



Issue No.5
Winter Newsletter 2011/12

Gelligaer Community Council Newsletter

Newyddion Bro Cyngor Cymuned Gelligaer

I am very proud to have been elected chairman of the Community Council this year, and I would firstly like to thank Councillor Martyn James for his outstanding contribution as chairman last year, and for his continued support as my right hand man (vice chairman), this year.



A little about myself now...I have been married to my husband Colin for 37 years and have lived all my married life in Penpedairheol and Hengoed.

We have brought up our three children here, Rhian, Hafwen and Geraint and we are now enjoying our lovely grandchildren Cai, Efan, Elena, Serena, Dorothy and Flynn.

I have been working for Welsh Water for the last six years and before that, I worked for Panasonic. Some of you, however, may remember me as "Auntie Teresa" at the Cylch Meithrin in Gelligaer.

I am on the governing bodies of two local schools, Hengoed Primary and Ysgol Bro Allta and yes, I thrive on being busy. But I do like to find time to relax on a Tuesday evening at the craft club in Hengoed Community Centre.

I do hope you will all enjoy reading our newsletter and agree that the community groups and projects we as your community council support are very worthwhile.

Best Wishes
Cllr Teresa Parry, Chairman

School Environmental Competition 2011

Three years ago Gelligaer Community Council invited all primary schools in the area to participate in a school environmental competition.

Each year, for the past 3 years, the Community Council has given £1,000 to each school towards their environmental project.

Many thanks to all the schools who took part. Not every school can be a winner, but they all did some really good work.

We are delighted to announce this years winners and share with you some of the photographs taken during our visits and judging, they were:

1st place - Y G G Bro Allta

2nd place - Ystrad Mynach Primary

3rd place - Y G G Penalltau (our new school who joined the competition 2 years ago)

We invited the children, mums, dads and teachers of the 3 winning schools to a presentation evening in recognition of their huge achievements.

The Chairman, Cllr Teresa Parry presented them with trophies and prizes.



School Environmental Competition 2011

All three winning schools embraced this challenge and project with gusto. Here are some of the photos to share with you.

1st Place - Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Allta



The knowledge, enthusiasm and pride that the children have shown throughout this project has been infectious.

Each child of the 3 winning schools has been involved and the whole school have worked tirelessly as a team, offering support, advice and encouragement to each other.

This project has pulled them together with the aim of improving their environment.

Their knowledge and discipline is evident – their planted areas of flowers and produce are weed free and watered regularly each taking on the responsibility in turn.

When the members and judge visited their school in July, the children presented their work with pride, passion and confidence.



Some also roped in their parents and the school caretakers helped out enormously, so well done to all of you.

Visually, their outside spaces are delightful masses of colourful flowers, vegetables, recycling and creativity.

Their bug hotels attract the most delightful of insects! Their flowers call to the butterflies and bees, and the bird boxes are welcoming homes to bluetits and other birds.



Bro Allta cleverly recycled items by using old sinks, tyres and even toilets as planters!! They have a plastic bottle green house (home to fantastic tomatoes) with guttering and down pipe to collect rainwater from the roof into a water butt, which is then used to water their thriving plants.

The sculpture and mosaic slabs were created by recycling old, used and unwanted materials.

2nd Place - Ystrad Mynach Primary School



Ystrad Mynach Primary school recycled old plastic bottles and tyres, which they brightly painted to hold and display their beautiful flowers.

They too roped in their parents who helped to paint the fences and brighten up the area.



Having lessons outside surrounded by the aromatic herbs and flowers that they have planted and regularly weed and water must be delightful and must make learning all the more pleasurable.

3rd Place - Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Penalltau



Ysgol Penalltau, a relatively new primary school joined us in this competition last year.

To win 3rd place this year, they successfully planted and nurtured flowers, fruit, vegetables and herbs in large planters.

They made and painted pictures of bugs and flowers, which brightened up their fences.

They have shown a great understanding of what is required to nurture their plants and they were full of enthusiasm and pride when showing us around.

They have cut back and cleared a large patch of woodland to the rear of their playground and have erected bird boxes and they regularly put food out for the birds.

The log circle is a great place to hear the latest stories of the Gruffalo. It's now a delightful area for them to explore, learn and enjoy.

Gelligaer Community Council Young Citizens' Award 2011.



Jordan Franklin, a young man from Cefn Hengoed, came to the rescue of a gentleman who had collapsed at Hengoed Station.

Through Jordan's quick thinking and using his newly learnt first aid skills, he was able to care for the gentleman until the paramedics arrived on the scene.

At a recent presentation evening the chairman of Gelligaer Community Council, Cllr Teresa Parry and Cllr Rob Thomas presented Jordan with a certificate and gift voucher in recognition of his compassion and good deed.

IF YOU KNOW OF A YOUNG PERSON WHO HAS DONE SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY AND DESERVES RECOGNITION – PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE CLERK.

NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN THE 29TH FEBRUARY 2012

Festival 4 Stars

Nia Smith of Gelligaer, Molly Thomas of Pen y Bryn and Niamh Quinn of Cascade are three talented young girls. They started dancing around in their bedroom for fun, then went on to choreograph a dance routine which won them a place in September, representing Wales at the Scarborough Festival 4 Stars Regional Finals 2011.

Along the way they gathered much support from the local community, who were willing and wishing them to do well.

There were many fund raising events to help pay towards the girls' costumes, jazz shoes and accommodation for the weekend festival.

The girls gave a fantastic performance at the event, despite not winning, and received a very warm and supportive reception from the audience and judges.

They competed against children from dance and theatre schools across the UK.

Very well done girls.

The Chairman, Cllr Teresa Parry, attended one of their many rehearsals and presented a cheque to the delightful young girls with best wishes from the Community Council.





Tiryberth Woodland & Pond Project

Gelligaer Community Council funded this project using the expertise and help of Dave Beveridge of CCBC's Parks Services, Janine Reed of Groundwork Caerphilly, Gelligaer & Tiryberth Youth Clubs and the Tiryberth & Glanynant Partnership.

What took place:

- 5 ponds dug out
- footpath put in through the trees
- log circle was created
- several wild flower areas created
- Gelligaer and Tiryberth youth clubs enthusiastically planted 500 native pond plants
- 12 bird boxes were constructed and erected



Hopefully, this project has many benefits for the community:

- By providing walkways it is now accessible and will entice and encourage local residents to do more walking to alleviate obesity and mental health issues.
- Children can't resist getting wet and muddy and can now investigate and learn through play all about plants, pond life and other wild life.
- Involving the youth groups and school children in the planting has provided them with a sense of ownership and pride. It has encouraged them to work as a team and to create a beautiful environment for themselves and others to enjoy.
- It teaches them to be more aware and respectful of their environment and the wider community. It creates a sense of respect and they are far less likely to vandalise an area that they have helped to restore to its natural state.
- The log circle is an excellent place for local school children to have creative writing lessons, science and story time etc
- Mums and toddlers can walk and picnic in a tranquil setting.
- It is perfect for dog walkers.



It has helped to enrich biodiversity as it is now a haven for wildlife - there are frogs and three species of dragonflies have been spotted – Common Darter, Southern Hawker (pictured) and Broad-bodied Chaser. The plants too are flourishing.



If you have any suggestions, concerns or issues that you wish to discuss with your Ward Member or the Clerk please feel free to contact them either by email, telephone or visit one of their surgeries or the Council Office at Llwyn Onn, Penpedairheol.

Your Ward Members are:

Cascade Ward



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