

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT for 2021

We started the 2019/2020 year with lots of good intentions! Immediately after the AGM on Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 2019, there were two events already in the diary.

1. The Hydro site visit on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. A well-attended event (despite the mud, wind and rain). Very informative and most interesting. Our thanks to Ewan Campbell-Lendrum and Roman for their time and sharing of information.
2. Kids Santa Visit at The Towy Bridge. This was a particularly good occasion with the children almost self-combusting with excitement!

These were followed by another of Penny's Quiz' which was held at the Oak on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. As usual, a great quiz by Penny, and a good little turnout. Following a general winter hibernation, we had our first General Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March. A number of events were proposed; a few agreed, and a few diarised -these included:

- Another quiz by Penny
- Easter Egg Hunt
- More 'evening's with'

Sadly, none of these events could take place. The Covid19 pandemic and lockdown meant a new way of life for us all.

Inspired by Ellie Humphries, the committee, posed the question of 'any willing volunteers' to assist should there be a need. Fabulous response, and we were able to set up the "Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Rhandirmwyn Support". Thankfully – the helpline was not used which is a testament to the wonderful community spirit here anyway with everyone looking after their family, friends and neighbours. The facebook page became a strong platform for our local communication.

A few days before Easter we were approached by the Mount Pleasant family, offering to facilitate the filming of an Easter Message from Vicar Ann McKnight. We were delighted that Ann was back in good health and able to deliver the Easter Message, which was shared on facebook, by newsletter and on our website.

By May, deep in lockdown, Tony Barnes came up with the brilliant idea of a 'scarecrow competition. He also donated the prizes which we are so grateful for. The celebrity judges had a task beyond all their imaginations when they agreed to judge! We are hugely grateful to them - Nick & Julie, Barry & Julie and Louise & Ellie. Massive congratulations to everyone that took part, and in particular the winners. A huge success. All the pictures are on our website.

We also organised a 'Treasure Hunt/Village Quiz' with the emphasis on walking the route and bonus points for supporting our two village pubs. Congratulations to the winners, who completely embraced the bonus points! Questions and answers are on the website.

We would also like to thank Tony for his Covid19 updates from Coleg.

The committee completed one of its tasks from the March GM – the sale of some of the bulky furniture from storage. The money will be used to replace with more appropriate equivalents.

The marquee and chairs which had been booked out for hire obviously also did not happen.

But at the end of the day – what's important is everyone's health and well-being during those/these unprecedented times. The original message remained as: Stay safe; continue to look after one another.

### November 2021 AGM. Chairman's Report.

The very strange times we all found ourselves living through continued; By October/November 2020, it started to look like a very long bleak Winter. I imagine everyone started yearning for warm Spring days. However,

..... it has been extremely heartening.... because of the many people who have volunteered /taken the lead in organising and actually getting a project off the ground. I am extremely grateful to these people for their positive, and massive contribution for the good of the community. For example:

1. Huw Joes took the role of community coordinator for the Broadband
2. We succeeded in a socially distant Christmas Gift collection for the children. No Santa, but it didn't much reduce the excitement of the children!
3. Sadly, we had to cancel the Adult Secret Santa that was arranged for the following Sunday with bring your own cup for some mulled wine.
4. Then Spring eventually sprung and Facebook continued to keep us informed and in conversation.
5. A mysterious Easter Bunny arrived for a gloriously warm Easter Weekend inviting everyone to collect chocolate eggs hidden around the loop via some cryptic clues. Many took part and a good time had by all. A BIG thank you to the Easter Bunny.
6. In the summer, Peter Braithwaite with the assistance of some volunteers strimmed the 'triangle'. Thank you Peter. But since then, we have been fortunate to have Stewart from Nantymwyn Terrace to extend his other garden services to include the upkeep of the triangle on an ongoing basis. We are hugely grateful to him for doing this for the community. Thank you so much Stewart
7. We have also been extremely fortunate with a donation of a bench on the 'upper triangle' from Gareth Lloyd. I would like to thank Steve Davis who secured this kind donation from Gareth. In addition, Steve offered to repair the fallen acorn sign on the triangle and repair the wobbly legs of the Notice Board.
8. Bev and Jane arranged for empty 'medicated tablet blister packs' to be collected in a bin at the disused bus stop for recycling. It was widely used, but no sooner than it started the recycling facility was withdrawn due to its overwhelming popularity! Maybe we could revisit this at some point. Since then, Bev has arranged for Crisp packets to be recycled. Thank you, Bev, for taking ownership of this initiative.
9. Goricia has continued with the Knit and Natter evenings.
10. And finally, thank you to Ian Watts for seeing through and securing the re-installation of the broken and removed plaque for the 1913 Towy Bridge. CCC have re-produced the plaque from the original mould, and it will be repositioned very soon.

By September 2021, it seemed that life was starting to get back to a 'new normal'. With many new people having moved into the village, we arranged a social evening as an opportunity to meet and greet old and new residents.

Two such events took place and were well attended. However, with Covid cases on the increase again and general threats from the Welsh Government to reduce the numbers or else, we decided to postpone the scheduled Penny's Fun Quiz ...yet again! We hope that this can go ahead early in the new year. At those two evenings we asked people what sort of events they would like to see taking place in and around the village. A number of old favourites were suggested, but in the main those with the most interest was for outdoor events, and again I am extremely grateful to those that have taken the lead on such activities

1. Jane has taken ownership of nature walks and some have already taken place.
2. Village Carol Signing was suggested, but we are yet to have a leader for this to take place.
3. Welsh lessons. Many people indicated an interest, but disappointingly much fewer have registered a formal interest since additional information was made available. Hopefully the lessons can commence in the New Year, and this was discussed at the recent Community Council meeting which are seeking suitable options.
4. Ian Hayes – is looking to start a book club based at The Oak. Early days but we sincerely hope it'll get off the ground.
5. Doesn't look like Santa will be able to visit the village children again this year, but depending on Covid rules there is a date in the diary for the children to collect a gift ...possibly from the bus stop again. TBC.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank the 6 committee members for the pleasure of working with them of the last two or so years.

We have always had amenable meetings/discussions, be in face to face, via zoom or email. Thank you to Georgie for looking after the money, to Neil for updating the website page, to Phil for being the Deliberator Care-Taker, and to Sam for organising all the children events which we've had over the years, and to each and everyone for their contributions to our many points of discussion.

Thank you Everyone. Nerys.