

When I write up our Newsletter I struggle to decide the order of each page, this is because I think all our projects are very worthy of featuring on the front page!! And of course there are never enough pages to include all the wonderful photos I have taken throughout the year. But I hope I have managed to select some of the best to give you a flavour of what we've been up to over the past 12 months.

An item on Life saving equipment should definitely appear in our newsletter... please inform your nearest and dearest of the item. So the more knowing about it, the better.

If you would like training to use it, please contact the Clerk on Tel:01443 822863 / email mortic1@caerphilly.gov.uk

DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLED OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY AT YSTRAD MYNACH
We deliver many projects throughout the year some of which are highlighted within this newsletter. A couple of years ago we supported Jack's Appeal and funded two defibrillators, one at Lewis Girls School and the other at Pengam Boys School. this year through the kind donation of a defibrillator from Cardiac Services in memory of Mr Harry Styles MBE who worked there, and the Community Council purchasing a cabinet, we installed this piece of life saving equipment outside the Library in Ystrad Mynach.

In an emergency, if the Ambulance Service cannot get to you in time, they will issue you with a code to open up the unit outside the library and verbal instructions from the AED will guide you to operate it correctly. If you would like training to use it, please contact the clerk on Tel:01443 822863 / email mortic1@caerphilly.gov.uk as we are arranging a session at the Council Office in Gelligaer.

I must thank Robert Voyle of Voyle Construction for installing the unit free of charge. This is community spirit at its very best. Since writing this item, the defibrillator cabinet was vandalised and we received a record number of shares on Facebook and 54,078 views!! Which is quite extraordinary as we only have a population of approximately 19,000. The messages of support received through Facebook was very much appreciated, thank you. Since that awful incident, thanks to Rebecca Stevens, Harry's daughter, who is a Senior Cardiac Physiologist with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, the defibrillator is back working again.

So if you haven't already shared this information, please help us to get the message back out there.



Food Bank

Surplus selection boxes, left over from the Christmas Fayre, were donated to the Food Bank collection point at Tesco, Ystrad Mynach by Chairman Donna Cushing and Vice Chairman Cllr Martyn James.



NEWSLETTER

Christmas in the Gelligaer Community Council Area

Christmas arrived on Saturday 19th November with the Christmas Market/Fayre at Ystrad Mynach. Another successful and fun packed day was enjoyed by all. Santa had lots of visitors at Siloh Centre whilst his reindeer rested and refuelled on fresh hay on the square in readiness for their long journey home.



There was an abundance of entertainment from our local school choirs and other groups throughout the course of the day. The shops and stalls were full of festive gifts and yummy food. And the Dickensian characters welcomed and charmed our visitors, (and took quite a shine to our Cllr Teresa Parry!) bringing much humour to the day. The children particularly enjoyed the snow storm blasting out from the stage. The Community Council had a stall too, show casing our work, handing out balloons and gifts to children and selling raffles. Thank you for visiting us.



Our gratitude to our shops for kindly donated raffle prizes which were enthusiastically drawn from below the stage by local children who were excitedly waiting for Santa to make an appearance and switch on the lights. ANDREW BERRY JEWELLERS, BLUEBELLS, CARD SHOP, CR FLOWERS, EMLYN LLOYD, LOOKING GOOD HAIR STUDIO, MARMARAIS BARBERS, NEW YSTRAD FISH BAR, PREMIER STORE, SOUL & BEAUTY & SPIRIT HAIR STUDIO. And a big thanks to Jach John, the young grandson of the late June Cook, for counting down and switching them on alongside Santa.

Carols on Siloh Square

This was the first time to have a carol concert on the square which we organised with Siloh Christian Centre. It was a cold evening but thankfully it remained dry. Thank you to all that attended, to include Kaydi Hobbs and her family and a few members of The Melody Makers who managed to keep us all in tune. Following about half an hour of carols, we enjoyed homemade cakes at Siloh Christian Centre raising £113.13 for Tearfund a Christian development agency. Hannah, the cake baker, who used to work at Siloh, went out voluntarily with Tearfund for 3 months to South Africa to work with Aids orphans last summer. Back out into the night with the scent of fish and chips wafting down through the town, the temptation was just too great, and some of us immediately put our diets on hold further and succumbed to a bag of freshly cooked chips.



