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# NEWSLETTER

**BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP**

[www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk)



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Issue 008 January 2011

## Christmas event

BRAG were very pleased with the turnout for this year's Christmas event held in the community centre. The children of Bryn Primary school sang carols around the village, led by Santa and our very own PCSO Shaun Thomas. The children were then able to meet Santa in his grotto when they arrived at the community centre. The school started the evening which was followed by top performances from the Maesteg Gleemen, Mari Lwyd, Ken Pearson and much more. A very good Christmas evening was had by all who attended.

## Historical find

These items were found by Graham, Paul and Luke while out walking around the village of Bryn and are all artefacts of Bryn's past.



Railway track points.



Hub and rim from a farm cart.



Close up of Hub from a farm cart.

## BEAST OF BRYN

The Beast of Bryn proposed endurance race is planned to take place later this year and will be a major event. Details of this race and the route that it will take are available on our website. Do read the very informative article on the web site and if anybody has any interesting facts to add, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Hope to see you all there.



## Proposed fishing pond

Plans are going ahead with the fishing pond that has been suggested by Steve for the area. Planning permission is currently underway, and this should be completed in the next few months. Updates will follow in the next newsletters.

## Web and Facebook links

BRAG now has a group set up on facebook, our link is as follows:  
<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/pages/BRAG/131187100276047>  
or simply type in B.R.A.G.

The Bryn Web site is being added to all the time with new information. We are always happy to consider any interesting articles from residents to include on the site. There is also an excellent Wikipedia entry for Bryn with contributions from BRAG committee and other Bryn Residents. Luke established the BRAG FACE Book Group along with the other Bryn groups already on Face Book. Along with the school's web coverage, the village now has an excellent cyber space presence. Links to all these sites can be found on the Bryn Website Links page.

## Mums and Tots

If any mums in Bryn are interested in starting up a mother and toddler group in the community centre for their little ones please could you contact Lucy Rowlands on 01639 891912 There has been quite a bit of interest so please phone.

## Big Lottery funding

When BRAG started in 2009 it applied to the Big Lottery fund for a grant to cover costs of items such as room hire, printing and publicity costs incurred in proving a regular news, letter running events such as the very popular Christmas and St David's events as well as the village meetings where information about council plans for the village, mining applications for the village, wind turbine applications and much more have been notified to the villagers. This grant period came to an end last December and an end project report was submitted back to the Big Lottery

detailing exactly how every penny had been spent along with details of these activities delivered to the village. I am pleased to say that we have now had written confirmation from the Big Lottery complementing us on a successfully run project.

### **Cuppa with a copper**

Shaun Thomas, the community police officer often visits Bryn and BRAG to keep an awareness of what is going on in the village and of any issues requiring the attention of the police. Many of the residents will have seen Shaun at BRAG events such as at Christmas when he escorted Santa safely round Bryn to meet the children of Bryn. He also often walks Bryn with his colleagues and sometimes with members of BRAG and is getting to know many of the residents of Bryn. He always makes time to have a chat with residents and has suggested a coffee morning in Bryn when residents could come along and discuss any issues with him over a cuppa. If residents would be interested in this please indicate their support to their local member of BRAG.

### **PACT Meeting**

PACT meetings are held at Cwmafan to which BRAG normally attend to represent the interests of Bryn. Motor Bikes, Dog fouling and Litter have all been put on the top three priority list in recent meetings.

### **Calendars**

The Bryn Calendar has been an excellent success with superb support from current and past Bryn residents. This will make a big contribution to keeping BRAG going and meeting our future running costs. People have clearly been looking very carefully through the calendar and have spotted a printing error where Buck row was printed as Back row on the August page. Should we have a prize for most error spotted? Dafydd was keen to point out that this was correct on the original copy.

### **Bryn youths**

A session was held at the Bryn Youth club to ask the local youths what they would like to see in Bryn. They expressed a lot of enthusiasm and interest in improving facilities in the

area that would benefit them. This has been fed back to the councillors and is also on the web site and the notice board outside the community centre for your information.

### **Port Talbot news**

There is an interesting website that updates news from and around Port Talbot. There are often snippets in here that are of interest to Bryn. To access the site follow either of these links:

[www.port-talbot-news.co.uk](http://www.port-talbot-news.co.uk)

[www.knowles-photography.com](http://www.knowles-photography.com)

### **Litter picking**

Keep Wales Tidy launched their high profile, New Year's resolution campaign, 'I Will for Wales' on **Fri 7<sup>th</sup> January**. The campaign is making a plea to the people of Wales to look after the environment and keep their local area clean and tidy in 2011. They are encouraging individuals and organisations to make small lifestyle changes that collectively will have a huge impact on the environment and people's pockets; small changes that will dramatically improve the areas where we work, live and for visitors. This can also be promoted via face book.

