre, Pentyrch

Dwelling at 37 Heol y Pentre, Pentyrch

56/91/0732 D.R. Howell, The Villa, Bronllwyn, Pentyrch

Change of use to Bakery and shop, The Villa, Pentyrch

Notification of refusal to Development

56/91/0750 B.C. Thomas, Greenlands House, Argoed, Blackwood

Dwelling adjacent to Caesar's Arms, Creigiau

30th January 1992 Meeting of the Community Council

Planning Applications Received

56/92/0025 Taff Ely Borough Council

Residential development - land to the rear of Heol Berry, Gwaelod y Garth

Council objected - inadequate access

56/92/0018 Mr D. John, Greenhurst Stables, Heol y Pentre, Pentyrch

Three dwellings (outline) land adjoining Caerau Lane, Pentyrch

Council objected - proposed development is outside village envelope

17th February 1992 Meeting of the Community Council

Planning Applications Received

92/0067/10 Whitbred Pub Partnership, Ispwch Road, Cardiff

Trade kitchen extension, Lewis Arms, Pentyrch

Notification of refusal to develop

56/91/0835 Creigiau Golf Club

New club house

16th March 1992 Meeting of the Community Council

92/0125/13 Mrs P.M. Clarke, Soar Cottages, Pentyrch

Detached dwelling (outline) land adjacent to Soar Cottages

Council objected - outside of village envelope

Notification of Permission to Develop

56/91/0859 Dwellings adjacent to Woodfield House, Capel Llanillterne

56/91/0881 Creigiau Golf Club - new club house

56/91/0915 De Courcy's Pentyrch restaurant with conference facilities

56/91/0927 Advertisement - Taff's Well Quarry (granted for 2 years)

92/0067/10 Lewis Arms Pentyrch - trade kitchen extension

Notification of Refusal to Develop

56/91/0923 Residential Development - land to south and west of Station Houses, Creigiau

92/0018/13 Three dwellings - land adjoining Caerau Lane, Pentyrch

THE FIRST BUILDERS OF CREIGIAU

There are not many people now living in Creigiau who can remember the builders' yard which was located on the site of what is now called Woodland Crescent. The business was started there by my grandfather, David Owen, who came from Carmarthenshire to Grosfaen in 1884 and had a workshop alongside the cottage opposite the Dynevor where he worked as a wheel-wright and carpenter. When the railway opened in Creigiau he acquired the lease of land and started the building of Creigiau Terrace. He also had agreement with the land-owner for building two more terraces, one opposite the existing and the other fronting the main road. He set up a carpenters shop and various other large sheds alongside the stream. The largest shed adjoining the first housed the wood-working machinery and an oil engine. This engine also drove the mortar pan in an open lean-to shed. The furnace ashes for making mortar were hauled from Tyncoed colliery which was then in production. All the haulage was by horse and cart and four or five horses were stabled on the site. Most of the stone for house building came from Hendrescythan quarry where my grandfather employed quarrymen.

During these early years I was told the sale of the houses in the Terrace was very poor so only the first ten at the top end were constructed but several other private houses were built, including the general stores, adjoining house and bakery. He also built his own house as one of the pair named Brynteg and Bwlchgwyn. Then about 1908 he met my father (Thomas Davies) who had come to Pentyrch as general foreman with the contractors who built Craig-y-Parc mansion and he arranged supply of mortar from Creigiau to site. Thus he met my mother and when they married in 1910 he joined my grandfather in the business. A large board on the gable-end of the workshop announced "Owen &

Davies", Builders, Contractors, Funeral Undertakers, Coal Merchants, Haulage Contractors etc..

About this time they secured the contract to build the Church Hall and



'Owen & Davies Builders Yard - 1925.
The tall man in the middle is Owen Davies' father

completed building another ten houses in the Terrace houses on Llantwit Road, Cardiff Road and some on Pantygorad Road. The war of 1914 must have seriously curtailed the work and during its course my grandfather became very ill and he died in 1919. Soon after that my father secured the order to build Tregarth house and this was building on a grand scale which no doubt enabled my father to buy his first motor lorry and to engage Mr Martin Cross as lorry driver, a job he kept till his retirement in 1952. The amount of work now increased considerably and in 1926 my father built the council houses at Bronllwyn, Pentyrch, the electric sub-station on Pantygorad Road and Penybryn opposite the Golf Club.

