

# *Llantwit Major Town Council*

## *Cyngor Tref Llanilltud Fawr*



**“IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF LLANTWIT MAJOR”**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**For financial year 2018/19**

## **CONTENTS PAGE**

### **Page No**

3	Introduction by the Town Mayor
5	Background to the Report
6	Llantwit Major Town Council
7	Chapter 1 – A Prosperous Llantwit Major
11	Chapter 2 – A Resilient Llantwit Major
14	Chapter 3 – A Healthier Llantwit Major
18	Chapter 4 – A More Equal Llantwit Major
23	Chapter 5 – A Llantwit Major of Cohesive Communities
29	Chapter 6 – A Llantwit Major of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language
32	Chapter 7 – A Globally Responsible Llantwit Major
37	Chapter 8 – A Competent Council
38	Chapter 9 – Our Llantwit Major – Our Future
39	Chapter 10 – Participation & Shaping Local Services
41	Chapter 11 – Reduce Poverty & table inequalities
43	Chapter 12 – Children the best start in life
45	Chapter 13 – Protect, enhance and value our environment
47	Way forward
48–51	Pictures and press releases
52-56	Photographs of events
57-58	Copy of Llantwit Major Town Council News Letters
59	Photograph of Llantwit Major Town Council
60-67	Photographs and information of Llantwit Major Town Councillors
68-81	Appendix A – Citizen of Year Awards April 2019

## Introduction

Welcome to Llantwit Major Town Council's Annual Report for 2018/19, where you will find details of the work the Town Council has been undertaking over the past year. I have been very honoured to serve as Town Mayor during this period and to help take forward many initiatives and projects to enhance our growing town and to make it such a wonderful place in which to live and work.

At my inauguration last May, I outlined a number of objectives I wished to achieve during my term of office, based on "Making Llantwit Major a safer, more prosperous and a more sustainable town in which to live". In order to fulfil these aims, we organised a range of functions and promoted various projects, such as the 'water refill project', reducing the use of plastic and contributing to litter picks around the town and on the beach. In addition, the Town Council has improved the tennis courts, rebuilt the Sports Pavilion and redecorated the Llantonian Hall with a new kitchen. I have also personally been involved with the development of Neighbourhood Watches, reviving the Town Twinning Association with Le Pouliguen in France and considering applying for World Heritage site status for St. Illtud's Church and the surrounding area.

With the assistance of the Officers of the Town Council and many other willing helpers, we have enjoyed a range of very successful and well-supported events throughout the year in aid of my three chosen charities, Headlines, Age Connects and St. Illtud's Church, as well as contributing to other worthy causes such as Major Music and Croeso Llantwit. Events have included coffee mornings, a strawberry tea afternoon and various concerts, which have raised well over £3000. In addition, my Civic Service in St. Illtud's Church in July was a very uplifting and joyous occasion. Similarly, the very moving Remembrance Day commemorations in November will live long in everyone's memory, especially as the wonderful tapestry of poppies, created to celebrate 100 years since the end of the First World War, now hangs permanently in the Town Hall. To try to keep residents informed of all that is happening, I have published a monthly blog in the local newspaper and on the Llantwit Major hub.

Over the last year, I have also had the honour to represent the town at a number of functions across the Vale of Glamorgan and to visit a wide range of organisations. I have been privileged to meet many residents of the town and to get to know other mayors and dignitaries in the Vale of Glamorgan. I would like to thank all my fellow councillors and especially my Deputy Mayor, Bob Gant, as well as my wife and consort, for all the help and support they have given me throughout the year to help me achieve my aims.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the staff at the Town Hall, who have worked tirelessly to ensure all the events and projects have run smoothly and efficiently. Without their help, support and advice none of our achievements over the last year would have been possible. Due to so many people who give their time and commitment so willingly to the town, Llantwit Major is indeed a thriving community and a great place to live!!

Councillor Dr D Ellis  
Town Mayor



## **Background to this Report**

This report was compiled following the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The report shows how the Town Council has taken steps towards meeting local objectives as laid out in the local Well-being plan for our area. These objectives are based on our own knowledge and consideration of circumstances and characteristics for our area.

The Town Council have worked with many local organisations to meet the objectives laid out, either financially, administrative support or use of facilities.

Majority of 'projects' are published in the local newspaper, or on the Town Council website. Feedback is always encouraged from local residents.

The report covers the municipal year of Councillor Dr D Ellis term in office as Town Mayor and Chair of the Council, which started in May 2018.

Ruth Quinn

Town Clerk to Llantwit Major Town Council

## **LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL**

Llantwit Major Town Council serves a population of approximately 14,500. It is the third largest Town/Community Council within the catchment of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The Town Council was formed in 1978 although before this Llantwit Major was served by a Parish Council and this can be traced back to 1894.

Llantwit Major (Llanilltud Fawr) is steeped in history with it being named as the site of the main church of Illtud, one of the founding Saints of the monastic settlements of the 5th century AD in Wales. Nowadays Llantwit Major is surrounded by countryside and has excellent transport links, as well as to the South the Bristol Channel and the Heritage Coast line.

Llantwit Major Town Council is made up of 14 elected Councillors representing 4 wards, West Ward, South East Ward, North Ward and Boverton Ward. There is a team of 6 staff working both full time and part time delivering services on a daily basis.

The Council is responsible for many facilities, including 5 community buildings (2 of which are listed), bowling green, tennis courts, 2 playparks, 2 open spaces, recreation field, ornamental pond, cemetery and allotment site.

In 2013 the Town Council resolved to work in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Services and provide a Youth Council. This has continued to grow and representatives from the Youth Council regularly attend Full Town Council meetings and take part in discussions.