After the success of last years litter pick with the local school children, another litter pick is planned for this spring. Possibly on the 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. Watch out for further details.

### **Winter Snow**

December was the coldest month on record. Even the lake was frozen over. There is a picture of Maesteg hill covered in snow. Peter has put further photos up on the website for you all to look at.



Including shots of Cwm Wernderi completely frozen over.

### **Aiming to increase Community spirit**

BRAG gives feedback to local councillors about what is wanted in the village and improvements over the past year have included grass cutting, the repair and servicing of drains, the addition of a village notice board, speed checks and road signs. Projects started include fencing, developing picnic areas, land management and a fishing lake. Some of the projects are aimed at improving and increasing access to the countryside around Bryn.

### **Historical society**

The Historical Society, a part of BRAG, has uncovered many new historical findings in the Bryn area and shared these with the public at large via presentations and the website. During the past year talks have included "the village as it was", "the farms of Bryn 1814, and farming practices at the time", "the coalfield", "iron making" and more.

### **Future Events**

BRAG plans to repeat the success of past events over the next 12 months, but of course hoping to better every event where we can.

We have now had the go ahead for the Beast of Bryn proposed endurance Marathon described on the front page so hope to have much more to tell you about this in our next issue. This is being planned as a full family day out and not just a run. If anyone has ideas for things to include and would like to help with this event please contact the chair, Graham, or make contact through our web site.

### **Gardeners to go back to school**

Is anyone in the village interested in coming up to school to help with the school garden? This is a chance to pass on your green finger skills by planting and growing vegetables or maybe developing more of a flower garden. Head teacher Jan would like a rockery sorted out and some basic garden landscaping or any ideas you may have on how to turn a part of the school grounds into a working garden. Please contact Janet Francis-Jones at the school on 01639 896486.



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## BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

[www.bragsite.btik.com](http://www.bragsite.btik.com)

Issue 009 March 2011

### Bryn litter pick



The Bryn litter picks were a big success yet again, the photos represent the local school children, their teachers, helpers, village residents and the police all throwing themselves whole heartedly into the project.



Below shows the results of a Saturday event when another group of volunteers cleared rubbish that had been in the woods for years.



Although the council litter pickers and local residents keep the streets clear, these voluntary picks are

making a big difference to the areas that have been overlooked in the past, such as the walks through the woods, the ground around the community centre, Nant-y-Boda and more.

The police are monitoring this area in order to prosecute those who drop the litter. PCSO Shaun Thomas has been working alongside the waste enforcement team and has highlighted the littering issue on the Bryn road. He states that "If anybody witnesses littering from a vehicle on the B4282 road please report it to the Waste Enforcement Team on 01639 686868 - please include the registration number of the vehicle and any descriptions of the culprit."

### S4C Visit Bryn

S4C spent a full day in Bryn filming the Bwystfil y Bryn run and the heritage behind the run. The Beynon family have a special place in this heritage and also spent the day with S4C.



The family line up in this picture left to right Neil Howells, Jake Howells, Gereth Beynon, Avril Howells, Jack Beynon and Ben Howells

The next photo shows the S4C team filming inside the community centre for the TV show.



The footage was shown on Wedi 7 the following week and was also available on the S4C web site. BRAG has a copy of the show. They had commented on how lovely the scenery is in the area and the fantastic views from the hills. The BBC are also expressing interest in filming the area.

### Speed Limit Signs

The advisory speed limit outside the school area is 20mph and there are now new 20 MPH signs in place outside of the school but the old mandatory 30mph signs have not yet been removed.

### Bryn garage

The demolition of the garage has now taken place and the entrance to the village is starting to look a lot better.

### Top Road between Ynys-y-Gwas and Port Talbot

In October it was reported that the main work was now complete and the road reopened but strong views were aired about the waste of money spent on the lights that now present a number of dangers that

had not been there before they were installed. Councillor David Williams was asked why these had been put there. He reported that the residents at the site of the traffic lights were very pleased with the way the lights have restricted the flow of traffic and suggested this now closed the issue.

