



BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER



www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk

Registered charity number: 1158947

Issue 40 Mar 2017

BRAG AGM

BRAG is currently awaiting completion of an independent audit of its accounts and will then look to set a date for an AGM probably in May. This will be publicised on the Community Centre Notice Board, The BRAG Facebook page and the Village Website. These meetings are open to all residents of Bryn. BRAG is also looking for a new secretary to help with the running of the organisation. If you would be interested in taking on this role please let BRAG know. You would be given any support and training required through BRAG.

Bryn Recreation Park update

The Relocation of the Trim Track from the old Bryn Primary School to Bryn Welfare Park has now been completed along with improvements to the Tennis Court facilities and lighting of the area to enable use of the facilities after school during the winter months. All this additional work has been funded via grants raised by BRAG. BRAG wish to thank Dean Heycock for undertaking the work, the Big Lottery for funding it and the Rugby Club for agreeing to allow BRAG to install the lighting on the Rugby Pavilion. The tennis nets have now been put back up and BRAG is looking to organize some tennis coaching so that Bryn may seed some future champions.

Miner's Memorial Project

BRAG has now secured funding for the erection of a monument in memory of the miners who worked in all the local collieries. This is to be erected by the picnic area on the Bryn Nature Reserve, the site of the old Bryn Navigation Colliery. Dafydd Bowen is leading this project and has already organised much of the work required as well as a presentation held in the Bryn Rugby Club on 9th March titled "A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MINER" by Roy Meredith. Further presentations will be organised as part of this project. We are now awaiting planning approval from NPTCBC.

Doctor's Surgery Break In

The Llynfi Surgery located in Bryn suffered an attempted break in during January which appeared to be in an attempt to obtain drugs. Fortunately the attempt was unsuccessful but did cause expensive damage to the building. Increased security measures have now been introduced but if anyone sees or hears of suspicious activity in the area in the future, please do not hesitate to report this to the police. Clearly the village is very keen to retain the services of this surgery in the village.

Santa Came to Bryn

On the evening of Monday the **19th December** Santa toured Bryn with treats for the children before meeting them individually in his Grotto at the Bryn Community Centre. This was followed with the "Christmas Magical Tales Show" starring Welsh Wizard Mario Morris and his assistant Lady Vee who performed very much with the audience's participation and provided great entertainment. The Christmas Carols, led once more by Anthony Bwye, the mulled wine, mince pies, etc. all combined in to another great Christmas Event for the village. A big thank you to all the many people who helped make this event possible.



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL NEWS AND UPDATES BY CHECKING THE VILLAGE WEB SITE



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NEWSLETTER



Bryn, lle dedwydd I fod.

Bryn Community Gym

A circuit training class started on the 5/12/16 in the Bryn Community Centre each Monday and Thursday evening from 6:45pm. This is part of a project to establish a Bryn Community Gym with professional gym facilities. The classes were initially well attended but attendance has dropped off. Many in the village have expressed their support for a community gym but BRAG will need to be able to prove to any funding body that the project is sustainable in the long run.

Bryn IT Club

The Bryn IT Club has moved to the new time of 10:30am to 12:30pm every Tuesday. There are many advantages in today's world to be gained through access to the Internet, whether that be via a Smart Phone, a Tablet or a Laptop computer. However, as in all walks of life it pays to be savvy in the use of the Internet. Attending the club can be a great aid in building this knowledge. People in Bryn have reported how they have had phone calls from supposedly well known companies such as Microsoft or Barclays asking them to do things on their devices that would give these con artists access to their private information. Always ignore cold callers like these.

Youth Club

The youth club has now resumed each Friday evening in the Bryn Community Centre. After extensive lobbying by BRAG to get this facility back for Bryn, please ensure it is well attended in order to retain this facility in the future.

Surgery with the Councillors

The last surgery took place on 04/03/17 in the village hall and was ran by our MP Stephen Kinnock as a coffee morning and an open surgery. This was well received by the half dozen residents of Bryn who attended. Actions from this are being progressed by these residents and BRAG. See Bryn Web Site for details. The next surgery will be Saturday 6/5/17. Your Councillor's contact details are: David Whitelock,

cllr.d.whitelock@npt.gov.uk, Tel: 07866 763888

The council number is: (01639) 686 868 or you may prefer to email them at contactus@npt.gov.uk.