The majority of the Councils funds derive from its precept (this is the amount of Council tax allocated to the Town Council). The Council budgets both its income and expenditure for the coming financial year and then a precept request is submitted to the Vale of Glamorgan Council. For the financial year 18/19 the Council estimated that it would require an expenditure of £278,130 to allow for running costs of their facilities, projects and grants/donations. It was estimated that an income of £41,120 would be generated from its facilities, therefore the remainder; £237,010 would be funded from the precept request.

Further details regarding Council members, agendas, reports, minutes, finances and more information is available on the Town Council website [www.llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk).

## **CHAPTER ONE: A PROSPEROUS LLANTWIT MAJOR**

### **What we think we did well:**

- We successfully obtained a Welsh Government Rural Development Grant for £128,000 to improve the Communities sporting facilities on the Recreation Ground. Four new street lights have been installed around the path area of the field, four tennis courts are in the processes of being resurfaced and painted and part of the sports Pavilion at the Bowling Club is being rebuilt.
- Further refurbishment had been undertaken in the Old School Council Chamber, Old School Annexe and the Town Hall. The Council Chamber has been granted a Licence to formally hold Weddings. The Town Council are now offering affordable weekend Wedding packages for the residents of Llantwit Major.
- A new Online Hiring Booking System is in the process of being introduced to market all our Hiring venues. These being Llantonian Hall, Town Hall, Old School, and the Compass Building. Thus enabling the Town Council to competitively market our facilities and offer online booking options for local businesses, community groups and organisations, charity events and parties/christenings etc.
- To continue to develop a good working relationship with Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade. Working on making Llantwit Major a plastic free town and providing a water refill station point at the Town Hall. We worked with the Chamber of Trade on the Nations Tribute Weekend in Llantwit Major and on various Easter and Summer Community Competitions.
- For the third year we financially funded and organised an Acting Touring Pantomime Company to come to Llantonian Hall and put on a Sleeping Beauty Pantomime for two performances in January 2019, for the residents of Llantwit Major.

- Provided financial support to ensure Llantwit Youth Council continue to run in Llantwit Major. They provide opportunities for young people in the Community to work closely with the Town Council to improve the services and facilities in Llantwit Major.
- The Town Council prepared a Financial Bid to take over the Llantwit Major Youth Centre to provide a 'Community Hub' for the town. Plans included running a Youth Centre, Homework Clubs, Coffee Shop and Soft Play Areas. The Town Council were very disappointed when the bid was unsuccessful.
- The Town Council continue to support local events within the town including the Llantwit Major 10K and the Christmas Lighting Up Event.
- Successfully running free Ladies Boot Camp every Sunday morning on the Recreation Ground funded from a Field in Trust Grant. A further Grant was successfully obtained from Sports Wales to provide a free parent and child activity session at our Sea View Park venue.
- Continuing to Work with Llantwit Major Tennis Club to assist with further developing and expanding the club. We are currently working towards providing the club with a long term tenancy agreement to allow the Tennis Club to look at additional funding opportunities to install floodlights on the courts.

#### **What we think we could do better:**

- To provide better support for local children towards Summer / Holiday Activity Programmes using Town Council facilities.
- Continue to work with the Chamber of Trade and Vale of Glamorgan Council Town Development Team to obtain ideas and funding for improving Llantwit Major Town Centre and increasing the footfall to the Town.
- Further support family day projects and community events.

## **Facts and Figures:**

- Over 160 residents attended the Llantwit Major Pantomime held on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
- The Youth Council meets regularly over the year to discuss local issues and help to raise money for the Mayors chosen charities. They attend, up to 6 times a year, the Full Town Council Meetings.
- The Old School continues to house two oversubscribed Play Groups. One Playgroup has started to run afternoon sessions in the Old School to cover their increase in demand.
- The Tennis Club has increased membership to 103 members and will hopefully continue to grow and develop with the refurbishment of the Tennis Courts and the future long term plans of the Tennis Club.
- The Bowls Club, at present, has approximately 80 playing members and 40 social (non playing) members. The refurbished pavilion is due to re-open in May 2019 and it is hoped that this new development and further promotion of the Club will result in an increase to the Bowls club membership figures.

## **What was said about us:**

“To develop the Bowls Club for the future generations of Llantwit Major was never going to be a quick fix; it has taken years of dedication by bowls personal, but none more so than the Town Clerk and her team. Having spent a considerable amount of time locating a grant from the Welsh Government Rural Communities Development Fund that suited our requirements, the application form itself was a major task to complete. We are nearly there with the development only 5\6 weeks to completion. Without the support and involvement of Llantwit Major Town Councils this project may never have been possible.” *Llantwit Majors Bowls Club*

“Ladies Boot Camp is so varied and motivating. Having a fun, free women’s only exercise class is such a good opportunity and shouldn’t be missed”

*Rhiannon – Ladies Boot Camp*

## Refurbished Town Hall and Old School – now available as a Wedding Venue



## **CHAPTER TWO: A RESILIENT LLANTWIT MAJOR**

### **What we think we did well:**

- Continuing to provide allotments for over 95 local residents. We continue to maintain the site with the removal of old fencing and hedgerows. The site is very popular and there is a Waiting List for residents wishing to have a plot. It is regularly inspected monthly by the Allotment Sub Committee to ensure Allotment plots are kept in a satisfactory condition.
- A Survey Report was instigated to run safety checks on all Trees on Town Council Sites. Following the results of this report a full tree maintenance program was then undertaken in all our parks.
- A new bench was installed in Sea View Park made from recyclable material, friendly to the environment.
- 2018 saw another successful School Garden Competition. The theme was World War 1, to mark the centenary celebrations noting the end of the Great War. All local Schools and Playgroups took part in the Competition.
- The Town Council took over an area of grassland outside Boverton Cemetery. Poppies and bulbs were planted in the plot to both mark the Nation Tribute Celebrations and provide a pleasant and peaceful area when entering Boverton Cemetery. A new recyclable bench was installed at the site and a Silent Soldier erected to also celebrate the centenary of World War 1.