### **Dog fouling in Bryn Varteg**

Dog patrols have been started in the area, this problem has now been going on for over a year. With little progress, police have provided patrols but have not yet caught the dog in the act. Residents have been asked to take photos and collect evidence to progress prosecutions. The dog owners could then be fined £1,000.

### **Fishing lake**

Plans for the fishing pond are progressing slowly, Councillor Williams has been to inspect the proposed area for the lake and the plans are now with the planning department awaiting approval.



The plans for the proposed Alpine run in June are coming along nicely, there has been a great deal of interest in the run and there is a planned meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April to announce further plans for the Bryn Beast.

**There are always new articles added to our very own BRAG website, please feel free to visit the site to see for yourselves and to keep up to date with what's going on in the village. The website address is:**

<http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk/Home>

### **Community Centre activities**

BRAG had a meeting with the council to promote greater use of the village hall, there are currently

several activities going on during the week, these include Karate, home crafts, youth clubs, and senior citizens club. A list of all the current activities is available on the outer board on the community centre, if anybody has any other ideas as to what else they would like to see going on in the community centre, we would very much like to hear from you. Any ideas would be gratefully accepted.

### **Lorries turning in Bryn**

Concerns have been raised yet again about lorries taking waste materials to Penhydd farm, these lorries are turning in the community centre and are driving over a public footpath. The residents of Bryn are very concerned about the safety of this activity and the lack of any visible action from the council, this has been an on-going issue.

A meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at the community centre between the highways, council, developer and BRAG provided the opportunity to review the lorry issues. A survey by the council revealed the developer had exceeded his quota of deliveries and an enforcement notice had been served. Further planning permission will be needed in September and the Council should then ensure conditions are applied to minimise the impact of this development on the Village. A council surveyor will be inspecting Old Neath Road to assess the damage caused by the combined effects of lorries and weather conditions. The developer has volunteered to lay pipes and hardcore alongside the road for use as pedestrian passing points, this needs to be agreed by the council surveyor.

### **Help for heroes**

Martin Fitzpatrick, a local resident, is trying to organise a 'Help The Heroes' weekend over the Easter

Bank Holiday, up in the Bryn Rugby club. Posters will be displayed throughout the village in the coming weeks, please keep an eye out for information on the upcoming event.

### **Recycling**

Can you help raise vital funds for Keep Wales Tidy by recycling old mobile phones, ink jet cartridges and Laser/toner cartridges? **Keep Wales Tidy** will receive **50%** of the recycling value for any mobile phones, **£1** for each original empty inkjet cartridge or up to **£5** per empty laser/toner cartridge donated kindly by you, friends, family or colleagues so your help would be greatly appreciated.

To recycle your items for free and raise funds for this great cause you can either collect envelopes from the community centre or order freepost envelopes and collection boxes for your office, school or business by simply following this link [www.recycle4charity.co.uk](http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk).

### **A Second Notice Board**

BRAG hope to put a further notice board up outside Bryn Primary school so that everyone can see what is happening in the village.

### **Walk Leaders**

Volunteers are being asked to come forward to attend the Councils walking leaders training course to be held at the community centre. This will involve organising and leading walks around the local beauty spots. Names please to Suzanna at the address below.

**If anybody has any interesting news or ideas for our next newsletter, please email me your articles, photos, pictures etc. at [suzanna.easton1@gmail.com](mailto:suzanna.easton1@gmail.com).**



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Issue 010 May 2011

### Bryn Beast opening concert

On April 12<sup>th</sup> BRAG held their opening concert for the Bwystfil y Bryn, the alpine run that is due to be held on June 18<sup>th</sup> and is covered in more detail later in this newsletter.

Visitors were welcomed to the evening by BRAG secretary Sue Phillips, and a short talk on why the run is being done was given by Shaun Tobin, whose son suffers from cystic fibrosis, the charity that BRAG has chosen to raise money for.

The concert opened with a presentation on the run by Luke Rosser, Shaun Tobin and Graham Rowlands. Entertainment was provided by the fantastic Maesteg Gleemen, pictured below, who gave an outstanding performance as usual.



The Musical director, Alan Hodges, and Anthony Bwye, a first tenor, gave an outstanding duet; both are pictured below at the fore front of the choir. There was an excellent turnout for the evening, with entertainment aplenty, as well as the Gleemen there were members of the Harriers running club and local boxing clubs.



The local school children sang and recited poems that they had composed in school. The picture below shows the children performing that evening.



The children really enjoyed themselves, as did the Gleemen when singing their reworded version of "twelve days of Easter" with the children.

