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Pencoed Welfare Hall

New Heart to the Town

In the first issue of the Hyphen we published a potted history of the Hall from the opening in 1966 through to the present day, concluding with a brief reference to the Working Group and the major source of funding for the re-development project.

When the first issue of the Hyphen was being delivered, the building work had just begun. Now, as the work nears completion, is probably an opportune time to identify the make-up of the working-group and the various sources of funding which turned this plan into a reality.

The officers of the Management Committee of the Welfare Hall formed the nucleus of this group, and they realised at the outset, that expert help would be needed, particularly in formulating the essential business plan.

Therefore the group were fortunate to enlist the help of Mr Steve Lloyd, of Steve Lloyd & Associates, who drew up the plans; Mr Ian Edwards, of Whittinghams, Solicitors, who guided us through the legal matters and Mr David Prosser, Community Development Officer, of Bridgend County Borough Council, whose help drawing up the business plan and leading us in the right direction for match-funding for the project, should not be under-estimated.

The Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) awarded a grant of £40,000 and, this, coupled with a grant of £10,000 from the Welsh Office was the major source of funding. Now began the onerous and sometimes de-

moralising task, of match-funding. This was no mean task, for the estimated cost of the project was well in excess of £100,000.

The financial help came from different sources, Councils, Charitable Trusts and Foundations, individuals and one or two User Groups of the Welfare Hall. To give some examples: Pencoed Town

contributors will be published to coincide with the official opening of the new extension.

To all intents and purposes, this first phase of the re-development is now complete.

There are one or two minor items to be addressed. The new coffee lounge will soon be furnished and we are actively seeking funding to purchase computers for the I.T. Room.



Council £16,000; Lankelly Trust £15,000; Coalfields Regeneration Trust £19,700;

Garfield Weston Foundation £5,000; Tudor Trust £4,000; Redrow Ltd £4,000 A European grant of £3,000 accessed through Bridgend County Borough Council.

The above is a list of the major funders. We were particularly pleased to receive support from local individuals, organisations and user clubs of the Welfare Hall. To name just a few would be unfair, may we assure you that a comprehensive list of all the

We are aware that there are further minor and major improvements to be made, but, so far, the comments we have received have been favourable, particularly in respect of the new hall clock.

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**Delivered
FREE
to every house in
Pencoed**

Editorial Bigger, Better Hyphen

The Council initially decided to publish a newsletter (now known as "The Hyphen") for a trial period of one year (four issues).

Because of the response we have received, the Council has not only decided to carry on publishing the Hyphen, but from the next issue it will be bigger. This will give us more room to publish photographs and more news from around the town.

Why not take advantage of this, if you are part of a voluntary organisation why not write in and let us know what you are doing. If you are looking for new members why not advertise the fact in the Hyphen.

WWW Dot

The Hyphen is going online. The Council has set up a web-site, which will give you all the news in this newsletter plus more. With luck the site should be up and running by the time that this newsletter reaches you.

The new Hyphen Online will not be so restricted for space (giving more news, more photographs). It will be more up to date because it can be updated more regularly (at least once a month). It will be in glorious colour; and of course will be available outside Pencoed (in fact world wide)

So if you have access to a computer and the internet, our address is

WWW.pencoedhyphen.co.uk

Editorial Staff

Cllr. John Butcher
Cllr Derek Gregory
Cllr Colin Hewlett

Just a Minute

'The Hyphen'

The Hyphen will, hopefully, increase in length next financial year. This will enable the Editorial team to incorporate more pictures.

'Pencoed on the Internet'

This is being explored. (see Editorial - WWW Dot)

Pedestrian Crossing

Installation of a crossing in the vicinity of the Square is being pursued.

Islawen Meadows

A site meeting has been held with a representative of Lovell Developers. We are now expecting a big improvement on the site of the Well. The inscription selected is "Fynnon Groyw Loyw Penprysg".

Which means "Bright Sparkling Spring of Penprysg".