In 1930 there arose deep depression in the country and the land-owner, Col. M. Wingfield of Gloucester, engaged my father to construct a new road from Creigiau to Pentyrch. This provided employment for many of the unemployed, including quarry

workers who had been laid off. The waste from the excavation was hauled to the low lying field behind the church hall, beside which the foot-path always called the Ash Path which led to Tynant Road. With the

easing of the economic depression, work on the road stopped and work resumed as normal in Creigiau quarry. During this time my father was able to purchase two new lorries to replace the old ones.

On leaving school in 1935 I started work with my father as an apprentice carpenter, as did many other local boys in various trades and some of these stayed with the firm for many years. The Second World War brought further changes, with many being called up for service in the forces or directed to other work. My father kept things going in a small way throughout the war but afterwards conditions became very difficult for the small builder with severe restrictions on the supply of materials and labour. Consequently the business ran into financial difficulty and was finally wound up in 1952.

OWEN DAVIES

Beechwood Magic

Now that the Steetley Doloma furore has become a matter of history, it is time to stand back from the politics and take a closer look at what we were fighting for.

The Taff Gorge, incised through the South Border Ridge of the Coalfield, is one of the river's scenic highlights. Quarrying has enhanced the Castell Coch side, exposing rich red faces of magnesian limestone, mellowed by lacy curtains of birch and beech. The scarred slope of loose soil opposite, marred by its bedraggled topknot of beleaguered trees, is less pleasing, but all is not lost. A plot of new trees was planted in March 1992. Those of us who live long enough may see woodland here once more, but few have any expectation of experiencing the full woodland understorey communities that lag so far behind the trees in the regenerative process.

Over past decades geologists have come here for the dolomite formations, archaeologists for the cave artefacts, industrial historians for the ancient iron mines, botanists for the rare orchids, ornithologists for the woodpeckers and warblers, ecologists for the beechwood formation (thought until recently to be the most westerly native stand in Britain) and sightseers for the spectacular white sheets of wild garlic, spreading up the hillside among drifts of hart's-tongue ferns and bluebells as the anemone flowers fade. The flowers will be at prime when this issue of "Community Link" appears, so I make bold to tell of some of their animal associates encountered on a walk here in early May last year.

Speckled wood butterflies pirouetted through the dappled sunlight of glowing, back-lighted beech leaves. These were the first of the summer arrivals, the speckling a buttercup-yellow instead of the paler primrose seen in later broods. When not engaged in territorial disputes or mating chases, these sunned themselves on the splaying fronds of soft shield fern clothing the rocky sides of ancient mine shafts.

Here, too, were vestal cuckoo bees (*Psithyrus vestalis*), dressed to resemble the buff-tailed bumble bees (*Bombus terrestris*) which they parasitise. They callously kill the rightful queen after she has produced enough workers to bring up their own 'cuckoo' offspring in the luxury to which they are accustomed.



The more lively, clear-winged *Bombus* queens had been out of hibernation since March, setting up home in mossy banks. The more sluggish, darker-winged 'cuckoos' were only now emerging from their winter sleep and searching diligently among the grass, ivy and anemone of path verges for a likely nest in which to lay their eggs. Compared with the urgent flight of the bumble bees, which knew exactly where they were going, (as immortalised in music), the 'cuckoos' seemed lost, indulging in vague searching and probings, but they must have won out in the end.

Threaded through the ferny swards of white and blue blossoms were woodland rides of apricot-red rendzina soil littered with apricot-red stones and apricot-red fragments of snail shells, all apparently painted with the same ferruginous pigments. The shells were only visible where the sun filtered through the lime-green canopy, to be reflected back from their shiny interiors like glistening dewdrops. They occurred in profusion along selected lengths of track, the size of a song thrush's territory, and then there were none. With magnesian limestone everywhere, any fragment served as an anvil for the thrush to break open the juicy prizes.

