



**Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn
Community Council
Newsletter – AUTUMN/WINTER 2020**



If you would like your photograph of the local area or group included in the newsletter then please contact Kate Johnson or Karen Armstrong

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Monthly meetings of the Community Council were postponed in April and May following guidance received as a result of Covid-19.

However, the Community Council did meet virtually in June, July and September; arrangements which will continue for the foreseeable future.

Our meetings are still open to members of the public and if you want to attend please email the clerk at gwernaffieldclerk@outlook.com for details.

During recent meetings the following items were highlighted:

WELCOME

We welcomed the newly co-opted Councillor Adrian Barsby, for the Gwernaffield ward. Councillor Barsby comes with a wealth of community experience and creates a full complement of 12 councillors for the villages.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Letters from Welsh Border Community Transport (WBCT) and The Holy Trinity Church, Gwernaffield requesting financial assistance were considered at recent meetings, with the Community Council agreeing to provide £50 financial assistance to WBCT and £850 towards ground maintenance at The Holy Trinity Church, Gwernaffield.

DOG FOULING



The Community Council is pleased to have funded and installed 4 new dog bag dispensers in "hot spot" areas for dog fouling as often notified by residents. There are 2 in each village and we hope this might help encourage dog owners to pick up and keep our villages clean and tidy.

There are 2 in each village:

- Near Cae Gafna – end of the path that runs parallel to the golf course.
- Cae Rhug Lane.
- Pantymwyn – Cefn Bychan Road
- Entrance to the Golf Course on Cilcain Road.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Traffic issues continue to be on the agenda, in particular parking at Y Waen and speeding through the villages.

Solutions have not been agreed to the Y Waen parking issue, but we do ask residents to park with care and concern for the residents and children in the area, particularly at school opening and closing times.

Speeding through the villages has been an ongoing issue for some time. The Community Council has considered voluntary teams undertaking speed camera checks, speed check monitor displays and automatic number plate recognition. We will keep you updated on any decision made.

GWERNAFFIELD PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS



In July 2016, the ownership of Gwernaffield Playing Fields was transferred into the ownership of Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council to be held in trust for the community.



Since this time a successful partnership between the Community Council, Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Fields (FOGPF) and Aura, Play and Leisure Services has resulted in much needed investment in the park.

Recently, whilst older pieces of equipment were removed for

safety reasons, new pieces of play equipment have been installed, including two multiplay slides both for younger and older children, a basket swing, a rota bounce and also a new



football goal and matting area. The benches have also been re-stained along with the main central climbing frame.

It is now a more pleasant area for parents/carers and their children and friends to go and enjoy our outside play space. We hope you will agree the park looks much improved!

A big thank you to everyone involved including Mold Golf club who have donated £500 towards ongoing improvements and particularly our former Community Councillor Mrs Lynne Pritchard who established Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Fields.

During 2020/21 the Community Council are considering improvements to Pantymwyn Play Area as well the potential to add a new piece of equipment with the limited space available.

FLINTSHIRE COUNCIL SUMMER PLAYScheme 2020

Flintshire County Council has a strong and proud tradition of offering a county-wide summer playscheme programme and as coronavirus restrictions started to relax, there was a desire to provide playschemes during summer 2020.

All local town and community councils were invited to participate and support a 'universal' offer of provision for all children in Flintshire aged 5 to 12 years for the last two weeks of the summer holiday. Clear information was provided for parents and partner organisations outlining the legal basis for the safe delivery of summer playschemes in compliance with all regulations relating to COVID 19. To comply with public health guidance, all 55 schemes operated outdoors in open space. The provision across the County made a remarkable impact on children and families.

The Community Council part fund the playscheme; 28 children registered to attend the **Gwernaffield playscheme**; 44 attended Week 1 of the scheme and 26 in Week 2. It would seem the bad weather impacted onto the second week's numbers.

The Community Council received positive feedback from parents and grandparents who used the scheme.



“My daughter loved the playscheme she had fun and opportunity to meet with friends in a safe place.”

“My granddaughter enjoyed the scheme and have opportunity to meet with friends in a safe space.”

“My child attended a few days and met up with his friends, playing football and hide and seek. He enjoyed this free play after the last difficult 6 months.”