The Community Police number is: 101 or 07584 771269.

Fancy a game of Pool

Steve Easton is looking to Form a pool team who will be playing out of the Royal Oak on a Wednesday in the Maesteg league. Players will be expected to turn up regularly although 100% attendance will not be required. Any level of skill is accepted as this is about having fun not winning trophies. Please contact Steve Easton on 07794938531

Working Together

At recent BRAG committee meetings, attended by representatives from other groups in Bryn, it was agreed that BRAG would work with these other groups in the village, using its position as a registered charity, to help raise money for their activities. An early success has been in raising £805 towards a trip to the cinema for the Over 55's Club. Other groups in the village could also benefit in this way by working with BRAG. BRAG has recently received money from NPTCBC to help with running costs such as insurance, safety inspections, rent, etc. which we pay to cover things like the tennis court and play facilities, community centre, etc. NPTCBC recognizes the central role BRAG can play in supporting the other groups in the village and helping them access grants they would otherwise struggle to obtain.

Future Village Events

Bryn Rugby Club Easter Annual Charity Weekend to be held Good Friday 14th April 2017 8.30pm. with live music.

Easter Sunday 16th April Bike ride, approx 15 miles, Route to be confirmed, meeting back at the Bryn Rugby Club where local band Reflex will be playing in the afternoon. All ages welcome. Meet at Bryn Club 9.30am if transport is required, £5.00 Entry Fee. Charity Team Quiz in the evening, starting 9pm. Monies raised is for Kidney Research Wales.

Other Regular Village Events

The Over 55's Club meets every Thursday afternoon in the Bryn Village Hall from 1.30 to 4.30 p.m. All are welcome.

Bryn W.I. meet every fourth Tuesday in the Bryn Village Hall at 7pm, new members welcome.

Bryn Home Crafts Group meet every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Bryn Community centre to develop their home craft skills.

Keep an eye on the Village web site and the BRAG notice board outside of the village hall for the latest information on what is happening in and around the village. All the events listed in this newsletter also appear on the village (BRAG) website.

If you would like to have published in this newsletter or website, any information of relevance to the village, then this can be arranged through any of the BRAG committee



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Issue 41 June 2017



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BRAG AGM

The BRAG AGM will be held at Bryn Community Center on Monday 3rd July 2017 at 7pm. This will be publicised on the Community Centre Notice Board, The BRAG Facebook page and the Village Website. These meetings are open to all residents of Bryn. BRAG is always looking for a new members, interested in taking on this role? please let BRAG know. You would be given any support and training required through BRAG. At a presentation by the WCVA to acknowledge voluntary work in the community a BRAG volunteer was acknowledged for outstanding contribution to the work of BRAG



THANK YOU EVERY ONE

Martin Fitzpatrick would like to thank everyone who attended the Charity fund-raising weekend at Bryn Rugby & Social Club, in aid of:-

'KIDNEY RESEARCH WALES'

An excellent Friday night kicked off with the amazing band 'ROCK & SOUL', a brilliant time was had by all who attended.

Easter Sunday's bike ride was from Porthcawl, this year it was in memory of our friend Mark Stephens, we had an amazing 46 riders made the journey (via a few watering holes) back to the Club. It was a very successful day with the band 'REFLEX' playing in the club in the evening another excellent night.

The Annual Quiz took place on Sunday the 30th April again provided by

Glan Phillips, & was another successful event, making the total raised a fantastic **£1000.00**. There are far too many people to mention, so a special thanks to everyone from the village who turned up to support the weekend and so kindly donated some fantastic raffle prizes and who gave up their time and money at each event to make this another successful year.

Bryn Welfare Park

At a meeting in April, users of the Bryn Recreation Park asked BRAG to help coordinate further development of the park following on from the work done with the tennis court area and the trim track.

The first step towards this was the setting up of a working party chaired by BRAG at a meeting on 19/4/17. The working party consisting of representatives from BRAG, Bryn Cricket Club, Bryn Bowls Club, the Rugby Club, and the Community Gym, also Bryn Rockets FC and from BRAG's Youth Representatives.

At the initial meeting a wish list was drawn up involving major changes to the following areas Football, Rugby, Bowls, and Cricket grounds as a starting point for consideration. A lot of work is needed to achieve these goals.