Shells were of brown-lipped hedge snails (*Capaea nemoralis*). Envolved to match their environment, in a bid to escape thrush predation, they resembled few others in the county. Yellows and browns are the commonest colours, whether in my garden less than a mile away on Coalfield soil, on similar aged but grey limestones or on calcareous sand dunes. Pale pinks predominate among purple-grey lichens, but these richly hued ones are quite special. I saw no plain yellow in the beechwood and the few brown and yellow striped ones stood out like sore thumbs from the ruddy background.

Among the remains were a few light brown, dimly striped shells of copse snails (*Arianta arbustorum*), blending well where shaded by ivy and sanicle leaves, but not as totally 'invisible' as the others, be those penny plain or humbug striped. I gathered a pocketful from one thrush's territory and made an unscientific assessment of what was there.

Copse snails comprised 8% of the sample. Of the hedge snails 48% were a light translucent red striped with brown, 43% were plain red and 9% were yellow with broad brown stripes. Of the half that were stripy red, three quarters bore narrow pale stripes and a quarter a few broad dark stripes.

What had I shown? That the bulk of the snail population wore the most cryptic colours so that they would not be spotted, or that the bulk of the snails wore the most cryptic colours which failed to save them? Or simply that there were more reddish snails in the population as these had a higher chance of survival, but there were more among the casualties because they were more freely available? You have the answer. I should go again at dawn or dusk or in the rain and count the number of snails on the hoof (or stomach) to compare the quick and the dead. I haven't got around to it yet.

Emerging from the wood onto the brink of the great

quarry, I was in a different world. The early coltsfoot flowers of the spoil heaps had given way to those of wild strawberry, while golden sprays of broom heralded in the Buddleja that would sustain the summer butterflies. The abundant yellow-green of wood spurge was the major link between this sunlit world of rosebay willow-herb and perforated St. John's wort and the shady groves of sweet woodruff and wood speedwell that I had left behind. The bee parasite here was the greater bee fly (*Bombylus major*), hovering over the mats of ground-ivy and pushing the non-retractable proboscis into the blue trumpet flowers for nectar, humming-bird fashion. These appear in April, favouring blue flowers such as forget-me-not, violet, periwinkle and Aubretia. The larvae of this



'woodland edge' species grow up in the nests of solitary bees.

Scuttling along the ground and taking short erratic flights were bright green, yellow-speckled tiger beetles (*Cicindela campestris*). These spritely adults were making the most of their few short weeks above ground after a boring two years clamped to the wall of a vertical burrow, waiting to grab some food item foolish enough to walk across the entrance.

Money spiders had spun dense webs under earth brinks - a haphazard interlacing of resilient threads with no radial symmetry. These became covered with red dust from quarry blasting and soil collapse, plus the remnants of many insects that had fallen fowls of the trip wires above. I dropped an ant onto a web and the owner came racing out along the underside, tummy up, to grab it. I needn't have bothered. Another fell off the brink. The spider had both.

A red molehill heaved as I watched, affording a brief glimpse of a twitching snout. Apical holes in others showed where moles had emerged, probably after dark, but not too wisely, if the nightly hooting of tawny owls was anything to go by. Dusty rabbits scooted across the track, from dining quarters on open wasteland to sleeping quarters in hazel scrub. I wondered how their incisors stood up to the challenge of the red grit that coated everything edible.

My prime mammal encounter was with a fox, broad-headed and bushy-tailed, with much black on shoulders and flanks and no white tip to the dark brush. While I walked within the wood he lay low. When I emerged onto the quarry road where humans are expected, he trotted jauntily out behind me, following with a noisy rustling of dry leaves just within the wood. He remained quite unworried. Sniffing with interest in places where my tracks, several hours old, crossed his. I began to wonder if he shared a quarryman's ham sandwiches at lunchtimes - and how he dealt with the Garth Hunt.

Mary E Gillham

COMMUNITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

PLAYGROUNDS

The playground at Memorial Park is now finished. Within the last month the contractor returned to complete various areas of work which the Community Council were not happy with. The park is now fully operational and the Council thinks it was certainly worth the wait.