The concert was attended by many of our local fundraisers, such as captain beany, pictured below with one of the Gleemen second tenors and Bryn resident, Steve Easton.



Our local councillor for Bryn and Cwmavon, Marion Lewis, pictured below with Dr Brian gibbons AM and prospective candidate David Rees, who also attended.



## Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>

### BWYSTFIL Y BRYN (BEAST OF BRYN)

**Do not Miss out on this great day!!**

The big day for Bryn is approaching as I am sure you have seen on the signs all around the village. Visitors from around the country and abroad have registered to tame the beast at Bryn on Saturday 18th June.

A special trophy will be available for the fastest group of boxers around the course and the British Trail Running Event Organisers are to attend the running event with the possibility that the area will be used for future events relating to British Championships. The Maesteg Gleemen have already been promoting the event at Tata Steel Works and will once more be in Bryn to support the event on the day.

Stalls and entertainment will be set up on the Rugby field and most food on the day will be heavily subsidized. Free rides will be available for children including free face painting, bungee run, bouncy castle, zorb balls and of course fireman Sam.

There will be a 2k fun run with all children finishing the course receiving a medal.

A number of bands have been booked to provide live entertainment until 10:30pm. Other attractions will include Historical exhibitions and information about the village. We have many sponsors, as shown on the sponsors web page, who are playing a vital role in making this day possible with financial support, donation of prizes, trophies, equipment, labour and much more.

### **Litter**

This is an on-going issue in the area and recently BRAG received a letter about litter from a local resident, it reads :

Shalom Hare is a Bryn girl born and bred. She now cruises the world on luxury liners as the manager of the hair and beauty provisions on these ships. Often on her travels she thinks of Bryn and a "Hiraeth" overcomes her.

When she comes home there is nothing she enjoys more than walking the footpaths around her beloved village. Recently she has been shocked by the state of these walkways. They are covered with litter and she has taken it upon herself to take a bin bag with her to pick up this rubbish.

Shalom feels that you have to go away from Bryn to appreciate what we have here else we tend to take it for granted. She feels that if everybody who walks these footpaths takes a bin bag with them, to clear up this rubbish, then Bryn would be a much "nicer place to be".

From a young lady who cares.

Perhaps, as residents of Bryn, we should all take care of our village and pick up our own litter, and any other litter we may see laying around, and encourage our children to do the same, then our local area will certainly be "**a nice place to be**".

### **Portacabins/ Bridges**

The portacabins that had been put "temporarily" in place 22 years ago have finally been removed from Varteg Road, which means that the court order will no longer be needed. Two Bridges that cross the stream have had remedial masonry work performed upon them.

### **Arts in NPTCBC**

Trilein Ltd has been commissioned by Neath Port Talbot (NPT) to encourage local people to show an interest, participate and to become involved in the Arts in the county. They wish to encourage a wide range of people and to find out their interests. To find out more about this exciting project, please follow this link: [www.trilein.com](http://www.trilein.com)

### **Poachers**

A resident has recently reported that poachers have been operating in the area, other residents have confirmed that they have heard gunshots on a number of occasions. Councillor David Williams is to inform the relevant authorities immediately, as residents are clearly concerned that these activities could result in a fatal accident.

### **Help for Heroes**

"Martin Fitzpatrick would like to thank everyone who attended the Help the Heroes fundraising weekend at Bryn Rugby & Social club. An excellent Friday night kicked off with the amazing local band 'GOING POSTAL' who gave their services free, providing a brilliant time for all who attended.

Saturday's disco, with our very own DJs Ray Wheaton and Ryan Hall, provided the entertainment for another successful fundraising night thanks to everyone who came and supported the event. Sunday's bike ride was also well attended with over 30 riders, from the ages of 7 to 70, with some cycling in fancy dress. Who can forget the monkey and banana on a tandem, not forgetting the Pink pig, donkey, turtle, cheerleader, Ompa lumpa, basketball player and our own version of a nurse? There were some strange looks in the garage in Pyle, when some of them went in for a drink!!!!

Everyone made it back to the club safely and the event was so successful that everyone would like to see this as an annual charity event.

The quiz in the evening, provided by Glan Phillips, was another success and took the final total raised to £1000, which is an amazing amount for a small village.

There are far too many people to mention, but a special thanks to all who contributed.