- Recyclable Plant Boxes have been made and installed by our Handyman outside the Town Hall and around the Cenotaph. They are planted twice yearly with seasonable bedding plants and shrubs.
- A Best Front Garden Competition is being organised by the Town Council to encourage residents to look after their gardens and improve their environment.
- A water refill point is installed in the Town Hall. The Town Council continue to work with local businesses on further environmental projects including 'Plastic Free' Llantwit Major.
- The Town Council are continuing 'Topple Testing' in Boverton Cemetery to ensure the safety and preservation of the grave stones.

#### **What we think we could do better:**

- Work closer with outside parties and the local community to encourage sustainability.

#### **Facts and Figures:**

- Our members sit on a range of community organisations, adding value to their work, strengthening community relations and reporting back to the Council to ensure public accountability.

#### **What was said about us:**

"The Old School is an excellent base for Gillybeans Playgroup. We thank the Town Council for their continuing support" *Gillybeans Playgroup Leader*

"We look forward to continuing to work with the Town Council in the future to further improve the amenities of the Town Centre. " *Chair Chamber of Trade*



## **New recyclable Bench installed by Cemetery, along Boverton Road**



## **Silent Soldier erected on newly owned grass area outside Boverton Cemetery**

### **CHAPTER THREE: A HEALTHIER LLANTWIT MAJOR**

#### **What we think we did well:**

- The Town Council refurbished four Tennis Courts, installed new street lighting along the Recreation Field and part rebuilt the Sports Pavilion, in the Bowls Club, after successfully being awarded a Grant from the Welsh Rural Communities Fund.
- The Town Council continued to work with the Field in Trust Organisation to provide a weekly Ladies Fitness Boot Camp every Sunday Morning on the Recreation Field.
- The Town Council obtained a Grant through Sports Wales to provide a weekly free Fitness Class for parent and child on Seaview Park.
- To continue to work with the Tennis Club to improve the facilities on the site, signing of a 21 year Tenancy Agreement, installing floodlights and implementing an On line Booking System to allow both members and non-members to book and play on the courts.
- To continue to work with the Bowls Club in maintaining the Bowling Green Surface to a high standard for both social and competitive play. Qualified coaches of the club each Summer have taught primary schools, scouts and boys brigade groups how to play lawn green bowling. The Bowls Club have used the Rugby Club to play indoor short mat bowls during the winter season whilst the pavilion is being rebuilt. All sporting organisation on the Recreation Field and developing strong links, working together for the benefit of the whole community.

- The Town Council continues to maintain and improve the playground equipment in the Recreation Ground. Inclusive musical play equipment is being installed in the Recreation Ground and Llantonian Park following successfully obtaining a Welsh Government Grant.
- The Town Council worked with MOD St Athan to create a new Inclusive Playground on the 'Bird Estate' at St Athan for older children, this providing much needed equipment for this Ward.
- The Town Council are still trying to progress with Annington Homes on West Camp the ownership of the old tennis courts with the eventual aim of installing two football goals / basketball posts for the teenagers in the area.
- Continuing to support the Rugby Club with the general maintenance and development of the Recreation Ground. The Town Council support events organised by the Rugby Club and continue to work alongside them to develop a community sports area for the town.
- The Town Council offer reduced Hiring Fees to the local Age Connect and Parkinson Group to provide keep fit/community classes in Llantonian Hall.
- Within our School Garden competition we always try and encourage children to learn where their vegetables come from and how they form a healthy diet.
- For the Fourth year running the Town Council have sponsored the Llantwit Major 10K / 5K & 1K Community Run held on the August Bank Holiday Weekend. Over 600 Runners took part in the event in 2018.

- The Town Council worked with the Community Heart Beat Organisation to complete the installation of a 24 hour Defibrillator in the newly repainted and repaired Red Phone Box on the Cenotaph Square in the centre of the Old Town, Llantwit Major. The Town Council working with the Community Heart Beat ran a Training Session on basic first aid training and using the Defibrillators in an emergency. The Town Council have pledged to continue to annually fund the maintenance and upkeep of the Defibrillators and Phone Box for the town.
- **What we think we could do better**
- Continue to work with the Tennis Club and Bowls Club towards the final goal of completing the Sports Development Project.
- Encourage the local youth services to use Town Council facilities to provide holiday clubs and activities for the children of Llantwit Major.
- Continually monitor our play provisions to ensure it is inclusive for all to use.

## **Facts and figures**

- Local Schools have been encouraged to take part in tennis coaching programs and an annual bowls club competition.
- Over 3,000 children have been coached by the Bowls Club since the competition began.
- The Tennis Club now take part in Adult Men's / Ladies and Mixed Welsh Leagues and are entering an U8's and U18's Tennis League for the younger members.
- Over thirty 60 plus residents regularly take part in Keep Fit Classes in Llantonian Hall, reduced rates are offered to the local Age Connect Group to ensure these classes continue.