“Thank you to your team and your staff who enabled my child, aged 7, to take part in activities during the worldwide pandemic. Whilst the pandemic has been a traumatic impact on our lives, it has enabled me to work in different ways, including from home. My son has found it tough as a Key Worker child being in the Hub School and then being patient whilst I work at home. Having the Playscheme enabled him to have fun, have time for him, meet new people and expel some of his energy. The set up was brilliant and I felt safe leaving my child with the team. His confidence has returned, and he was so excited to go each day. The sessions are therapeutic, they enable growth and a child to develop!”

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

Pauline Kershaw and Councillor Kate Johnson supplied the villages with sunflower seeds and the competition was judged last month when the flowers were at their peak.



Out of the 15 people that entered, there were 2 winners selected under the categories of “tallest flower” and “best bloom”.



On the left is the tallest sunflower at 9ft 4" that was grown by Ian Newman

Mary Thomas, won the "best bloom". Pictured here on the right are her wonderful sunny sunflowers.



COMMUNITY GARDENS

GWERNAFFIELD CONSERVATION GARDENS

This year the community council have secured support from the Welsh Government, through their Keep Wales Tidy scheme, We have been donated a butterfly garden pack that included a raised border area, a small bug house, bird feeders and seed. The bird feeders have been donated to Pantymwyn village hall and Ysgol Y Waen along with the bug house, whilst the butterfly garden was erected in the conservation garden. Whilst the raised border and butterfly garden was installed by the Keep Wales Tidy scheme itself, plants were donated by Sue who has been maintaining the garden along with councillors Kate Johnson and Ruth Appleton.



PANTYMWYN VILLAGE HALL GARDEN

The Pantymwyn Village Hall gardeners would like to thank you for all your positive comments about how the garden has cheered you up on dismal days. The keen gardeners have been busy making new planters, due to a very generous donation of old decking. Veg plants donated from the committee and wider community have flourished & they have cropped fresh tomatoes, beans, lettuce, rocket, beetroot & pak choi throughout the summer. Some of our younger people in the village have amused us with a 'pebble trail' to the unicorn & bird feeder. We have also started a propagating station. Well done gardeners!!

YOUNG GARDENER IN THE VILLAGE

Rhys Roberts of Y Waun School is an avid gardener who has been growing his own veg and flowers. He joined in on the sunflower competition. Here is Rhys with two of his best blooms. Well done Rhys!



HOW WE CAME TOGETHER DURING LOCKDOWN

THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

During lockdown, the Community Council have been running *The Good Neighbour Scheme*. Residents from both villages who are vulnerable or shielding are able to contact Councillor Kate Johnson and request assistance from a team of volunteers.

Villagers simply make a call to Kate and request the collection of food or a prescription, which is then passed on to one of the volunteer team. So far this has been a tremendous success with truly positive feedback.

Kate would personally like to thank all of the 34 volunteers who have made this run effortlessly. In addition to the village volunteers Kate would like to thank County Councillor Adele Davis-Cooke, and Rev'd Daniel Stroud for their support with this scheme. Adele in particular has been shopping and collecting prescriptions for villagers almost daily. Thank you.

This scheme will continue to run through the winter months. Numbers to call are:

Kate Johnson (Community Council) **07890646870**

Adele Davies Cooke (County Council) **01352 759 034**

Fr Daniel Stroud (Holy Trinity Church) **01352 810 694**

If you would like to volunteer to help with the scheme, please e mail Kate Johnson at **THE_PIXIECAT@HOTMAIL.CO.UK** or text/ring 07890646870.

LOCAL CELEBRITY

One of our residents was also featured on the national news as well as local press! On 15 September ITV News featured an article about local milkman, **Mick White**.

This year our villages own milkman was due to retire, but in the first of the Coronavirus pandemic and shortages of milk and egg, Mick decided to delay his retirement and instead took on an additional 40 customers. I'm sure you'll join the community council in congratulating Mick on supporting us all at this time. The full article is available to read on the ITV Wales website.



THE CROWN INN

A reminder that the Crown Inn are offering home cooked food delivered to your door starting from October 5th. They are offering lunchtime deliveries Monday to Friday at a cost of £7 per day or £30 for all 5 days.

Menu, prices and ordering are available from Richard on 01352 219912 or 07453944009. Thank you Richard for continuing to support our villages at this time.