Unfortunately the scheme to upgrade Creigiau Park has not yet started. Taff Ely, who it is hoped will jointly fund the works, have yet to finally agree to their contribution although positive reports have been received.

In the Christmas issue of Community Link it was reported that the Community Council would be returning the lease on Garth Newydd Recreation Field to the Borough Council. Since then Taff Ely have refused to agree to the establishment of a local management committee and therefore the Community Council has retained the lease. 1992/93 will, all being well, see the upgrading of the Garth Newydd play area, again hopefully with financial support from the Borough Council. This will provide a much needed play facility serving the new development of Riverglade and Llys Tripp as well as Heol Berry. The nearest alternative park is presently, Taff's Well.

BUS SHELTERS AND BULBS

The new bus shelter at Capel Llanillterne has now been sited. Unfortunately however, the shelter further along the Llantrisant Road, at its junction with Tynnant Road, has been badly vandalised. The cost of repair is estimated at £350 and cannot be undertaken until at least the end of June. The result of



hard work by local schools, Pentyrch Improvement Group, and Gwaelod y Garth Conservation Society sprang up everywhere - yes daffodil bulbs, many of which were provided by the Community Council, are still flowering throughout our area.

FOOTPATHS

Following the Community Council's success in the 1991 Prince of Wales Awards, a new circular footpath route is being prepared covering Pentyrch and Creigiau. The work includes new stiles and steps and an explanatory leaflet to guide you around. Much of the work has been undertaken on a voluntary basis by Mr David Jenkins of Gwaelod y Garth and Mr John Varley of Llanishen to whom the Community Council are very grateful.

On the topic of the great outdoors, residents of Gwaelod y Garth may have been recently noticed some activity in the woodland to

the rear of Garth Villas, which is owned by this Council. Under the guidance of an officer from Coed Cymru, the Council has commenced some woodland management. No major works are intended, simply the removal of some of the dead trees which could be dangerous and the clearance of undergrowth to allow more light to the ground which will encourage a greater variety of plant life. Footpaths will also be improved with steps where necessary. In the Autumn, it is intended that some tree planting will be undertaken hopefully with the participation of the local primary school.

LISTING

Cadw have now notified the Council that regrettably they are not prepared to include the Victorian post box outside of Gwaelod y Garth Post Office, in the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural & Historic Interest.

PRECEPT 1992/93

Taff Ely Borough Council have now sent out details of the Community Charge in this area for 1992/93, which includes the precept which will be received by your Community Council. This precept provides money for the Council's annual budget. When your Community Councillors met in January they discussed at length the financial needs of the Council for the forthcoming year and eventually agreed to set the rate per chargepayer at 8.50. This is the same figure as was raised in 1991/92 and therefore presents no increase by this Council, to you, the chargepayer.

PENTYRCH HARDWARE

2 High Corner Pentyrch

Horse food and accessories, pet foods, household goods, hardware, tools, D.I.Y., motor accessories, electrical goods, gardening products, seeds, paraffin etc.

Various power tools for hire including industrial carpet cleaner and wallpaper stripper. Competitive daily and weekly rates.

Opening hours:-

Mon 9.00am - 1.00pm

Tues-Fri 9.00am - 1.00pm 2.15pm - 5.30pm

Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm 2.15pm - 5.00pm

Tel: Sian on 0222 890228

FOR SALE

Canon PC22 Photocopier with
recently purchased Cartridge
(A4 only)

Brother HR20
Daisywheel Printer

*The Council is selling the above equipment.
Tenders are invited and should be returned to
the Clerk of the Council by the 31st May
1992.*

OUR SCHOOL GARDEN

In January, Mr Williams our headmaster suggested that we should have a school garden. We used to have a school garden a few years ago when I was in the infants.