We will keep you informed via News Letters and the web site.

Welsh Water Report

A recent meeting with Welsh Water outlined their plans to make improvements to the water supply in Bryn. This included a standby generator at the pumping station to protect Bryn's supply in the event of longer power outages such as the most recent one, £40k has been approved and going through their capital design stage. For implementation within 12 months. As mentioned in the meeting they have already installed 'Brown-out' switches for the smaller power 'blips'. New meters at the station will be installed that will give Welsh Water more warning on leaks.

They outlined longer term plans to replace the current iron supply pipes with plastic. The current pipes are corroded internally and are the main cause of the discolouration being experienced and restriction to the flow to some parts of the village. Documents circulated explained the detail of these plans, (this is currently earmarked for year 2022).

**STOP PRESS
BREAKING
NEWS**

Bryn WI Vintage Tea Saturday
29/7/17 at 2pm tickets at £5 available
from Gaynor Bowen, WI Secretary.

MINERS MEMORIAL. A restored coal dram has been installed at the picnic area on the Bryn Nature reserve (opposite the Royal Oak). This will be dedicated to the miners of this area at a special service. Date TBA

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What's On This Summer

Summer is with us again, well nearly if recent weather is any thing to go by. Kids will soon be home from school and keeping them entertained can be hard work. You may be lucky to get away for a couple of weeks but what to do afterwards. Brag has been working hard over the last couple of years to make sure that there are up to date facilities available in the village. Bryn recreation park has had a major overhaul, with many new features added.

There are many places around the area to explore, or for budding photographers to record and perhaps to put on our web site, its there for you to show off your skills, what ever they are, just email us the address is :-brynvillagesite@talktalk.net

Just make sure you play and explore safely!

Keep your eye on our special events page. Neath Port Talbot has a wealth of places close at hand to keep every one occupied. Check out the BRAG web site for information on the "What's On Page" see opposite a page from the site. A lot of the facilities and events mentioned on the site, but not all, have free entrance please check before going. By clicking on the photo.

Neath Port Talbot
Every Thing At Your Finger Tips By Clicking On This Directory

Cefn Coed Miners Museum Neath September fair

South Wales Miners Museum Afon Forest Park

Aberavon Beach and Seafront

Meeting with NPT Roads Officer

Q - Discussed the option of treating Coronation Street as part the 2017/18 Works Programme.

A - This will now need to be discussed with the newly elected Bryn and Cwmavon Councillors as well as Councillor Whitelock

Q - Check speed restriction signage on the road between Bryn and Maesteg.

A - Officers have checked the speed restriction signage along this stretch and have confirmed it is correct. It was not appreciated that you could have 60 in one direction and 30 in the other direction on same road We will try to publicize this.

Q - Footpaths leading down to Varteg Row. Overgrown.

A - NPTC. will arrange for the vegetation to be cut back.

Surgery with the Councillors

Following the recent council elections the following were elected to represent The Bryn and Cwmavon wards, we look forward to working with David again and with the newly elected councillors.

The next surgery will be advertised as soon as possible.

The council number is: (01639) 686 868 or you may prefer to email them at contactus@npt.gov.uk.

The Community Police number is: 101 or 07584 771269.

Results by ward: Bryn and Cwmavon



Councillor
Charlotte
Galsworthy



Councillor Rhidian
Mizen



Councillor David
Whitelock

Bryn IT Club

Pictured below some of the members of the Bryn IT Club.

The club has held its final meeting before the summer break on Tuesday the 30/5/2017. It has been an interesting and enjoyable time for the members and those who have been passing on their skills, though more often than not the information flows both ways, which has been the aim of the club to get every one to pass on their experience and to learn by sharing as well as by teaching.



We aim to start up again after the summer holidays so if you want to know more about computing, smart phones or tablets keep your eyes open for information on the web site.

Over Fifty Five Club

Although numbers reduced due to unexpected illness and various appointments, our trip to the Odeon in Bridgend on Thursday 27th April to see Going in Style was successful. The film was a comedy about 3 OAP men whose pensions were stopped by the firm they worked for so they decided to rob a bank. It was a very funny comedy and was enjoyed by us all. Our recommendation is don't miss it. And, as usual we ended the day with a meal in the Ty Risha pub in Bridgend. So many thanks to BRAG for obtaining the grant that enabled us to have free transport for the trip.