Audit of Accounts

The annual audit of the Town Council Accounts has now been satisfactorily completed.

Festive Lights

The quote for our Christmas Tree and lights was accepted. New regulations have been introduced which require that these be taken down at the end of the Christmas period. This does create a substantial additional cost to this Council.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Hafod Las/St. John's Drive area have set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. ■

Matters Arising

Civic Service

The Mayor's Civic Service of Thanksgiving was very well attended. The Mayor & Mayoress of Bridgend County Borough Council attended, together with Civic Leaders throughout the Borough, in support of Councillor and Mrs Eric Alford. It was gratifying to see so many local organisations in attendance. Croesty Primary School Choir made a delightful contribution to the Service, as did Huw Roberts, Head Boy of Pencoed Comprehensive School, who read a lesson. Let us not forget our Rector, the Reverend Nicholas Jones, whose leadership of the Service and his Address was most uplifting. Many thanks to you all.

Firework Display

We hope you enjoyed the fireworks this year, despite the rain which managed to arrive just as we were about to start. The venue was a great improvement and it is hoped this will now become our permanent site.

Christmas Kaleidoscope

The postponed Mayor's Christmas Concert is now being

arranged around the St. David's Day period. We look forward to a splendid musical evening. Look out for the posters - failing all else one will be displayed on the new Town Council Notice Board in The Square.

Charity Collections

The freewill collections from the Civic Service and the re-arranged Musical Concert will be donated to K.R.U.F. which is this year's Mayor's Charity.

The Mayor, Councillors and Town Clerk wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year ■

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Keeping Fit and Healthy

If you are looking to keep fit, particularly through the long winter nights, there's a new non-profit making charity running fitness classes in the Welfare Hall from 8.00 to 9.00 on a Wednesday evening.

The classes are for all ages and consist of exercises to improve flexibility, mobility, strength and stamina, relaxation, toning and posture correction. The Classes are run by "The Fitness League", an offshoot of an old established organisation, "The Women's League of Health and Beauty".

If you would like to book into one of the classes or want more information please contact Mrs Judith Gregory on Pencoed 863858. ■

Giving It Credit

As we go to press, we hear that attempts are being made to establish an outpost of the Bridgend County Credit Union in the Pencoed Area. A Credit Union is a non-profit making Co-operative where members can save their money and have access to loans at extremely reasonable rates. The organisation is looking both for members and, more importantly, volunteers to help run it.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Credit Union or want more information, please call Mr Kelvyn Hatch on Pencoed 861358 ■

Letters to the Editor

The editorial Staff have received two lengthy letters from residents in the town. We regret that, due to lack of space, we are unable to publish these in full (**if you do write to us, Please keep your letters relatively short**). Below, we have produced a synopsis of a letter from Mr David Barnes of Llwyn Bedw with a few comments from the editors (*in brackets*). We will hopefully publish parts of the other letter in the next issue.

Dear Editor,

Along with many people, I am worried about increased traffic flow after construction of the new houses at Hendre and wonder if consideration can be given to:

- (a) the widening of Hendre Road from the corner shop towards the crossing with the addition of a residents only lay-by .
- (b) the pedestrianisation of the shopping area between

Pencoed Carpets and the Main Post Office.

- (c) the prioritisation of traffic flow from Hendre Road onto Coychurch Road.
- (d) the revision of the traffic light system on Penprysg Bridge.

David Barnes, Llwyn Bedw.

- (a) *(A good idea but there are both technical and financial issues which prohibit this being undertaken at present).*
- (b) *(Again this may at first glance seem a good idea, but it may in the long term cause more problems than it sets out to cure).*
- (c) *(This is an idea that the Town Council has been actively pursuing for some time but the traffic experts seem to have differing views on this).*
- (d) *(The timing of these lights will indeed be altered when the new inner relief road comes on line).*

Editors



Where Is It?

Where is the local scene above? There are no prizes for guessing. We'll tell you in the next issue if you are right.

