

Mynydd Newsletter April 2013

Editorial

This long wet, icy and now snowy winter continues to dominate our lives. At last a respite from the constant rain and low cloud has given us access to the fantastic views forming the setting to Mynydd Llandegai. It amuses me when on TV programmes I hear presenters extolling the beauty of the views as they gaze across a totally flat field, I want to lead them to my window and say “now there’s a view”.

Sometimes I feel that I no longer fully appreciate the beauty of the area in which we live. At one time when I was on the hill every day and a member of the OVMRO, I had the opportunity to appreciate the mountains from all angles and in all their majestic beauty. Now, as the poet said, I can only “stand and stare” at their ever changing grandeur.

No sooner had I written this than the hills were obscured by snow clouds and the so-called ‘spring’ blizzards began. Our early Easter is a white one and the bitter cold continues. Hopefully by the time this goes to print the weather will have relented. I’m sure all the gardeners would be grateful for a respite.

In spite of the weather a full programme of clubs and classes is in full swing. Pantomime and Pontio performances in the Hall are reviewed later. Hope you all had a really good Easter and that summer will be a happy one.

Carol Rickard

Chas and Ilona Sewell

The community life of a village such as Mynydd Llandegai relies heavily upon the efforts of local volunteers. Those who step forward to help assume responsibility for local affairs are much appreciated. Two such village members are Chas and Ilona Sewell, who have lived here since 1975, but are now planning to leave Mynydd Llandegai.

After many years of lively social events, there was a time when community life was at a low ebb. The foundation of Antur Mynydd, in which Chas was instrumental, brought to life again the village events on offer. Part of its legacy was the foundation of the establishment of a variety of long running village clubs which are still well supported today.

For many years Chas has served as a trustee of the Memorial Hall and during this time he has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Hall. His ability to attract large grant money and to steer a project from inception to conclusion, resulted in the total Hall refurbishment from which we all benefit today. In addition he was instrumental in the success of the recent community changing rooms extension to the Hall. Projects such as these require dedication and endless hours of hard work which Chas has been prepared to give. There is no task too large or too small for him to tackle for the benefit of the Hall and the Village.

Ilona has been wholeheartedly involved in village life. For many years she has served as Secretary to the Memorial Hall Committee, where her efficiency has been much appreciated. She is totally committed to any project she undertakes, projects among many others as diverse as the organisation of an Open Village Day or the copying of details from the gravestones in St. Ann’s Church, which she undertook on behalf of the History Club and the Gwynedd Family History Society. Whatever the task her involvement is dedicated and complete. She has also organised or supported various village clubs, including Garden Club, History Club, Flower Arranging and Clwb y Mynydd, thus emphasising her contribution to community life.

The creation of a beautiful garden at Nos. 29 and 30 Tan y Bwlch, resulted in its inclusion in the National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens Handbook. Over the years Chas and Ilona have, in aid of charity, welcomed many hundreds of appreciative visitors from all over the country to their garden.

Village life has been enhanced by the contribution Chas and Ilona have made during their life here. We shall miss them when they leave. We wish them well wherever they choose to settle.

'Snow White and some Dwarves'

Panto Review by Pat Mowday Yates

"Oh No we won't!"

"Oh yes we will!"

... and we did!

Mynydd Amateur Dramatics put on another pantomime after many Friday evenings, snug in the Neuadd Goffa, writing a script and creating characters who fitted with our own character actors ... Nicki could be the Queen and wicked step mother, Dena her reluctant Lady in Waiting who finally gets the King back, Sarah the herbalist who can't tell a pill from a potion, Einir a very strange dwarf who



transforms to a glamorous beautician, Elin a sweet and nimble innocent Snow White who fall in love with the Prince (Maria stepped in there with a slap of her thigh) and morphs into Margaret, who like James, our Bunnikins the rabbit, alters after drinking the peculiar potion .. We wondered about a horse but decide our Mynydd Pantomime Cow would perfectly fit the bill with our trusted front Julie and trusted back Anwen.

Dwarfs? Lovely lads stepped in, Macsen as Bashful, Josh as Dopey, Finn as Doc, Barney as Sneezzy, all with little beards and printed tee shirts. Girls too were pleased to be dwarves, Grumpy would have been Sasha but she had been booked on a holiday so Hazel took on the role, Posy as Sleepy and Heidi as Happy. So we had our gang with little blue lanterns held high. Hey-Ho - Hey-Ho off to work they went on Sunday afternoons practising hard, making up lines then watching the fairies doing their moves under Anne's instruction of the complex transformation scene, with the twinkling lights, and tutus. Annabelle, Cara, Lidia and Milly (teased out from stage fright from hiding under the snooker table by our stage hands Alex and Lorna). Lights? Music? Now what? Tim got on with the job of timing the music, sourcing some spot lights which were delivered on the day of the first performance. As ever we were right up to the opening of the curtain before we had got everything sorted. CURTAIN!!! Who could pull the thing ... A quick dash to Sephan and we had our strong man. We had helpers with the refreshments, raffle, kid management, audience control!. Owein did the computer management on the first night and filming on the next. The Programmes and posters were prepared, translation was by the Youth Club and all was undertaken and seen to under pressure, once we had made a date we could all make!! The distribution of the invaluable Newsletter meant that every household knew of the production and we were fully booked on both nights. Marvelous wardrobe by Anne and the cast, and suggestive props, created a proper 'Panto' atmosphere, and the scene - behind - the screen was very comical and much appreciated by the audience,



judging by the laughs and applause. The players were all so dedicated, funny, original and talented and our production team so thorough, dogged and resourceful we felt we had done our utmost to entertain everyone. The Applause the Thanks, the Flowers, the Welsh National Anthem and the solid sense of a joyful community, were our reward.