## What was said about us:

“The new playground has inclusive facilities for all young people and is the most accessible equipment in the area. I congratulate all those who have come together to make this happen and look forward to seeing further progress in adapting the West Camp tennis courts for ‘Kickabout’ facilities” *Jane Hutt AM*

“Without the support of the Town Council there would not be a Tennis Club in Llantwit Major. The work they have put into getting the tennis courts being refurbished is so appreciated by the club. We can host visiting teams with pride and provide safe coaching surfaces for children and adults” *Llantwit Major Tennis Club*

## Ladies Boot Camp on the Recreation Field



## The Mayor inside the refurbished Red Phone Box with the newly installed Defibrillator





## **CHAPTER FOUR: A MORE EQUAL LLANTWIT MAJOR**

### **What we think we did well:**

- Town Council Grants were awarded to the following local voluntary organisations to assist with providing additional funds to enable them to continue to maintain and run their Groups. Grants were given to:
  - Llantwit Major Boys Brigade,
  - Llanilltud Fawr in Flower,
  - Llantwit Major 10K,
  - Llantwit Major Christmas Lights (Chamber of Trade)
  - Llantwit Major Brownies
  - Llantwit Major Ladies Choir
- The Town Council organised the following Nations Tribute events for the town:
  - a) Over 400 local residents knitted/sewed and painted a picture of a Poppy on a square piece of fabric 8” by 8”. The ‘Poppy Ladies’ a group of 7 volunteers coordinated by the Town Council worked together to stitch the squares together to make a large patchwork wall hanging displayed outside the Town Hall on Remembrance Sunday and now permanently on display in the Town Hall.
  - b) The Town Council created a Poppy cargo net hanging from the Town Hall steps to commemorate the 100 years since the end of World War 1.
  - c) The Town Council purchased two Silent Soldiers from the Royal British Legion. One was positioned outside the Cenotaph and one outside the entrance to Boverton Cemetery.

- d) We organised wooden crosses to be laid at the Remembrance Service Parade for every fallen soldier from Llantwit Major of World War 1 and World War 2.
  - e) A Beacon was lit and a small ceremony held at 19:00 hours to mark the end of the Nations Tributes celebrations.
  - f) The Town Council organised and set up a World War 1 memorabilia display in St Illtuds Church over four days to mark the centenary celebrations.
- The Town Council are working with the local branch of the Royal British Legion to take over organising the Llantwit Major Remembrance Service Parade.
  - The Town Council installed four street lights along the path around the Recreation Ground to ensure and improve the safety of residents who regularly use the footpath as a short cut into the town centre.
  - The Town Council supported the Mayors chosen charities. These being Headlines, Age Connects and St Illtuds Church. Also contributions were given to Major Music. Amongst the events organised to raise funds included Coffee Mornings, Strawberry Teas and various Musical Concerts.
  - The Town Council supported an Open Evening to encourage the re-setting up of the Twinning Committee in Llantwit Major.

- The Town Council painted the exterior of the Vale of Glamorgan Council Public Toilets Block in the Town Hall Car Park to improve the impression for Tourists who visit the historic Town of Llantwit Major.
- The Town Council organised an awards ceremony to celebrate groups and residents of Llantwit Major, unsung heroes of the town, at their bi-annual Citizen of the Year Event held in Llantonian Hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Over 100 people attended the event. Appendix A (pages 68 to 81) gives full details of the event and the winners and runners up of each Award Category.

### **What we think we could do better**

- Continue to support inclusive play equipment when upgrading play equipment
- Continue to look at ways to provide access and lighting to the main hall in the Town Hall.

### **Facts and figures**

- 6 Grants were handed out to local organisations.
- The Town Council offers reduced rates on all its facilities for those using them to raise funds for charitable organisations or those holding weekly/monthly Event / Classes for those which help residents.
- Over 1000 people attended the Remembrance Parade and Centenary celebrations .

### **What was said about us:**

“Without the support of the Town Council Llantwit Major 10k would not take place each year. Their grant helps us to pay for the roads closures to allow a safe, memorable race for the Community” *LM 10K*

“On behalf of 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade I would like to acknowledge the kind donation from the Town Council. It makes a difference to our young people, who benefit from the opportunities we can then provide. The support of our Town Council is much appreciated”. *LM Boys Brigade*



## Presentation of Grant Aid Cheque to Llantwit Major Brownies & Guides



## Nations Tribute Memorabilia Display , St Illtud's Church



## The Poppy Ladies



## **CHAPTER FIVE: A LLANTWIT MAJOR OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES**

### **What we think we did well:**

- We administer the Town Study Steering Group which consists of Councillors, representatives from local organisations, police, schools and principle council officers.
- We maintain strong links with the local police, who attend our monthly Council meetings and report any concerns they have and vice versa.
- We have representatives who sit on a number of committees within the principle council, where many issues are addressed regarding community issues and ways to improve the regeneration of our town.
- The Town Council continue to work with the Chamber of Trade on increasing the footfall to the Town and improving the Town Centre for businesses, tourists and local residents.
- The Town Council have worked with the Vale of Glamorgan Council with reference to Planning issues and developments, highway and pavement improvements and rubbish and recycling issues around the Town.
- The Town Council have refurbished internally and externally the Compass Building and is now hiring the Building to local community based organisations at cost effective rates.

- The Council Chamber is now fully licensed as a Civic Venue to undertake marriage ceremonies. The Town Council have launched a Wedding Package which includes the use of the Council Chamber, Old School Rear Annexe and the Town Hall for a weekend, at a total cost of £500.00. A venue, in the heart of the town, to host your wedding at a realistic/affordable price.
- The Town Council are introducing an On-Line Booking System, so all residents / organisations can view the Town Council Buildings and provisionally book rooms/halls to hire.
- The Town Council have installed new computers/ telephone systems and launched a new Website. The website contains details of all Town Council information plus provides Tourist information and events to local residents and visitors to the town.
- The Town Council to continue to work with the Alzheimer's Society, Dementia Café, Chamber of Trade to gain Llantwit Major status as a Dementia Friendly Town.
- We work with Major Music on promoting their organisation at the Annual Mayors Youth Concert. The Town Council gave a donation to Major Music to assist with covering their running costs and enable them to continue to nurture and promote musical talent within the community.
- The Town Council where possible use local companies to undertake repairs and services to Town Council buildings and property.