Plouzane Ahoy!

We have been informed by the Town Twinning Association that a visit is planned to Pencoed's Twin Town of Plouzane in Brittany for 27th 30th May 2001. The cost will be £80.00 per adult and £50.00 per child, plus insurance. Visitors will be hosted by families in Plouzane, alternatively hotel accommodation can be arranged. Places are limited. Anyone interested in this Town Twinning trip should contact the Secretary, Mrs Wendy McDonald on Pencoed 865633. ■

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN A STORY BEHIND THE NAME

There is no doubt that had Germany won the Battle of Britain in 1940 life in Pencoed would have been vastly different from what it is today. But it is thanks to people like Cyril Stevens, who flew and was killed in the Battle and whose name is recorded on the town's war memorial that the Luftwaffe did not win.

My thoughts were with Cyril on Sunday 17 September when I attended a service of thanksgiving and rededication to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain at Westminster Abbey. In fact, it was thanks to Cyril that I got into the Abbey at all. The entrance pass the Ministry of Defence had promised me failed to arrive. So in the company of my two friends, both of whom had entrance passes, I chanced my luck. Past the Guard of Honour and into the foyer of the Abbey, a quiet word with a Squadron Leader who appeared to be in charge. I quickly outlined my problem and mentioned Cyril and how fitting it would be for me to attend the service, not least as an unofficial representative of the town. As it turned out an entry pass had moments before been handed in because the person could not attend. A quick check with security and I was admitted. It was an honour to be in the company of the Few and their supporting groundcrew - both men and women.

After the service a lone Spitfire made two passes over the Abbey at a height which placed it just below the height of the London Eye!

Nevin Williams

If you have any short stories relating to Pencoed that you would like to see published, why not send them in.

Diary

Council Meetings

Council meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month, except in April, when it is the first Wednesday, and in August, when there is no meeting. The meetings are held in the Council Chamber at the Felindre Road Sports Pavilion. Meetings are open to the public. There is, however, only limited seating for the public. Full Minutes of Council meetings are available on request at the Pencoed Library on Penybont Road.

Future Meetings of the Council

10th January
14th February
14th March
11th April

Other Diary Dates

As you will know by now, the Mayor had to cancel the proposed Christmas Charity Concert, which was to be held at the Pencoed Welfare Hall on Saturday December 16th. This concert will now take place around about 1st March 2001. The concert will be advertised by poster and on the Town's Website as soon as a date has been firmed.

For the dates and venues of all Council events look up the "What's On" page on the town website.

WWW.
pencoedhyphen.co.uk

If your organisation would like to advertise a function either in this Newsletter or on the Website, please contact us.

Contact Point

Pencoed Town Council

Town Clerk

Mr Norman Davies
34 Bryn Rhedyn
Pencoed
BRIDGEND
CF35 6TL

Telephone 862345

Felindre Ward

Cllr. John Butcher – 862491
Cllr. Ken King – 860595
Cllr. Glyn Oram – 863300
Cllr. Trevor Williams – 860321

Hendre Ward

Cllr. Eric Alford – 862148
Cllr. Derek Gregory – 861321
Cllr. Colin Hewlett – 862975
Cllr. Mrs Sheila Jewell – 860156
Cllr. Doug John – 861594
Cllr. Glyn Jordan – 860400

Penprisk Ward

Cllr. Clayton Davies – 860925
Cllr. Mrs Lilian Davies – 860925
Cllr. Vernon Thomas – 860421

Bridgend County Borough Councillors

Cllr. Mrs Lilian Davies (Penprisk)
Cllr. Derek Gregory (Hendre)
Cllr. Doug John (Hendre)
Cllr. Ken King (Felindre)
General Inquiries 643643

Member of Parliament

Sir Raymond Powell, MP
House of Commons
Westminster
LONDON
Local Office – 01656 721300

National Assembly Member

Mrs Janice Gregory, AM
The National Assembly of
Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA
Local Office – 01656 724304

THIN BLUE LINES

This is the first in an occasional column from the community policing team at Pencoed, Chris Warlow, Andy Moffatt and Liz Thomas. We will try to use the Hyphen to address issues that are raised to us that may be of use or interest to the community that we police.