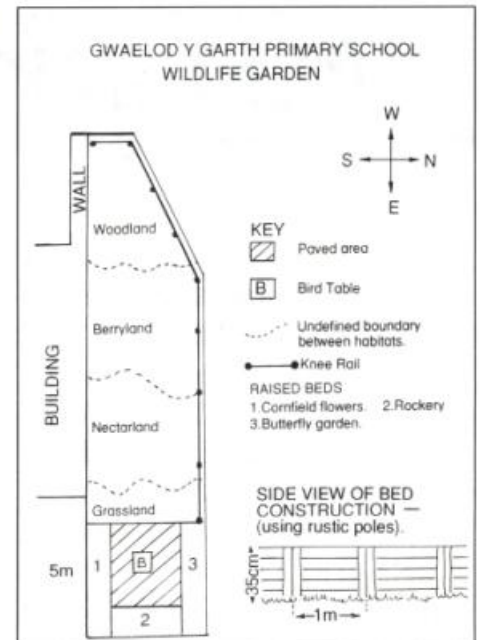
At the beginning of February we invited the Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service to school to advise and help us. When they came to school we discussed ideas and drew plans of what we hoped to have in the garden.

The next time they came we started digging and planting the trees and plants. We have worked on the woodland and berryland sections but we have a lot more to do. If you look at our plans you will see how we have designed the garden and how there are different areas for different plants.

Hopefully the garden will attract wildlife such as birds and butterflies in the summer so that we will be able to do a lot of science and nature projects in the school grounds.

Mr Richards our teacher has made a video of us working on the garden and our headmaster has made a booklet about the whole project.

Emma Smith Class 5c



Dear Sirs

I read your comment in Decembers Community Link encouraging people to visit the Little Garth beechwoods. I assume you have not been there yourself recently or you would not be suggesting this.

We had not been there for ages but one bright Sunday before Christmas we decided to walk there with our 2 small children. As we crossed the quarry road and headed into the woods we could hear the roar of motorbikes and we could see tyre marks on the path. It wasn't long before a motorbike of road scrambling type was flying straight down the path towards us. We took cover in the woods but continued a bit further till we came to a clearing. Here the bikes were coming up and skidding round before hurtling off down another path. The paths were all badly churned up and the bikers paid little attention to us, revving their engines and making a terrible noise.

So we hastily retreated back the way we came. At the time I was wondering who I could report this to as I wasn't sure who would be able to stop it, but your article prompted me to write to you in the hope that you can pass this information on to someone who can deal with it. Until this matter is sorted out we will certainly not be venturing that way for a picnic.

Yours Sincerely,
Lindsey P Axe.

It is an offence to ride bikes, whether scramblers or the mountain all-terrain variety, on registered footpaths. The complaint was therefore repeated to the police who will to their best to prevent similar nuisance in future. If readers see footpaths being abused in this way again, please contact the police immediately with details to give them a chance of apprehending these anti-social louts. Our footpaths are a precious heritage and the damage being caused by bikes of all types is now a disgrace and totally unacceptable.

TAFF ELY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

I am sure you would like to know what has been going on during the past year, so I hope this note will keep you 'in the picture'.

The last eighteen months has seen the development of our Schools Initiative Programme, which is an annual exchange of school pupils. To enlarge on this; three of our schools within the Borough, Coedylan Comprehensive in Cilfynydd, Bryncelynog Comprehensive in Beddau and Tonyrefail Comprehensive, are directly linked with three schools in Nurtigen with a reciprocal visit from German pupils in the same year. The Taff Ely pupils visit Nurtigen in March/April and the Nurtigen pupils visit during October/November. They normally travel on a Friday, so they have a weekend to settle down with their host families and they go to school Monday-Friday with the following weekend with host families again. School days involve attending lessons of course and has been quite an 'eye opener' for pupils from both sides, seeing how 'the other side' approaches these matters. Social activities are interspersed with educational activities and a number of evening activities are also arranged either for all the schools together or with individual schools 'doing their own thing'. As I am sure you can appreciate, catering for upwards of 60 teenage pupils, their teachers and other interested parties (headteachers, school governors, local councillors, twinning association members), is an enormous task and it isn't always practical to arrange 'all in' functions. Nevertheless, each of the visits so far has been an outstanding success and we hope that it will go from strength to strength.

In the near future there is every possibility that the twinning Association will take over the Borough Council pupil exchange responsibility to incorporate with our own Schools Initiative. This will mean that Members of the Association can become actively involved as there will be times when we will be looking for 'volunteers' to accompany the group to Germany.