- The Town Council have actively undertaken any initiative from Vale of Glamorgan Council re Asset Transfer requests (e.g. Youth Centre, initial discussions re Public Toilets / Playing Fields etc.).

## **What we think we could do better**

- To improve the Town Council profile through Multi-media social network sites. The Office staff to learn the relevant skills to update Town Council information onto all the Councils multi-media platforms.
- Offer Town Councillors the functionality to use 'Cloud' to read / retrieve Town Council Agenda/Minutes and Council documentation. Improving computer skills and hardware and reducing the Offices paper output.
- To continue to work closely with the Chamber of Trade, local business and voluntary organisations to improve our town.
- To continue to work closely with the Vale of Glamorgan Council on any potential Asset Transfer Requests that could benefit the community of Llantwit Major.

## **Facts and figures**

- There are over 40 shops and businesses based within Llantwit Major.
- The vacancy rate of businesses within Llantwit Major Town Centre is 4% compared to the average Wales Town Centre Vacancy rate of 12.8% and the United Kingdom Vacancy rate of 9.2%.
- Overall 1000 tourists visited the Visitors Centre and Heritage Centre in the Town Hall over the Spring / Summer of 2018.



## What was said about us:

“The Chamber of Trade is looking to work with the Town Council and local businesses to encourage Tourists to visit our historic town. Working as a team to further promote our Community and ensure the survival of our town centre for future generations” *Chair Chamber of Trade*

## Newly refurbished Compass Building





## Mayors Musical Youth Concert 2019









## **CHAPTER SIX: A LLANTWIT MAJOR OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE**

### **What we think we did well:**

- The Town Council in conjunction with the local History Society opened the Heritage Centre each weekend between Easter and September to display local history of Llantwit Major.
- The Town Council organised a local exhibition in St Illtuds of World War 1 and World War 2 memorabilia for residents to view over the Nations Tribute weekend.
- Over 400 residents assisted with producing a Poppy Wall Hanging that is now on permanent display in the Town Hall.
- The Town Mayor organised three musical concerts, incorporating a variety of ages (primary children, teenagers & adults) and musical themes (including Classical, Operatic, Pop Music) as part of his Charity fundraising events during his term in Office.
- The Town Mayor attended a Town Twinning Event in Le Pouliguen, France to re-engage and develop Llantwit Majors links with the French Town.
- The local History Society house their archive room in one of our premises, free of charge. The archive room is open once a week to residents and visitors.
- All new signs displayed in our Town Council Buildings and Open Spaces are written in both Welsh and English.

- A member of staff is a fluent Welsh speaker and all documentation if required can be translated into Welsh/English and English/Welsh.
- Any incoming telephone calls to the Town Hall are answered in both Welsh and English.
- The Town Council continually review the Council's Welsh Language Scheme.

### **What we think we could do better:**

- To continue to support the newly formed Town Twinning Committee and assist with further re-establishing the links with Le Pouliguen in France.
- The Town Council Staff and Councillors try to improve their knowledge and use of the Welsh Language.
- The Town Council Staff improve their knowledge of the history of Llantwit Major for visitors that come into the Town Hall for tourist information.

### **Facts and figures**

- Over the past year the Heritage Centre saw over 250 visitors come and view the displays.
- Over 500 people took part in creating and organising displays to celebrate the Centenary of World War 1.

### **What was said about us:**

"As a member of the volunteer team involved in sewing together the WWI commemorative banner, I'd like to thank Llantwit Major Town Council. They enabled and encouraged members of the general public to make creative and individual poppy squares. In particular I'd like to thank Councillor Jayne Norman and Town Council staff

member, Nia Page for all their support given to the team in the creation of the Poppy Banner. I know we all felt a great sense of pride and achievement in its presentation to our local community on Remembrance Sunday, which took place on 11.11.2018”.

*Coleen Tombs*

“Llantwit Major Bowls Club have over the years developed a relationship with the Town Council envied by many other clubs throughout South Wales The Council and the club have formed a subcommittee who meet every 6 months to exchange ideas and sort out any problems that have arisen or likely to in the forthcoming months. By doing this we have successfully established a club for the future generations .With the Councils continued support nothing is impossible. Many many thanks. *LM Bowls Club*

### **Poppy Squares made by Edward and Maria Stephenson**



### **Exhibition in St Illtud's Church to commemorate Nations Tribute Weekend**



### **What we think we did well:**

- Llantwit Major Town Council and the Chamber of Trade have actively worked together to make Llantwit Major the first town in Wales to offer community water points to make refilling your own reusable bottles easy. They are also working together to look into ways to make the Town plastic free (i.e. Reducing the usage of plastic bags / cups / straws etc.).
- The Allotment Site is regularly inspected by the Town Council to ensure that all plots are well maintained and all tenants adhere to environmental guidelines and recommendations. In 2018 a specialist company was employed to remove six Asbestos sheets from the site. Also at the end of the nesting season in 2018 an area of overgrown shrubs and bushes was pruned and all debris removed from Llanmaes Road Allotment Site.
- All internal and external lights on Town Council premises are replaced where possible with LED lighting.
- Following a Tree Surgeons Report a program of ongoing tree maintenance has been undertaken in all our Town Council Parks.
- The Town Council liaised with Vale of Glamorgan Council and via an asset transfer request acquired a small piece of land situated outside the gates of Boverton cemetery main entrance. A Silent Soldier statue, recyclable plastic bench and a variety of poppy seeds and bulbs have been planted to create an environmental attractive area for the residents of Llantwit Major.