### **Editors Final Note**

The Maesteg Gleemen do lots of concerts and services to raise money for various charities. They are available for concerts, birthdays, weddings and many other functions, if anybody is interested in joining the choir or seeing the Maesteg Gleemen at one of their functions, please check out their website or email their secretary John Wines on [johnwines08@googlemail.com](mailto:johnwines08@googlemail.com) for further information

If anybody has any interesting news, articles or ideas for our next newsletter then please email me your articles, photos, pictures etc. at [suzanna.easton1@gmail.com](mailto:suzanna.easton1@gmail.com).



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Issue 011 July 2011

## **BWYSTFIL Y BRYN**

After months of preparation, The Bwystfil y Bryn run in aid of Cystic Fibrosis, was held on 18<sup>th</sup> June and was a great success. All three races began at the Royal Oak, with people of many different ages taking part, the runners took in some stunning scenery and views along their routes.

The Bwystfil Y Bryn (The Beast of Bryn) event, backed by major local employer Tata Steel, attracted over 300 runners to our picturesque village for a series of races including a punishing 15mile hill race that attracted the toughest endurance runners in the country, and raised funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.



## **Runners set off at the start of the 2K Fun Trail Run in the TATA Bwysfil y Bryn**

The Maesteg Gleemen added to the atmosphere of the event with rousing songs to lift the spirits of the competitors, including our national anthem. There was entertainment aplenty, with barbecues, hog roasts, face

painting and many more activities to keep the children busy. The first runners of the 15 mile run to return to the finish line made excellent times, which may prove difficult to beat in future years. Once all the runners had returned, the mayor and his wife presented them with the 59 awards. Celebrations then went on into the night, with entertainment at both the Bryn rugby club and the Royal Oak pub. Overall BRAG has had positive feedback about the run, and the S4C programme on the following Monday gave an excellent summary of the event. The Bwystfil y Bryn has raised money for Cystic Fibrosis, as well as putting Bryn on the map, all the people involved are keen to repeat this event next year.



## **Letter of thanks from a satisfied runner**

Hi graham, just a quick message to thank you and all who provided my brother and I with such a fantastic race at the Bwysfil y Bryn earlier this month. We thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere and community of the event and hope you can repeat it again next year to offer more runners a chance to tackle such epic trails and tracks.

## **New ABM - Wide GP Out of Hours Service Telephone Number**

The new ABM-wide GP Out-of-Hours Service launched in July will have a single telephone number covering Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. The new number, **0330 123 9180**, is a local charge rate number for landlines and mobile phones. Patients and the public are asked to make a note of the number for future reference. In addition, their local GP surgeries will have the number on an Out of Hours voicemail message in the same way as for current arrangements.

## **Village history film**

Helen Cawley contacted Graham in June, looking at the possibility of filming a series about the history in and around our village. She seems very keen and Graham has spent some considerable time providing information as this would be the icing on the cake for this village!! Helen is an assistant television producer hoping to develop a history based series for BBC Wales. It will take a look at the projects history societies have underway across Wales. This film would be an interesting prospect for the village, alongside the success of the recent Bwystfil y Bryn.

## **Street dance classes**

There are 3 new original street dance classes, details of these classes can be found on the website.

<http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk/Home>



### **New Street Dance Classes**

Taibach CEC (Weekly Class)

Starting: Sunday 24th July 2011

1.00pm - 3.00pm

Aberafan Community Centre (Weekly Class)

Starting: Thursday 28th July 2011

3.30pm - 5.30pm

Bryn Community Centre (Weekly Class)

Starting: Thursday 28th July 2011

6.00pm - 8.00pm

£2 per 2 hr session

☎ (01639) 898581 for more information

Suitable for Young People aged 11 yrs+



Funded by the NPTCBC Local Authority Partnership Agreement

The Bryn community Centre class starts on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm until 8pm, for young people aged 11 plus. These classes will be funded for 20 weeks, after which time it is hoped they will become self-sustainable. Posters and flyers will be going up in local schools to advertise the event. Work has also started to establish a youth Choir. More details to follow on this.

### **Bin collections**

In April Councillor David Williams reported that under new efficiency measures bins are to be collected on a fortnightly basis, as already practised by other councils, however after government intervention, this decision is now under review, more information to follow in future newsletters.

### **Fishing pond update**

Plans for the fishing pond at Cwm Wenderi farm are still pending planning permission, there has been no further progress to date, any further updates will be in future newsletters, please watch this space.

### **Litter outside village shop**

In April concerns were raised about the amount of litter left outside the village shop, Councillor Williams confirmed

that any business has a duty of care to residents in the area and he arranged to have this investigated, in the June BRAG meeting David Williams reported that the site had been tidy when he inspected the area and asked if he could be notified if the problem persists.