LITTER BUSTERS

Councillor Ruth Appleton is a champion litter picker and, along with Councillor Kate Johnson, she is leading a monthly litter pick. The litter picks alternate between the two villages so that as many areas are covered as possible. We wish to thank all of the villagers who have helped out so far and we hope to see continued support at future events. Thank you also to the community council who have supplied us with litter pickers and gloves.



The dates and meeting points for this year are as follows:

29 October - 10 am Pantymwyn Village Hall
26 November - 10 am Gwernaffield (opposite church)
29 December - 10 am Pantymwyn Village Hall
(More dates to follow in the new year)
Please wear bright colours/high-vis vest and appropriate footwear and clothing. Some litter picking equipment will be available to use, however feel free to bring your own.

SCARECROW COMPETITION 2020

We had 19 entries for this year's scarecrow competition and the standards, as usual, were very high. Thank you to all who entered.

The village voted for their favourite scarecrow via a Facebook vote. The votes were counted and the winners were:



1st place with “Last of the Pantymwyn wine” by Tracey Sinclair, winning £40.

2nd place “3 little pigs” by the Booth family, winning £30.





3rd place “Double agent?” by the Barsby family, winning a £25 Voucher for the Crown.

4th Place, “Onwards” by Reggie and Pippa, winning £20.



Well done!

WINTER TIME MEMORIES



**Pantymwyn and Gwernaffield children's
Christmas party 1963.**

"Mince pies recipe" ("The Topic" December 1981)

- 10 ounces Plain flour
- 6 ounces Butter
- 4 ounces caster sugar
- 2 Egg yolks
- Filling 1 lb mincemeat & rind of 1 orange

Prepare oven to 400f/gas mark 6, lightly grease patty tins.

Sift flour into mixing bowl, add butter (cut in small pieces) the sugar and yolks (beaten). Work together into a pastry and leave in fridge for ½ an hour. Roll and cut out pastry and place in tins. Add the mincemeat and cover with top cover of pastry. Cook for 15 mins.

If you make this recipe, why not post your pictures on the Facebook group!

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Community Council considers and sets its budget for the year (April to March) early in the New Year. Funding is limited but the Community Council is considering opening up a conversation with you as residents as to what things you think are important in the area and what you'd like the Community Council to consider funding. This would be undertaken through a letter box survey which would also be available on the Community Council website page and promoted through local social media.

PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS MEAL

This year we have missed out on a lot of our usual activities and events, but the council had hoped the Christmas meal would be one that we could still offer. Unfortunately the situation across Wales and the rest of the UK is still uncertain and we have made the very difficult decision not to have this year's Christmas meal. We know this will be disappointing and upsetting to some of you, however we will carry the funding over to next year and make next year's a meal and party one to remember. All of the community council want to wish you a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

We have had our community newsletter in print for some years now, with it previously being called "the Topic". Over the years many of you and your family members have contributed to the newsletters and we thank you all for making this a very community orientated and positive publication. We look forward to all of your future pictures, news, stories, recipes and updates that can be sent to Kate or Karen. Please remember that this newsletter is the only community council publication. Any other newsletter you receive is not published, funded or endorsed by the community council.

Winter Word Search

D E K M K A A J Y R A G
S N E T T I M S E R I R
X G L O V E S I O E Z O
T P Y O N K O D W T D Y
K H T T W S N H S N L R
D D S A Q Z P O T I O V
D D O O T G E T A W C Y
N M R C L F L C H S Q S
O E F A G H C H O N B N
S G Z H Z H I O P D J O
N L T O S Z C C P O A W
R G E C R N I O O P N L
W C J D J F E L L C U I
Z N X Y C U H A B H A H
H I B E R N A T E Y R P
F K B O X I C E G U Y W

WINTER

SNOW

SLED

ICICLE

BLIZZARD

HOT CHOCOLATE

COLD

FROSTY

FROZEN

SLED

JANUARY

ICE

HIBERNATE

COAT

HAT

GLOVES



Kids! Can you find the snowman in the pages of this newsletter? 1st 10 people to send the answer will receive some sweets. Ask your parent to email Kate Johnson at THE_PIXIECAT@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

Hint - it's not the one on this page ☺

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