The last year has also seen a visit to Nurtigen and the surrounding area by a local choir, the Llanharan Songsters. They were celebrating their 25th anniversary and did it in style with a visit to Germany. The visit was very successful and they were made very welcome by their hosts.

We are, of course, always looking for interested groups who would like to exchange with a similar group in Nurtigen and if you know of, or belong to such a group why not consider such a visit in the near future. Our German counterparts are always looking for expansion in the twinning links. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU ARE KEEN ON THIS IDEA or indeed, if you have any ideas at all that will help to promote twinning.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

The Gwaelod y Garth Conservation Group has decided that, if all goes well, it will enter the village competition for 'Best Kept Village in Mid Glamorgan' in 1993. It fully realises that, in order to achieve this, it needs the co-operation of all groups and all the householders in the village but is confident people will be willing to help. The Headmaster of the primary school has already pledged his support. The first step is the publication of this

article in the Link and perhaps villagers could let the groups know how they feel about this idea by writing letters to the Editor. The next step will be to hold a public meeting in the village at which opinions will be sought and future action discussed. This year will be spent in identifying black spots in the village and deciding what can be done to improve them and a primary target will be the eyesore opposite the Garth Inn. Infor-



A postcard view of Pentyrch in 1904

Pentyrch Ladies

On behalf of Pentyrch Ladies I would like to thank everybody who contributed jumble for our jumble sale held in October 1991 at Pentyrch Village Hall. It again was a great success and we were able to send £75 each to Cystic Fibrosis, MacMillan Nurses, Alzheimers Disease and Birthright.

For those people new to Pentyrch who wonder who Pentyrch Ladies are . . . we're a very informal group of women (formerly called Young Wives) who meet twice a month in St Catwg's Church room Pentyrch. The meetings are always held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday in the month but never when the schools are on holiday. We have speakers come to talk to us on various subjects. In the past we've also had skittles evenings, treasure hunts and theatre trips. We always end each half year with a meal out somewhere.

If anyone is interested in joining why don't you look out for the posters advertising our next meeting and come along. You'll be made to feel welcome.

For more information please contact the new Chairwoman Judith Smith on Pentyrch 891568.

Sheila Paul
Chairwoman 1991

mation has been requested from Mid Glamorgan County Council of application to enter the competition, procedures to be followed and grants that might be available.

Please let us know how you feel about this as we are few and cannot manage without you.

Group Committee Members are Molly Patmore, David Jenkins, Alan Lock, Clare Neale, Chris Neale and Colin Palfrey.

PENTYRCH ANGLING CLUB

(Affiliated to the Welsh Federation of Angling Clubs)

Anglers are invited to join the new club formed in the village. Meetings will take place monthly at the Lewis Arms Pentyrch and it is hoped that interest will be shown by junior anglers who will be particularly welcome.

Further information can be obtained from Brian Cotter at the Lewis Arms. Tel: 891641

MOTHER SHIPTON'S PROPHECY

*Carriages without horses shall go
And fill the world with woe.*

*Around the world thoughts shall fly,
In the twinkling of an eye.*

*Waters shall yet more wonders do,
Now strange, yet shall be true.*

*The world upside down shall be,
And gold found at root of tree.*

*Through hills man shall ride,
And no horse or ass be at his side.*

*Under water man shall walk,
Shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk.*

*In the air men shall be seen
In white, in black, in green.*

*Iron in the water shall float,
As easy as a wooden boat.*

*Gold shall be found 'mid stone,
In a land that's now unknown.*

*And this world to an end shall come,
In eighteen hundred and eighty-one.*

The Harp

Over the centuries, the numerous references made to the harp in both Welsh literature and legend has ensured its universal acceptance as the musical symbol of our nation. Indeed, references to the harpist and his status at the court of the Princes of Wales can be found in the tenth century tract "The Laws of Hywel Dda". To a nobleman of the time, the three necessities of existence consisted of "his harp, his cloak and his chessboard", while further down the social scale a gentleman might still be expected to possess "a virtuous wife, his cushion on his chair and his harp in tune".