### **Bringing Home the Medals**

Congratulations to Kieran Heycock on winning 1 bronze, 2 silver and a gold medal in the World Transplant Games in Gothenburg Sweden where transplant athletes from 51 countries from around the world took part. Team UK were also the overall winners of the games. BRAG supported Kieran in this fantastic achievement.

### **Supporting Bryn**

Graham, the BRAG Chair, reported on 2 events held this month to help pay for the damage that occurred to the marquee used at the Bwystfil y Bryn running event. This was a mindless act of vandalism that will not deter this village from promoting itself to the outside world. The first event was a quiz night held at the Royal Oak on Friday the 8th of July which was a resounding success, where £100:00 was raised. Brian Rees was the quiz master who was superb to say the least! There will now be a quiz night every month from now on to continue to raise money. A special thanks to Ryan and Sarah who were brilliant hosts, contributing to a number of raffle prizes including a meal for 4. The second event was a cabaret night at the Bryn Rugby Club on Friday the 15th of July where the cabaret act was followed by a raffle and a donation of £50:00 which will go toward Cystic Fibrosis, the charity that will benefit from the running event. Public donations and the raffle at the Rugby Club came to £200. Part of this result had to be thanks to Sandra Edmonds for working so hard selling raffle tickets. Both events were an

example of the appreciation felt for those who are willing to give up their time and effort in making this village a better place. People were contributing raffle prizes and money to this cause which is nothing less than incredible and a big thank you to all who contributed and turned up on both nights! We will not be deterred by a minority who accept this behaviour as normal!

### **Youth Forum**

Janice Weaver has been working with the youth club to set up an Eastern Cluster Youth forum. Jake Davies and Ryan Easton volunteered to represent Bryn in this Youth Forum and have already started to play an active role. This involves regular meetings about once a month and being given the task of organising a project for Bryn Community. Some ideas they are considering include setting up Bryn youth forum meetings to gather further ideas and volunteers, setting up a bowls competition in conjunction with the bowls club, organising a Petition in support of the skate board project and an X box connect competition in the village hall.



Ryan and Jake

**If anyone has any interesting news articles, historical stories, pictures etc. that could be included in any of our newsletters please do not hesitate to email me at:**  
**Suzanna.easton1@gmail.com**





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*Designed by Allan Jones, Edited by Suzanna Easton*



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**Issue 12: Sept 2011.**

### Message of thanks

A personal message of thanks has been received after the loss of our former editor Mr Allan Jones, it reads:

“Mrs Joyce Jones and family would like to thank all their friends and relatives for their kind wishes and support at this difficult time and to those who gave so generously to Cancer Research”.

BRAG would like to take this opportunity to pass on our condolences to Allan’s wife Joyce and their family, our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time.

### BRAG AGM

At the AGM, that is to be held in November, the committee will outline the highs and lows of another successful year for BRAG. Before the meeting villagers are encouraged to examine the committee’s constitution on the Bryn website. Proposals for amendments or other changes must be made at least 2 weeks prior to the AGM to enable the Committee to provide a reasoned response at the meeting.

### Fundraising for the Marquee

With Quiz nights at the Royal Oak and a live entertainment evening in the Bryn Rugby club, we have raised £500 towards the cost of the vandalism to the marquee. These nights are proving to be very popular and with your support they

can continue. The next event is a further quiz night at the Royal Oak. The next quiz donations will go to the village mother and toddler group. A big thank you goes to all those who have worked so hard in making these events a success.

### Fishing pond

Planning issues are on-going; any further progress will be announced in future newsletters.

### Playground area

Efforts are progressing towards funding for the playground developments. Government bodies and businesses are being approached with regard to funding an extensive revamp aimed at the tennis court area. This would include a skateboard/bike park and a basketball hoop.

### Nature reserve

Work on the nature reserve / picnic area was put on hold pending departmental reviews by NPT Council. Planning permission has now been granted but because of the delays grants for the building work and picnic tables will have to be re-sourced.

### Natwest Community force

BRAG calls for the residents of Bryn to help us secure an award of £6,000 simply by registering your vote at:

<http://communityforce.natwest.com/project/760>

From the 26<sup>th</sup> September and before the end of October.

If we win, the money will be spent on next year’s Beast of Bryn event.