- New recyclable Plant Boxes have been installed at the Cenotaph and outside the Town Hall. Bedding plants and Bulbs are planted in Spring and Autumn. New plants boxes have also been installed internally in the Town Hall main window ledges. Adding warmth and colour to the refurbished Town Hall.
- We always aim to re-cycle items within the Town Council. No items is disposed of as rubbish, we try and use it elsewhere within our facilities if possible. Shredded paper is taken up the Allotment Site for Allotment Tenants to use as mulch on their plots.
- Some of the grass collected from the ground maintenance is placed in compost and used in our flower beds and boxes. Any trees which are felled for safety reasons or blown down in winds, are shredded and used on flower beds.
- Two large Koi Karp (Kenny & Kelly) were transported successfully from Duffryn Gardens are now happily settled and thriving in their new home in West Street Pool. Four wild ducks have also taken resident of the pond over the last 6 months.
- West Street Pool has an Annual Maintenance Contract in place to ensure the pond remains environmentally healthy and to preserve the Pool and its inhabitants for future years.
- The Town Council continue to work in conjunction with Llantwit Major Rugby Club to support a campaign to persuade people to pick up their dog faeces using the Recycled Poo Bags that can be purchased from the Town Council Office. The

campaign centres on the Recreation Ground where incidents of dogs faeces have been reported to the Town Council.

- Llantwit Major Town Council continue to litter pick all Parks and Open Spaces regularly to control and create a healthy and clean environment for residents in Llantwit Major.
- Llantwit Major Town Council organised the Annual School Garden Competition and in 2019 are running a Best Kept Front Garden Competition to try to encourage children and adults to grow their own plants and vegetables.
- **What we think we could do better:**
- We will continue to look at ways of supporting sustainable approaches to recycling, waste management and use of resources.

## **Facts and figures**

- 3 local schools and 2 playgroups took part in our Annual School Garden competition.
- 

## **What was said about us:**

“There is nothing better than spending a day on my Allotment Plot. Growing my own vegetables and talking to other Allotment holders and keen gardeners. We are so fortunate to have this Allotment Site in our Town” *Allotment Plot Holder*

“I walk through the Recreation Park every day and would like to thank the Town Councils Gardner for keeping the park so clean and tidy. *LM resident*



## **Two Koi Karp on the move from Dufryn Gardens**



## **Kelly and Kenny safely installed in their new home, West Street Pool**





## Llantwit Major Water Refil Scheme



## School Gardens Competition





## **CHAPTER EIGHT: A COMPETENT LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL**

Within the Welsh Governments draft Local Government Wales Bill, there is a proposed section *General Power of Competence and Community Councils with Competence*. A number of 'competency' tests are listed to help ensure Town and Community Councils are well equipped to meet the challenges ahead. These tests are aimed at bring more consistency to the sector, with a higher standard of governance and financial management.

The proposed tests are (as at April 2016)

- Two thirds of Councillors must be elected – Councillors must be elected at either an ordinary election or a by-election
- Requirement that the Clerk is qualified – A Clerk with relevant professional qualifications, such as the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA).
- Council needs to have clear audited accounts for the last 2 years – sound financial management and internal control systems.

Following the release of these proposed 'tests', the Town Council conducted an audit of the above and found;

- 14 members were elected by an ordinary election held in May 2017.
- The Town Clerk holds the CiLCA qualification. All Town Council staff are up to date on all relevant courses in relation to their job specification.
- We have a sound management and financial controls in place.
- In addition we have a website which contains all agendas, minutes, reports, accounts and contact details.

## **CHAPTER 9 - Our Llantwit Major – Our Future**

In Chapter 1 to 8 the Annual Report has concentrated on the National Well Being Goals as set out as in the Well Being Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has also adapted their policies to include four local Well Being Objectives. These being:

- a) To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services.
- b) To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation.
- c) To give children the best start in life.
- d) To protect, enhance and value our environment.

Chapters 10, 11, 12 and 13 detail these objectives and how, we as a Town Council, intend to work towards meeting these local goals.

## **CHAPTER 10**

### **To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services.**

This objective is to enable people to become involved in their community, help to increase a sense of belonging within the Town, increase satisfaction with life in general and ensure that Llantwit Major is confident and their voices are heard within the Vale of Glamorgan.

#### **What we have done so far?**

1. The Town Council administer the Town Study Steering Group. Representatives from various organisations within the Town meet to develop and implement ideas to improve Llantwit Major.
2. The Town Council continue to actively support the Chamber of Trade and work with local businesses to improve and shape local services within the town.
3. The Town Council provide Grants to assist with funding local organisations (e.g. Boys Brigade, Llantwit Major Brownies and Llantwit Major Ladies Choir) to continue to provide a service to the community.
4. Town Council continue to support many local organisations including the Youth Club, Major Music, the Dementia Café, Town Twinning Committee, Christmas Lights Committee, the Tennis Club and the Bowls Club to assist with their reforming, continuation or further development.

#### **What will take longer to achieve?**

1. To complete the Sports Development Project, (the painting of the four newly refurbished tennis courts and the completion of the interior project phase of the newly rebuilt Sports Pavilion in the Recreation Ground). Thus creating better sporting and social facilities for Llantwit Major.
2. To continue to try and improve relations with the Town and find ways to get more people involved within their community.

3. To continue to support local organisations and businesses (such as the Chamber of Trade, Llantwit Major Dementia Café) making Llantwit Major a Dementia Friendly Town.