Two kinds of harp achieved popularity in Wales - one with a single row of strings, the other with three (the Welsh Triple). The former had no pedals and was much in evidence in the Wales of the Middle Ages. The latter, believed to have originated in Italy, dates from the second half of the seventeenth century. Again, this variation had no pedals, but had three rows of strings. The design allowed for the harmonizing of the two outer rows of strings on a diatonic scale, whilst the middle row of strings would produce the necessary semitones. Despite the high degree of musical artistry required to play such an instrument, coupled with the high cost of maintenance, it achieved a remarkable popularity in Wales. In contrast to European harpists, the Welsh harpists followed the fashion favoured by their Irish counterparts in resting the harp upon the left shoulder. This allowed for the playing of the upper strings by the left hand, whilst the lower strings would be played by the right.

A rapid upswing in the number of harpists using the triple harp occurred in the eighteenth century. Simultaneously a comparably astonishing increase can be noted in the number of craftsmen throughout Wales who established several well known locations for the fashioning of such harps.

Performances upon the harp would take place at Eisteddfodau, public houses and the homes of the gentry, providing accompaniment for dances, the singing of penillion and the occasional solo. By the nineteenth century, many a Welsh harpist had become almost entirely dependent on patronage by the public houses. It seems fairly certain that a particular harpist would frequent and maintain a permanent connection with a given public house. For example, Thomas Dafydd Llywelyn (1828-79) is associated with the Welsh Harp Inn at

Trecynon. It is interesting to note in fact the numerous public houses in this area which are linked with the harp:- the Harp Hotel, Mountain Ash, The Harp Inn at Gelligaer, the Harp Inn at Merthyr Tydfil and of course the Merlin Hotel at Pwllgwaun, Pontypridd, which even today bears a large carving of a harpist on one of the outside walls.

As a direct result of this connection with the public house, the image of the harpist was not always a respectable one, though the situation had changed somewhat towards the end of the last century. According to one anonymous writer in 1889 "as a class, and with very few exceptions, harpists and minstrels were drunken worthless characters. But since those days a great change has taken place. Society has undergone a purification, and now I need scarcely say that harpists and other musicians are at least as moral as any other class of the community".

Coinciding with this period was an upsurge in Welsh cultural societies and a renewed interest in the Eisteddfod - certainly the harp was restored to its deserved high status by these establishments. This heightened activity also saw the development of the pedal



harp which eventually took precedence over the triple harp, even though initially the two types co-existed upon the stages of Wales. During the second half of the last century, the pedal harp became the main instrument of the harpists of Wales. Many famous harpists were born and bred in Wales e.g. John Thomas Pencerdd Gwalia, and more recently Nansi Richards, both responsible amongst others for establishing the unique niche held by the harp in our nation's musical history.

LOCAL HARPISTS

JOHN BRYNANT (1832-1926)

He was born in Efail Isaf and was called Alawydd Glantaf. He was taught by Llewelyn Williams, Pencerdd y De, and was an accomplished performer throughout South Wales.

TOM BRYNANT

He was taught by his uncle, Tom Brynant and he won several prizes

including the 'National' between 1891 and 1896. He played the harp in the ceremony to open the new docks in Cardiff in 1906. Tom Brynant's 'Golden Quartet' became very popular. During the 1930's he was the harpist in the National Orchestra of Wales.

EVAN JAMES (1809-79)

Born in Caerphilly, Evan James spent his early years in Bedwellte and later moved to Mill Street, Pontypridd where he worked at a woollen mill. He made harps and also wrote the words of Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.

JAMES JAMES (1833-1902)

The son of Evan James and the composer of Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau. He later moved to live in Aberdâr.



TALIESIN JAMES

Taliesin James, the son of James James, was an accomplished harpist. He owned an Erard patent Gothic harp (similar to the above harp) which was bought by the late Mrs Griffith John Williams of Gwaelod y Garth. She later donated the harp to Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen where it was used until quite recently by pupils studying the instrument. It was donated by the school to Pontypridd Historical and Cultural Centre in April where it can be viewed by the public.