Pantomimes - Little Red Riding Hood

The 'Once Upon A Theatre Company' pantomimes are becoming increasingly popular and sell out fast, hence two additional performances at Glanynant Memorial Hall and Cascade Community Centre at Christmas. This year we welcome Cinderella, details of which will appear in our next Newsletter.



Thank you to all our volunteers that assist us to stage this event. Croeso Club, Hengoed Community Centre, Penybryn Village Hall, Cascade Community Centre, Gelligaer Community Centre, Lewis Girls School, Glanynant Village Hall.

Tea with Cefn Hengoed Pensioners

We would like to thank Cefn Hengoed Pensioners for inviting Cllr Teresa Parry, Cllr Judith Pritchard and myself to a lovely afternoon tea. We were made to feel very welcome and we thoroughly enjoyed the meal. Again thank you ladies for your hard work.



Graham Moore Playing Fields, Cascade

Mr Graham Moore was born in Hengoed on the 7th March 1941 and lived in Cascade for approximately 20 years. His roots lie firmly in Cascade, with his large extended family still residing here. As a young teenager he worked at Penallta Colliery along-side his father and brother. During his childhood and teenage years, he spent much of his leisure time kicking a ball around, honing his skills, with his friends on Cascade Playing Field. It was whilst playing for Bargoed's YMCA, in 1956, he was spotted and signed up by Cardiff City Football Club. Moore went on to **win 21 caps for Wales** and has been described as the Gareth Bale of his day, an exciting, attacking midfielder that seemed to effortlessly glide past his opponents. Moore went on to make 85 league appearances for Cardiff. In recognition of his achievements he was named **Welsh Sports Personality of the Year in 1959**. Following his career with Cardiff he then played for Chelsea, Manchester United, Northampton Town, Charlton and finally Doncaster. He returned home to Wales, on his retirement from football and was laid to rest at Gelligaer Cemetery last February following a brave fight against cancer. Family members of the late Mr Graham Moore approached Gelligaer Community Council requesting our assistance with the provision of a memorial, in the village, in recognition of Mr Graham Moore's many outstanding footballing achievements. In recognition of Mr Graham Moore's achievements and to inspire the younger generation, we requested and permitted by Caerphilly County Borough Council to rename Cascade Playing Field to the 'Graham Moore Playing Field' in his memory.



Fencing at Glanynant

The weather has been a bit hit and miss for outside photographs but on the day we met with the lovely family of the late Graham Moore we decided to take a picture of the green loop top fencing along Pengam Road which we funded (in the main) with Caerphilly County Borough Council. 240 metres is already installed with a further 115 metres to complete the work, which I'm hopeful will take place in the next few weeks. It is a big improvement visually, but more importantly it safeguards pedestrians, due to a sheer drop the other side.



From Solar Fields To Solar Schools Gelligaer Community Council Have Gifted Solar Installations At 6 Of Our Primary Schools, And A Further 2 Is Planned For This Year.

The solar installation and the book (The Gelligaer Giant) was made possible due to a grant received by the Community Council from Hendai Solar Ltd, the owner of a 13.4MW solar farm at Hendai Farm, Gelligaer, South Wales, CF82 8FU. The solar farm was constructed in March 2015 and consists of 51,900 solar panels and associated electrical infrastructure. The solar farm is expected to generate around 12.85 million kWh of renewable energy per annum for the next 25 years. The annual generation equates to the average electricity usage of approximately 3,670 homes. I hope to provide further information and pictures in our next newsletter in relation to the pupils monitoring energy usage, gathering the data and learning of clean renewable energy.

Dog Fouling Enforcement - DON'T let someone else pay the penalty - Tell us about it

Help us to crack down on dog fouling by telling us if there are areas in Cascade, Gelligaer, Cefn Hengoed, Hengoed, Tiryberth & Ystrad Mynach, where it is a problem. Send us an email enviroservices@caerphilly.gov.uk or call us on 01443 866544, telling us where and when you have seen dog fouling. Please be as precise as possible (i.e. in the north east corner of the park, next to the swings and times) to help us to target the problem. **Dog Fouling** - Dog fouling is consistently one of the highest sources of complaints by the public to MPs, local councillors and local authorities.