### Bryn Calendar

This year’s calendar will take the form of sports, leisure and social theme. For example Rugby team, old school photos and knitting circles of yester year. Please order early.

### Halloween disco

There will be a disco, held for the village children, on the 25<sup>th</sup> October in the Bryn Community Centre. Admission will be £1 per person and the evening will include a DJ, raffles and apple bobbing. Themed drinks and nibbles will be on sale. There will be prizes for best dressed children. Any donations of prizes would be greatly appreciated. Please come along and have a great (if not spooky) night.



### Talk on Mines

A Historical talk on mines in our area was held on September 29<sup>th</sup>, there were over 60 people at the talk with some coming from Swansea to listen to Mr Tony Cox.

A percentage of money taken from the raffle went to the Gleision Colliery miner's fund.

### Coffee morning

A coffee morning was held on Monday the 26th to raise money for the Little Stars mother and toddlers group being set up in the community centre. About 25 people attended with the tea, coffee and cakes being donated by Tesco Maesteg, so a big thank you to Tesco for all their help.



### Old tip clearing

The tip clearing operations scheduled for the 9th October was cancelled due to the weather. This will be rescheduled and the BRAG Committee would be grateful for additional help from the village once the new date has been determined.

### Lorries in Bryn

The wagons that have been using the Neath road to carry waste to be tipped should have stopped by 8<sup>th</sup> September. However, an application for a further 5 years has been made and the public had until 26<sup>th</sup> September to contest this. A petition was delivered to the council with a number of signatures opposing the proposal for another five years of Lorries travelling past the school to Penhydd farm.

### Dog fouling and dog attacks

This is an ongoing issue in our area and Councillor Marian Lewis will

speak to our local enforcement officer to progress these issues.

### Helping Others

The money raised from the "Bryn Beast" run in June was distributed to charities at a presentation in the Royal Oak on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.

The event was well attended by the village and guests from outside the village. Jon Ferriman, the Managing Director of Tata Steel Strip Products (which includes Port Talbot Steel Works) travelled from two hours away to be at the event and join Bryn in our celebration of the success of the event. Jon complimented Bryn on the excellent work taking place to build communities.

£1600.00 was donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust; £300.00 to the Singleton Paediatric Cystic Fibrosis Out Patients Department; £200.00 to MIND and £50.00 to the Garnwern Trust.

£500.00 was presented to Tata Steel in compensation for the £1000.00 paid by Tata to repair the vandalism caused to the Marque following the "Beast of Bryn" event. Tim Andrews of Tata recognised the hard work that had gone in to raising the money and thanked the village for its concern and good will gesture. He stated that the money would be set aside to help the 2012 event.

The photo below shows Jon Ferriman handing over a cheque for £1,600.00 to Carolyn Holt, regional fundraising manager Wales, of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.



This next photo shows the people presenting and receiving donations and benefitting from this event.



This event was also a celebration with all those attending enjoying the social occasion and dancing to the band called "Overheated Pilots" until the early hours of Sunday morning.

The two lads on the band both work in the Tata Steel Concast plant as does Jamie O'Keefe who played a few songs with the band.



### Condolence

BRAG would like to express their condolence to the family and friends of Peter Knowles who died this October. Peter was the chair of CRAC and often supported BRAG in their activities.

### Editors note

If anybody has any articles, news or anything interesting they would like to share please do not hesitate to contact me: [suzanna.easton1@gmail.com](mailto:suzanna.easton1@gmail.com) we are always interested in hearing from people in our community.



BRYN  
A NICE PLACE  
TO BE

# NEWSLETTER

## BRYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

[www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk/Home](http://www.bryn-porttalbot.btck.co.uk/Home)

*Designed by Allan Jones, Edited by Suzanna Easton*



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Issue 13 Nov 2011.

### AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting of BRAG will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November at the Bryn Community Centre at 7pm.

### Halloween Party

A Halloween party, that was held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Oct in the Village Community Centre, for the under 18s was very well attended. The younger ones were accompanied by parents who appeared to enjoy the event just as much as their youngsters. A disco provided first class entertainment, Tesco provided food and refreshments and activities such as apple bobbing and fancy dress competitions provided great entertainment throughout the evening.

The costumes were of an equally high standard as shown by some of the winners that evening who received their prizes from Councillor Marian Lewis and PC Shaun Thomas.



The Halloween spooks visited Bryn again at another Halloween party that was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> Oct at the Royal Oak for the over 18s. This was also a great success, with live music, dancing and food included. The following photos show just some of the early arrivals for that evening who then stayed with the spooks (and spirits) until the early hours.