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Miners Memorial

Saturday July 22nd saw the dedication of the Memorial to the colliers of the Ffrwdwyllt Valley who worked and were killed or injured whilst working in this valley. The memorial has been placed on the site of the Bryn Navigation Colliery opposite the Royal Oak within the picnic area.

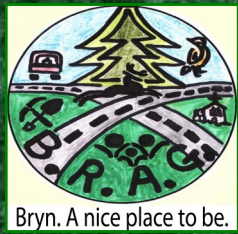


The Mayors of Neath Port Talbot and Maesteg attended an exhibition on the history of mining in the Bryn area put on at the community center before proceeding to the site of the memorial led by ex-miners carrying the Llynfi Valley Joint Lodges miner's banner. At the site there was a short service led by the vicar of Maesteg and Llangynwydd with singing led by the Maesteg Gleeman. After the unveiling of the plaque by Mr. Bryn Jenkins, everyone retired to the Royal Oak for refreshments. BRAG would like to put on record their grateful thanks to every one involved in bringing this project to fruition **THANK YOU!** (Our deepest condolences go out to Bryn's family and the family of the Mayor of Neath Port Talbot on their recent bereavement).

A short film and photos of the event can be seen on the BRAG web site.

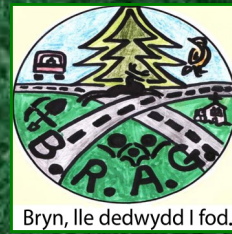


KEEP IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL NEWS AND UPDATES BY CHECKING THE VILLAGE WEB SITE



BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

NEWSLETTER



BRAG AGM

The BRAG AGM was held at Bryn Community Centre on Monday 3rd July 2017 at 7pm. This was the second AGM for BRAG since becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Last year's AGM minutes were circulated to the meeting and matters arising discussed including the excellent input we now get from the new youth representatives. The minutes were passed as read. The treasurer gave an account of the finances which an independent report states were in good order and which are available on the Charity Commission web site for public scrutiny. The meeting went on to elect its new officers for the coming year, the chairman thanked all the BRAG members and others who had voluntarily given up their time to contribute to the many activities that BRAG had been involved with in making "Bryn a nice place to be". Many people have put months of effort in to achieving these outcomes. The meeting then went on to discuss the various reports and to discuss future projects. The full report including finance is available on our web site. <http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk/>
(Note all BRAG meetings are open to everyone)

Bryn Welfare Park

The project to improve the sports field facilities has hit a stumbling block with both the Lottery and the Sports Council of Wales concern about the drainage of the playing field. This is being progressed with the L.A. It's felt much of the problem has occurred since the removal of trees above the playing fields. It was suggested BRAG should ask for a meeting with Councillors and Natural Resources Wales to formulate a plan regarding the drainage problems. However work progresses to produce plans for a grant application for improvements to the Bowls Pavilion. Digressing, its disappointing after so much work done in the park to see rubbish lying around when there are bins provided, of particular concern is broken glass left in the play area which could cause serious injury.

Bryn WI

On July 29th we held a vintage tea in the village when we welcomed about 90 people from surrounding WI's. Everyone enjoyed the sumptuous tea and social occasion. Bryn WI meets the fourth Tuesday of each month anybody interested can contact Gaynor Bowen on 885350 for details. New members are always welcome.

What's On This Autumn

The I.T. club will be restarting in October if there's enough interest, with a view to expanding your computer knowledge if you've already made a start with us or, to start you on the road if you haven't. The very popular Youth Club will also be starting back up on Friday evenings in September.

Bryn Rockets FC

Mr Scott Davies of JSD building maintenance Ltd, has given the club a very generous £300 donation. We rely on the donations and sponsorships from the community to keep the football club alive in the village. Thank you 🚀

Dates for your Diary

Saturday September 2nd at 10am. Walk 'n' Talk, A walk around the Bryn Nature Reserve talking about plants, their habitat and importance, introducing history of the site and management plans. Meet at community centre.

Saturday September 16th at 10am a Volunteer Fun Day, Meet on site [Nature Reserve] and carry out some site management (e.g. brush clearance) for a couple of hours. Followed by a BBQ (or cooking on open fire) and some willow weaving or other activity in the afternoon.