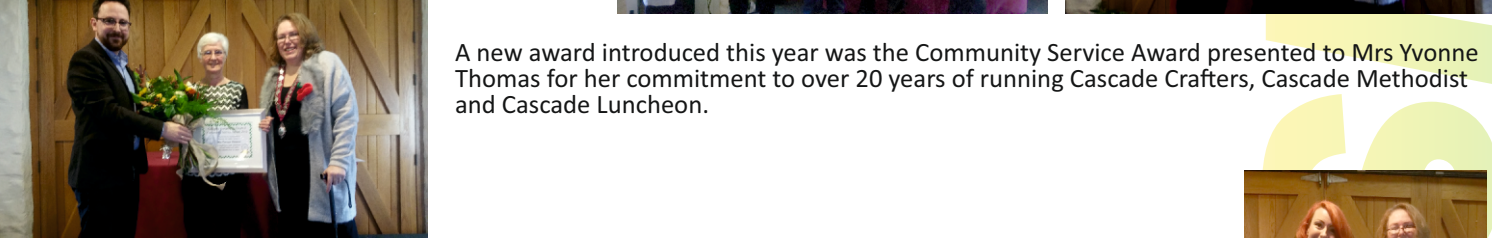


Presentation / Chairman’s Event & Young Citizens Award
Llancaiach Fawr

Our Presentation this year was held at Llancaiach Fawr on Saturday 12th November 2016. It was a lovely occasion to award grants to our clubs and thank our volunteers.



Also Hefin David AM for Caerphilly presented our annual Young Citizen’s Award to 3 pupils of Trinity Fields School Ystrad Mynach, Sasha Maisey, Lee Morris and Tammy Stone, for their outstanding work running Caffi Oren at Trinity Fields. Another Young Citizen’s Award was presented to Connor Webb for his dedication to fund raising for Velindre Cancer Hospital through sponsored runs.



A new award introduced this year was the Community Service Award presented to Mrs Yvonne Thomas for her commitment to over 20 years of running Cascade Crafters, Cascade Methodist and Cascade Luncheon.

Chairman Cllr Donna Cushing presented Ty Hafan with a cheque for £530 which was money raised through the sale of pantomime tickets. And during the afternoon a further £262 was raised for Ty Hafan, thanks to the generosity of all those that attended the event. The Chair kindly donated the raffle gifts with the exception of a contribution from Noel’s Butchers in Ystrad Mynach. Thank you to Noel.



Following the presentation we enjoyed a lovely meal. We then sat back to enjoy The Melody Makers perform.

As the Chair stated in her message on page 1, our presentation was to thank all our hard working clubs, groups, organisations, all mainly volunteers, for their invaluable contribution to the community.

IRRESPONSIBLE PARKING IN YSTRAD MYNACH –
Please show some consideration to other road users and pedestrians

Hi everyone,
My name is Ian Muirhead and I am the Inspector from Gwent Police who has responsibility for policing your area. I would like to take this opportunity to talk to you all about illegal parking, which is the most complained about issue in your area.

Most reports relate to cars being parked on double yellow lines in Ystrad Mynach Town Centre, however, we are also receiving reports of cars parking on pavements causing an obstruction to pedestrians, in bus stops and even sometimes double parking blocking the whole road.
It is clear to me that road users know that this activity is illegal because when my officers are present the activity stops.
Please can I appeal to all motorists to park legally and responsibly. My officers will be out and about and issuing parking tickets where appropriate.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Clubs & organisations that we have supported this year are:

Cefn Hengoed Majestic Jazz Band, Ystrad Mynach Boys & Girls Club, Boxing Club Gelligaer, CHAD, Croeso Club, Cylch Meithrin Penpedairheol, Greenhill Allotments Gelligaer, Tiryberth Primary PTA, Cefn Hengoed Pensioners, Cascade Carvers, Shelter Cymru, Bargoed & District Art Society, Eisteddfod y Cymoedd, Pengam Pigeon FC, The Melody Makers, Rhymney Valley Music Club, Tredomen Allotment Society, Ystrad Mynach OAP’S, Gelligaer Historical Society, Cascaid Community Action Group, Cascade & District Allotment Association, Derwendeg Primary PTA, Gelligaer Ladies Bowls, Gelligaer Local History Appreciation Society, Ffrindiau Penalltau, Tiryberth Tuesday Afternoon Bingo Club, 1st Ystrad Mynach Scout Group, Cross Keys Football Club, Cascade Crafters, Cascade Scrabble. Friends of Lewis Girls.