RICHARD AND ELI THOMAS

Two brothers from Nantgarw who played for the local dancers at the beginning of this century. They were associated with the Cross Keys Inn.

There are of course many excellent and professional harpists living in our area today, including the author of this article Meinir Heulwen of Pontypridd and Gillian Green of Gwaelod y Garth. The future is bright too, with a number of schools teaching the instrument, and many pupils reaching the highest grades.

Meinir Heulwen

JUNIOR LINK

Hello again! I hope you're enjoying the light evenings and warmer weather, and are helping with the gardening.

Here are some animal riddles for you to solve when the sun isn't shining. If you want to play some games, can you guess these creatures' names?

*It tunnels beneath the ground
And flicks long ears at every sound,
With whiskers long and nose a-twitch
You'll spot it hiding in the ditch,
Out it jumps - see its tail,
Bobbing over hill and dale.*

*Long and thin - hides underground,
Moves around without a sound.
Out it wriggles, which end is its head?
It's colour is a brownish red.
It has no arms, no legs, nor feet,
This is one we cannot eat!*

Animal Shadow Show

DUCK



BABY BEAR



TIGER

Perhaps you could try these when the sun is shining!

Joke Corner

Q. What is white, furry, and smells of peppermint?

A. A Polo Bear!

Q. What is an octopuss?

A. An eight-sided cat!

Q. What room has no floor or ceiling, windows or doors?

A. A mushroom!



Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin

Would you like your child to speak Welsh? Yes?
Then join a Welsh Medium playgroup or mother and child group

Cylch Ti a Fi

Where? Festri Capel Bethlehem
Bethlehem Chapel Vestry

When? Bore Mercher 9.30-11.00

Details from: Mrs Ann Williams Taffs Well: 810190

**CROESO CYNNES I BAWB
A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE**

Ydych chi'n gwybod fod Cylch Meithrin yn cael ei gynnal un Y Festri Capel Bethlehem, Gwaelod-y-Garth. Rydyn ni ar agor dydd Llun, Mawrth, Iau a Gwener 9.30 o'r gloch - 12, yn ystod tymor yr ysgol. Rydyn ni'n gymryd plant o ddwy a hanner i'r oed yr ysgol.

Mae'r plant yn cael bore hyfryd, canu, chwarae gyda pwysleisiad ar sgilliau cyn-ddarlennu, sgrifennu a mathemateg. Fe fydd eich plentyn yn barod i'r ysgol ar diwedd ein amser gyda'r ni.

Mae Cylch Ti a Fi (mam a'i phlentyn) hefyd yn Y Festri, bob bore dydd Mercher 9.30 o'r gloch tan 11 o'r gloch. Fe fyddwch chi'n gallu cwrdd a rheini a phlant eraill.

Os oes ddidordeb da chi mewn addysg Cymreag am eich plentyn, ffoniwch fi am fwy fanylion - Ann Williams, ffon 810190, neu ymweld ni'n Y Meithrin.

Did you know there is a well-established Cylch Meithrin (Welsh language nursery) held in the Festri, Capel Bethlehem, Gwaelod-y-Garth?

We are open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am - 12 during term time and can take children from two and a half years up to school age.

The children have a pleasant and varied morning (conducted through the medium of Welsh), singing, playing - with the emphasis on pre-reading, writing and maths skills, learning to get along with other children and adults, so that at the end of your child's stay with us they will be ready for that important big step in their lives - going to school.

A Cylch To a Fi (mother and toddler) is also held in the Festri, every Wednesday morning 9.30am - 11, where you and your child can meet with other parents and children, learn a few words and simple songs in Welsh.

If you are interested in a Welsh language education for your child, then I look forward to hearing from you.

For further details contact: Ann Williams, Tel 810190 or call in and see us in the Meithrin.

Acknowledgements

This magazine is produced and published by Pentyrch Community Council to foster and maintain strong local identity. With the help of Boy Scouts in Creigiau, Girl Guides in Creigiau and a small group of volunteers in Gwaelod y Garth, the Link is distributed free throughout the Community and every effort is made to ensure every household receives its copy.

EDITORIAL BOARD

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