Firstly let me address the rumour that has reared it's ugly head again, namely that the Police Station at Pencoed is closed or is closing. **THIS IS UNTRUE!!!!** To my knowledge there are no plans to alter the manning at Pencoed. The three community officers at Pencoed have responsibilities to the communities of Pencoed and Heol-y-Cyw and their outlying districts. This is over and above the 24hour cover from the sector cars at Bridgend. This rumour seems to have its roots in the change of telephone procedures, which means that members of the public who phone the station are diverted through to Bridgend Police Station. This was done to prevent important messages being left on the answer-phone at Pencoed awaiting the res-

ponse of a community officer and to improve the overall response to calls from the public. This new system does not prevent you from asking to speak to a specific local officer for non-urgent matters.

Another thing that causes a lot of upset at this time of year are groups of youths causing nuisance either by using bad language or by engaging in other antisocial behaviour such as throwing eggs. We are actively engaged in trying to stop this by targeting the ringleaders. You can help in several ways.

Firstly, make sure you know where your children are and what they are up to? Several parents we have spoken to recently have been shocked to find that their children have been making other peoples' lives a misery whilst they were meant to be at youth club or at a sleep over at a friends house.

It appears that some people don't think that the Police can do anything about it, we can and will with your help. We need to have information as to where the problems are

occurring. If you don't want a Policeman to call at your house that is okay, but state this at the time you make the call. If you know who is to blame and you are willing to make a statement even better, you will be actively helping to make our community a better place to live in.

Finally, some crime prevention advice. Recently we have had a few thefts from cars in the area so please don't leave valuables in the car and please lock your car doors. Also if you have a shed or garage with tools or equipment of value inside, why not invest in a decent lock and hasp, after all £10 or £15 is not a great deal to protect hundreds of pounds. If you would like any crime prevention advice, please contact the crime prevention officer at Bridgend Police Station.

If there are any issues that you would like addressed in future editions, please let us know through the editor or drop us a line at Pencoed Police Station.

Chris Warlow PC147 ■

Flooding in Pencoed

Pencoed is built on the flood plain of the Ewenny river and so is likely to be flooded. The town is unusual in South Wales in that the catchment area of its rivers is within less than three miles, so a great deal of water passes through the valley in a short period.

Probably the worst flooding in living memory occurred at the end of the war, when there was 3 feet of water in the houses throughout what was then the village of Pencoed.

Since that time the village has grown five-fold with each new roof and drive increasing a rapid run-off compared with 'greenfield' run off. Watercourses, especially in Hendre Ward have been diverted and culverted to allow housing development.

So how did Pencoed fare in the recent wet weather ?

There have been two cases of serious flooding in recent years, in which the interior of homes has been affected.

Recently houses in Deri Avenue were flooded, and in December 1999, elderly residents in Coed-y-Graig were flooded.

Who or what is to blame ?

Heavy rain of course, but neither of the areas is in a particularly low spot.

The responsibility for the flooding lies mainly here, amongst us in the community of Pencoed.

Both recent cases of flooding have been caused by blocked culverts.

Culverts blocked by residents placing household or gar-

den rubbish into our watercourses.

In the 1999 case, a mattress and other household rubbish blocked the culvert in Glyn-y-Mel. This year the culvert in Deri Avenue was blocked by material from trees cut down upstream.

The Town Council urges all residents to behave in a responsible manner and refrain from throwing any items from garden or household into our watercourses, or tipping such material near to watercourses, causing untold misery to others.

PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR RIVERS, STREAMS AND WATERCOURSES CLEAR. IT COULD BE YOUR TURN NEXT.

Sheila Jewell ■