"Can we be in the next one please?" said a Dwarf and some Fairies.

"Oh yes, you can!"

Storytelling Festival

March 2nd saw our second event organised by Pontio, a storytelling festival featuring Welsh and Indian Tales. The Pontio team did a fantastic job with the stage decoration, covering the sides, rear and front of the stage with drapes and using atmospheric lighting to highlight the storytellers and their props in the centre of the stage.

Marie Gwilym started the afternoon off with a tale aimed at the younger audience, requiring participation in a song, clapping, stamping and arm waving which was joined in with much enthusiasm by all the children (and most of the adults). Her props of bananas and puppets brought the tale to life though personally I could have done without the big spider!

A short break for drinks and an array of scrumptious cakes available courtesy of the drama group ladies and we were ready for The Unprecedented Unorthodox Preacher who was accompanied by Sheema playing the sitar and also providing an extra character voice. The tale of The King and the Corpse an 11th century Northern Indian story of Hindu and Buddhist origin was winding and involved, following the journey of a king obliged to carry the corpse of a hanged man on his back and solve a series of riddles. Sitar and drum music gave atmosphere to the tale and to keep us on our toes and make sure we were concentrating whenever the Preacher called "Ram Ram" we had to shout it back to him, with a repeat if he was not satisfied with our response!

Throughout the afternoon the snooker room hosted an arts and craft session under the supervision of Angela Roberts which was enjoyed by many of the children present, who popped in and out between colouring and making shadow puppets and listening to the stories.

All in all a very enjoyable afternoon. It was a little disappointing that the event was not better attended but since it was held on the first sunny and fine day for what seemed like an age probably not surprising that many had taken the chance to get outside without the need for five layers of waterproofs. Hopefully Pontio will book further events with us in the future.

Village Clubs

DRAMA

The success of the pantomime, which played to packed houses, means that enough money was raised to cover costs and to donate towards the upkeep of the Memorial Hall. There is no production planned for the moment, but hopefully various summer workshops will be arranged for young people. If you would enjoy joining in the fun of it all and contributing in any way you'd like, please do come and meet us ... the more the merrier. Contact No. 601508.

CHOIR

The choir, which continues to meet on Mondays at 7pm in the Church, goes from strength to strength. The repertoire now includes songs in various different languages. Bass, Tenor, Alto and Soprano all contribute to four part harmonies. All are welcome to join this convivial and friendly group. Come and try it!

GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club is ever hopeful that the weather will relent enough to begin the usual spring work in the garden. Want to know what summer could hold for your garden? Join the group when they meet at 29 Tan y Blwch on the first Friday of each month.

HISTORY CLUB

The History group has made excellent progress with building the archive and is glad to have been able to answer questions about individual houses. This small but dedicated group is open to all. You might find something of interest in the material we have already gathered.

FLOWER ARRANGING

Unfortunately illness and the weather have affected this year's meetings so that April was the first of the new year. Spring arrangements were the seasonal topic. Theta welcomes all comers. Come and see how enjoyable flower arranging can be, while you enjoy a cup of coffee.

YOUTH CLUB

For Youth Club members it's time for a summer break. Look out for news in the Autumn.

CLWB Y MYNYDD

February 20th was the first meeting of the New Year. Theta welcomed those present and sent good wishes to those who were unwell. A game of "Pronto" for small prizes was held with Janet Williams acting as Caller in Dai Parry's absence. The arrangements were made for Afternoon Tea at the March meeting, our usual celebration of Dewi Sant.

March 20th was our Annual General Meeting. The present officers were re-elected; the balance sheet was read and accepted with thanks to Dai Parry. Thanks also to Theta and others who had helped arrange meetings in the past year. It was decided that the annual subscription remain at £20. Business over, we enjoyed our afternoon tea provided by Coed y Brenin Cafe and once again paid for by members of Amana Chapel to whom we gave a vote of thanks for their generosity. We were then asked to think of where to go on our June trip. One suggestion was a trip to Llangollen where we could have a trip on the canal and a meal either at the cafe or on the barge. Jackie was asked if she would get further information on times and costs, so that along with any other ideas a discussion could be held at the April meeting.

Our guest for April will be Mrs Angharad Hughes, well known for her beautiful patchwork. She will share some of her crafts and ideas. We look forward to a happy afternoon with her. Also the venue for the June trip will be decided.

Best wishes to all who are ill for a speedy recovery.

Edith Jones

The Easter Bunny Trail

Easter Monday proved to be a sunny and almost windless day really suitable for purpose with the sun glistening on the still lying snow.

It was a joy to see the children walking up to Lon y Grug, with their grown ups and dogs in tow. To keep the children warm and entertained, the group of around thirty played traditional games such as 'Simon Said', followed by star jumps, marching and calling out at the tops of their voices for the Easter Bunny.

The group walked the forest tracks in Parc y Bwlch to find the Easter Bunny hiding in the snow behind a pine tree with his basket of eggs and Easter chicks. We want to thank Coetir Mynydd for donating the eggs and Pat, Einir, Linda and James for organising such a fun filled event.