4. To further promote our Town Council facilities and Parks to provide opportunities of organisations within the community to tackle isolation, loneliness and making healthy lifestyle changes. To provide further opportunities via the Town Council facilities to implement better services for the Town.

### **What will success look like in 2023?**

1. Skills, resources and expertise regarding engagements are shared across organisations for the benefit of the town. For example The Town Council, with assistance from the Local Branch of the Royal British Legion, will be taking over the organisation of the Remembrance Service parade which attracts each year over a 1000 residents, and is continuing to grow.
2. Contributions of all age groups are recognised within the local community.
3. Volunteers are encouraged and feel valued.
4. Sharing standards for engagement are developed.

## **CHAPTER 11**

### **To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation**

Llantwit Major is a comparatively wealthy town and many residents enjoy a high standard of living in a safe and attractive environment. However there are still areas within the town that experience disadvantage, low education achievement and higher unemployment levels.

### **What have we done so far?**

1. We obtained Welsh Government funding to provide Street Lighting along the pedestrian path through the Recreation Field. This provides a safe, short cut for residents to gain access to the Town Centre.
2. Supported Age Connect to fund events for the elderly, providing financial contribution towards a Christmas Tea Party.
3. We offer reduced rates to some organisations such as the Pensioners Club and the Local Parkinson's Group to ensure that they can continue to provide weekly/monthly sessions for their members. Also we offer reduced rates for Charity organisations for holding events on our facilities enabling them to raise funds for the residents of our Community.
4. We have worked with the local AM and MOD representatives and provided an inclusive Play Park in West Camp, St Athan. All new play equipment purchased for Town Council Parks is always considered for inclusive use.
5. We offer free 'Ladies Boot Camp' sessions each week on the Recreation Field to give opportunities for all incomes to undertake Sport in Llantwit Major.
6. We have just started to offer free "Children's Exercise Classes" on Seaview Park. Encouraging parents and children to be together, have fun and get fit.

### **What we can start doing today?**

1. Further promote our facilities to assist residents with fitness and learning classes to improve their well-being and development.
2. Undertake further Questionnaires to see as a Town Council how we can help reduce the inequalities within our community.

3. Look at working with local community groups to improve how as a Town Council we can better provide better access to services, information and support to our residents.
4. To continue to support making Llantwit Major a Healthy Town. Ensure the continuing running of weekly exercise sessions for Children and Women and further develop the classes to provide activities for all demographic groups within the community.
5. To continue to source Grant opportunities available to the Town Council to provide funding opportunities for providing community services / sessions to our local residents.

### **What will take longer to achieve?**

1. Provide better use of our facilities for the under privileged.
2. Work together with local organisations to improve equality in the Community.
3. Continue to improve the environment and support outdoor play parks, sports facilities (e.g. Bowls Club, Tennis Club).

### **What will success look like in 2023?**

1. The Community of Llantwit Major becomes safer, stronger and more resilient
2. Give residents a better understanding of how their contribution on the environment can make to their well-being.
3. Create a sustainable environmental project which brings a range of well-being benefits to the local community. A project that is being considered to fulfil this brief is regeneration of Stradling Park, an overgrown park in the heart of Llantwit Major.

## **CHAPTER 12**

### **Give children the best start in life**

Working together to ensure all children within Llantwit Major have the best start in life and the inequalities that exist within the Town are reduced.

Also improve the wellbeing of parents and carers of young children who have such a big influence on their development.

### **What we have done so far?**

1. Maintained and developed two Play Grounds within Llantwit Major, providing inclusive equipment when viable.
2. The Town Council support the Youth Council financially to allow the children of Llantwit Major to have a voice within the Town Council, what vision they have for the future growth and development of the Town. Two Councillors regularly attend the Youth Council Meetings.
3. The Town Council fund a Touring Pantomime that comes and performs two shows in Llantonian Hall, providing affordable entertainment for the residents of Llantwit Major.
4. The Town Council assisted various local organisations with Annual Grants (e.g. Boys Brigade, Llantwit Major Brownies) providing after school activities for children of the Town.
5. The Town Council continue to support the Tennis Club. We were awarded two Grants. The first to refurbish the Tennis courts and the second to erect new fencing around the four courts. The Town Council is in negotiation with the Tennis Club to set up a Tenancy Lease Agreement that will run for 21 years to provide children the opportunity to be able to learn and play tennis.
6. The Town Council was awarded a Sports Wales Grant and purchased inclusive Musical Equipment for both Llantonian Park and the Recreation Ground.

### **What will take longer to deliver?**

1. To work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to offer Town Council facilities to provide better and more regular Play Scheme Activities for Llantwit Major children during all holiday periods.

2. Continue to work with the MOD St Athan and Annington Homes to look at creating a Play Park for teenagers at East Camp/ St Athan on the old disused Tennis Court site.
3. To continue to work with external organisations to provide activities for children (e.g. Sport, music, education) utilising fully Town Council facilities to create better well-being for children and parents.

### **What will success look like in 2023?**

1. We all understand how our organisations activities can contribute to giving children a good start in life.
2. Individual families and communities in Llantwit Major becoming safer, stronger and more resilient.



## **CHAPTER 13**

### **Protect, enhance and value our environment**

As a Town Council must collectively take action to protect, enhance and value our environment for now and future generations, ensuring as a town we are globally responsible.