Wednesday Nov 1st Halloween Party and entertainment for the children in Rugby Club.

Thursday 5th Oct Swansea Barrage Presentation at the Rugby Club.

Sunday 5th November Richard Burton Road Race.

Wanted pictures of old Bryn for inclusion in new and future calendars we'll collect copy and return all photos email us at = brynvillagesite@talktalk.net

Surgery with the Councillors

Brag looks forward to working with our new councillors at the next surgery on the first Saturday in October.

The council number is: (01639) 686 868 or you may prefer to email them at contactus@npt.gov.uk.

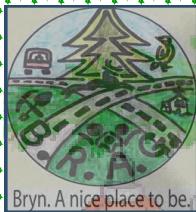
The Community Police number is: 101 or 07584 771269.

Notice

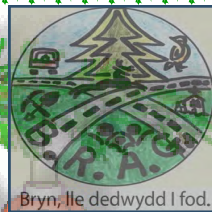
It has come to our attention that someone is deliberately causing distress to cats and their owners in the Varteg Row area if you now anything please inform the police Tel. No. above or the RSPCA. Tel. No. 03001234999.



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CHRISTMAS is coming so is our Annual Pantomime. Showing at the Community Center on the 18th December. Featuring the fab Circo Rum Ba Ba. Make the effort to come along as we can only continue these events if they are supported by you.

Christmas at Bryn Rugby Club

First a craft fayre on 8th of December 7pm. If that isn't enough to get you in the festive mood on Sunday the 17th **Santa** pays a visit to the club for their Children's Christmas Party

Santa will be setting off from the Royal Oak 7pm on Thursday 21st December to tour Bryn and meet the children of the village. Santa will be going back to the Royal Oak for a drink so come along and join him for a festive evening.



WOW! Halloween turned out to be a wonderful night for the kids with entertainment by Daley Bee. A big thank you to all those that made the party a night to remember, the rugby club who's displays were awesome & BRAG for providing the food and entertainment and to every one else who helped make the night.



Bryn Welfare Bowling Club

Congratulations for winning both the First Division of the Port Talbot League and the Second Division of the Neath League. To be champions in both leagues in the same year represents one of the most successful seasons in the club's history. Well done to all Players and a big thank you for all the time they spent working on the Green and the pavilion throughout the year, their donations and the efforts they've made to raise funds. Thanks also to the Social members, friends and families for their support. New members are welcome. Please Visit our Facebook Page or Website.

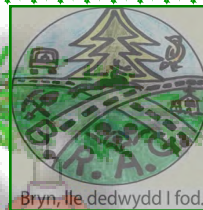
<http://brynwelfarebowlsclub.wales>

Bryn Welfare Bowls Club 2017 Winners Neath, and Port Talbot League





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M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S
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The Richard Burton Races were a resounding success this year with the number of entrants reaching a record two thousand in total between the two races. Though the weather didn't hold, it did not dampen the enthusiasm of those attending. Pictured below are the Mini Miler's to the left and to the right the 10k runners.



Hey you yes you! Are you tying your self in knots? Trying to work out how your new iPhone or computer works, or are you trying to figure out that new programme? What does the cloud mean? how does it store my data? for that matter what is data? How do I buy things on the web without getting scammed. Simple! join our I.T. Club on Tuesday mornings 10.30 am at the community center learn by sharing experiences with other like minded people.



Family Reunited

I was contacted recently about an article on the BRAG web site I had written last year. At the same time a second person made enquiries, without realising it they were part of the same family that had grown apart when family members had moved from the area. After further enquiries we were able to reunite them with a third member of the family who had been in touch. The internet does have its uses.



Richard Burton

Race organizers receiving an award on behalf of the run committee for their charity work. Every penny of money raised by the race goes to sponsoring

local charities in and around Neath-Port Talbot in the region of £20k this year. Award Sponsors Swansea Sound and The Wave radio stations.

BRAG.

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With every thing that's going on this month, don't forget that the usual village activities are still ongoing. Councillor's Surgery at the rugby club first Saturday of month / IT. Club Tuesdays 10.30 am. / Over 50's Thursday club. / Home Craft Wednesday, Youth Club Friday 6pm. For more info see our web site.