### Windmills

A proposal has been made to build turbines (windmills) to the Margam side of Bryn and to the west of Goytre. Many concerns were aired by villagers at the Councillors surgery in November over this proposed development and no doubt will be one of the topics of concern at future surgery meetings. These meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month in the Bryn Community centre at 10am. All are welcome to attend and support our Councillors in looking after the interests of our village.

### Wagons turning in Bryn

The wagons using the Old Neath Road to tip waste should have stopped after the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, however an application had been put in for a further 5 years, which Bryn residents have objected to very strongly with letters submitted to the Council. However, the farmer has applied to planning with a further application with slightly less wagons. Residents of Bryn feel that this is still a very dangerous use of the Old Neath Road and feel this should not be allowed to happen; a request to all ward councillors to stop this happening has been made.



The pictures above show just some of the many lanterns on display that evening, reflecting the very high standard of work which the children displayed with great pride.



## **Christmas**

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Dec** at 6 30pm there will be Carols by Candlelight at St. Tydfil's Church.

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Dec** at 9 30am - 11 30am in St. Tydfil's, there will be a chance to meet Father Christmas at this Christmas Fayre.

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Dec** starting at 5:45pm Father Christmas will continue his day in Bryn with a tour of the village to meet the children of Bryn. He will then be going to the Village Community Centre for 6:45pm to watch the Bryn Pantomime. Make sure you get your tickets for this and come along and Join Santa. Tickets will be available at £2.50 for adults and £1 for children, through the school, BRAG committee members, the senior citizens meetings, etc. This will be a fun packed evening with much more than just a great pantomime provided by a professional theatre group (see their web site for full details).

<http://www.pyramidpantomimes.com/index.php>



Refreshments and mince pies will be on sale, Santa will meet the children and hand out early Christmas presents, there will be an opportunity to have photos taken with Santa and his Elf's all to a festive background of Christmas music and carols.

At Temple Bryn Chapel a service will be held on **Christmas morning** at 10:30am. All are welcome.

## **Mother and toddler**

The mother and toddler group are hoping to start up in January. Further information to follow

## **Bwystfil y Bryn 2012**

The date for next year's Bwystfil Y Bryn race is going to be the 16th of June and if anyone would like to volunteer their services could they please contact anyone of the BRAG committee. Below is just one of the great photos from the event this year showing the youngsters taking part at the start of the fun run and the camera team from S4C recording this great event.



## **Miners appeal**

Martin Fitzpatrick would like thank everyone who attended the Charity Team Quiz Night at Bryn Rugby and Social club on the 23rd October 2011. The quiz was held in aid of the Swansea Miners Appeal, and the total raised from the Quiz, raffle, collection box on the bar and donation from the club was £200.00.

Martin would also like to thank everyone who donated raffle prizes and to our regular Quizmaster, Glan Phillips, for providing yet another excellent quiz.

## **Historical Society Memorial**

The Bryn Historical Society wish to create a memorial at the Bryn Navigation colliery Site where families of anyone killed in mining disasters in this valley can place flowers. The next quiz night will be the start of the funding to provide this memorial.

## **Historical Society Presentation**

The most recent presentation took place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November in the Bryn Rugby Club where Sally Robert-Jones talked about Dic

Penderyn the first Welsh Labour martyr.

## **Blooming marvellous**

This year Bryn residents have again been successful in the Neath Port Talbot Borough in Bloom competition.

Dafydd Bowen, Farteg Row won 1st prize for best large garden in the borough and had a second prize for best wildlife garden.

Margaret and Ray Stratford of Penrhiw bungalows had a third prize for the Housing association garden and Mr Mal Jenkins had a third prize as a new entrant to the competition. Congratulations to all the winners.

## **Dog Fouling**

This concern has been raised time and again, this issue has been ongoing for years, and Councillor Marian Lewis is to speak to the local enforcement officer, to progress this. More dog bins have also been requested.

## **Fishing pond**

No further update, planning permission is still on-going; please check future editions for further information.

## **Youth bowling**

The possibility of funding to promote bowling among the youth of the village was raised at a Surgery meeting; David Whitelock suggested possible funding for this. The bowls club were to progress this with the youth club.

## **Editors note**

**If anybody has any articles, news or anything interesting they would like to share please do not hesitate to contact me: [suzanna.easton1@gmail.com](mailto:suzanna.easton1@gmail.com) we are always interested in hearing from people in our community.**



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