Projects that we have undertaken: Tiryberth Village Hall (notice board), Cascaid Action Group (generators for Santa’s sleigh) Glanynant Memorial Hall (fencing & gate), Defibrillator at Ystrad Mynach town, Gelligaer Boxing Club (new roof), Solar Schools (solar panels on 6 schools plus additional 2), Cefn Hengoed Youth Centre (install showers), Glanynant (355 metres of fencing), Christmas lighting and tree, Ystrad Mynach Christmas Market/Fayre, Hanging baskets at Ystrad Mynach, Family Day Trip to the beach, Young Citizens Awards, Community Service Award, Newsletter (this edition), Cefn Road Hengoed Welfare Playground (installation of pathway), Book (Gelligaer Giant / Cawr Gelligaer), Compost Toilet at Parc Penallta (to be installed soon).

Book Launch - The Gelligaer Giant

‘Gelligaer Community Council believes that reading to your child at an early age will help to improve your child’s literacy and create a healthy appetite for books, which will undoubtedly lead to a brighter future. So please try and settle down for some quiet time each day or night with your child and enter the world of make believe...’.

“Elsie was a little girl from Gelligaer and she was a believer...”

Communities First worked with Author & Illustrator Mike Church, PETRA (Parents Engaging to Raise Expectations) and local parents to create a magical book which was launched back in September at Greenhill Primary School, which went down very well if we could measure the laughter! Following the book launch every child at Greenhill Primary were given a copy of the book and book mark. Happy reading guys!! The Community Council also funded the translation and printed a Welsh version, and hope to hold another event with Mike Church at YGG Penalltau.



PETRA is a project designed to improve the level of basic skills, increase the number of achieved qualifications and aims to improve the life opportunities for families. This is achieved by supporting parent’s and carers to work in a school environment to experience the process of producing a storybook, which they will be proud to read to their children and grandchildren.



Councillor’s Contact Details:

You Ward Members are:
Please contact them if you have any issues.

Table with 4 columns: Ward, Councillor, Email Address, Telephone No. Rows include Hengoed, Cefn Hengoed, Cascade, Gelligaer, Tir y Berth, Ystrad Mynach.



Gelligaer Community Council Newsletter
Newyddion Bro Cyngor Cymuned Gelligaer



www.facebook.com/Gelligaercc

In November we launched a facebook page. Please follow, Like and Share us. It contains information & photos on events, projects and other council business with a link to our websites too -

www.gelligaercommunitycouncil.org.uk
www.romangelligaer.org.uk

Issue No.9
Spring 2017

Welcome to our 9th Community Council Newsletter.
With the local elections looming on Thursday 4th May 2017, I would like to thank the current Members of Gelligaer Community Council for their support, commitment and hard work over the past 5 years.
If you interested in becoming a Community Councilor please check out our website www.gelligaercommunitycouncil.org.uk or contact the clerk on 01443 822863 for further information and nomination packs.
At our Annual Meeting in May last year Cllr Donna Cushing was elected as Chairman to the Council for the preceding year and Cllr Martyn James as Vice.



Cllr Donna Cushing, despite illness, has had a very proactive year supporting the Council and local causes and as Clerk to the Council.

Chair’s Message: In May 2016 I was humbled to be elected as Chair of Gelligaer Community Council and truly honoured to receive the full support of all members present.
This was my first time to be elected as Chair and I must say it came as a bit of a shock with regards to the duties involved. Having said that, I am thoroughly enjoying my term and meeting everyone. As you may already know the Community Council annually funds and organises a family day trip to the beach. Back in August, I attended the event as a coordinator for one of the areas. It was a lovely sunny day in Barry and it was wonderful to see all the children and pensioners having a good time.
I have received invitations and a warm welcome from the Pensioner groups. I also attended the majority of the pantomime performances, and knew the script word for word by the last show. And of course I was dragged to the stage to participate in the show at the Lindsay Club. Of course they could not go ahead without the support of our volunteers and community centre management committees, who prepare the halls, set up the chairs and ensure that we can safely enjoy the performances. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our communities and if it wasn’t for them we as a community council would not be able to deliver our projects.
As a way of thanking our volunteers and clubs and recognising their hard work throughout the year, we held a presentation/reception at Llancaiach Fawr in November, alongside our Young Citizens Award.
I feel overwhelmed by their generosity, in giving their free time to the community and I hope that by supporting our clubs with grant donations from the community council and the Presentation afternoon, our fabulous volunteers feel valued.

As Chair, it has been an absolute privilege to be part of this, and I must thank you all for making me so very welcome at your events.
Cllr Donna Cushing, Chairman.

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