#### **What we do now?**

1. All our Open Green Spaces are registered as Field in Trust Sites. This meaning that they are protected from development for the next 99 years.
2. The Town Council have maintained and provided to the Community 96 Allotment plots, off Llanmaes Road. They are regularly inspected and maintained and tenant's are encouraged to use environmentally friendly products and recyclable materials on their Allotment plots.
3. Maintain and restore our historic monuments and listed buildings (the Town Hall, the Old School and the Cenotaph).
4. The Town Council protect the natural environment of West Street Pool and the surrounding area. We have restocked the Pond with two large Koi Karp from Duffryn Gardens. Residents have also donated fish for the pool and we have four wild ducks that have made their home in the pond. An Annual Maintenance Agreement Contract has been instigated to ensure West Street Pool is maintained professionally to ensure the continuing growth and life within the area.
5. A Water Refill Point is available from the Town Hall and the Town Council encourage and support Llantwit Major in its goal to become a Plastic Free Town (i.e. reduced plastic bags within the town, encouraging local businesses and pubs/restaurants not to use plastic straws and reduce/eliminate the use of plastic cups at events).

#### **What will take longer to deliver?**

1. As a Town Council continue to support, working with the Chamber of Trade to make Llantwit Major a Plastic Free Town.

2. Continue to work with Chamber of Trade and local and national organisations to maximise the economic benefit of our environment (eg. through tourism).
3. Review the Town Council Land assets and maximise their potential for community use and value as an environmental resource.

### **What will success look like in 2023?**

1. Continue to gain a better understanding of the impact of our actions on the environment and how much of an asset our local environment is.
2. To look at finding and funding a new area of land within the town to be developed into a new Cemetery for Llantwit Major

## **Way forward**

Following the completion of this year's Annual Report the Town Council are planning for the challenges they face in 2019 and beyond.

This includes the additional work that will incur when the results of the Vale of Glamorgan Council Reshaping Services Programme are finalised.

The future challenges facing Town Councils with reduce funding opportunities from Borough Councils, Welsh Government and the challenges that will undoubtedly incur with the uncertainty of the upcoming EU changes.

The Town Council will continue to promote themselves and their activities throughout their social media sites and will look at further ways to promote and increase the knowledge of the Town Council to the Llantwit Major residents.

To ensure we market our Facilities available for hiring to assist with the upkeep of our historic listed Buildings and while aiming to continue to provide building and parks for the residents and tourists of Llantwit Major.

## New playground opens in St Athan



Llantwit Major Town Council has been pleased to see the new playground in St Athan. Two young people approached the Llantwit Youth Council about a stage of facilities in the area. The town council spokeswoman said: "The Youth Council is working with the Council and a group was arranged with a number of interested parties including M Jane Hutt,

Ministry of Defence (MoD) representatives, and the civil engineering company Amey plc.

The play area near Bullfinch Road was chosen and the MoD agreed to pay for the project.

Cllr Evans, chair of recreation and buildings at Llantwit Major Town Council, said: "The Youth Council has supported the Town Council in a number of projects and it has been wonderful to turn that around and see the Town Council support

the Youth Council."

David Maughan, chair of Llantwit Youth Council added: "To be a part of a project that will improve facilities for our generation is great, and hopefully we can encourage more young people to join the Youth Council and take part in a number of projects we are currently involved in around the town."

Cllr Dr Ellis, Town Mayor, said: "Thank you to the MoD who met and listened to the Youth Council and secured funding to pay for the installation of the new equipment."

Mrs Hutt said: "The new playground has inclusive play facilities for all young people and is the most accessible equipment in the area. I congratulate all those who have come together to make this happen and look forward to seeing further progress in adapting the West Camp tennis courts for 'kickabout' facilities."

The Town Council is still in contact with Annington Homes to look at taking over responsibility for the redundant tennis courts and installing some football-basketball posts.

If anyone wishes to be involved in the Youth Council, contact Alexandra Thomas, valeyouthaction@gmail.com, 01446 709308.

## Llantwit Major remembers...



Llantwit Major Town Council is pleased to announce that the commemorative wall hanging is complete.

At the beginning of the year residents of Llantwit Major were invited to buy fabric squares to knit/sew/paint a poppy on. Some 350 squares were given out, with 272 being returned. A group of seven volunteers met regularly at the Llantwit Hall to sew the squares together.

The finished article will be on display on Sunday, November 11 on the side of the Town Hall facing the Cenotaph. It will then be placed upstairs in the Town Hall for anyone wishing to view it (please call in to Town Council office).

A big thank you to the volunteers who gave up many hours to ensure the wall hanging was finished in time. Pwys Fabrics and Travis Perkins for supplying fabric and materials towards the project. Additionally, please remember to come and join us in commemorating 100 years since the end of World War 1, with the following events:

Friday to Sunday, November 9, 10 and 11: an exhibition of war memorabilia will be on display in St Blud's Church, between 10am and 6pm. Also on display will be work from local schools, including poems and artwork. Please come along and visit the exhibition, it is free of charge with tea and coffee being provided.

Saturday, November 10: the Vale Half Marathon takes place with the first runner due out at 9am from Llantwit Major Youth Centre. There will be approximately 150 runners so why not come and show your support to these individuals taking on a challenging multi-terrain course. The finish line will be under the rugby posts on the recreation field from approximately 10.45am onwards. Places still available.

Sunday, November

11: at 6am a lone piper will be playing *Ranise's O'er*, a traditional Scottish air played after battle in front of the war memorial.

At 9.30am St Blud's Church bells will ring at half muffle for traditional service.

At 10.15am these taking part in Remembrance Sunday Parade to gather at rugby club car park.

At 10.50am start of the Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph.

At 11.30am refreshments available in Town Hall, from Llantwit Major Events Group.

At 12.30pm St Blud's Church bells will be ringing for Ringing Remembers.

At 2pm children's World War 1 commemorative event in Llantwit Hall.

Llantwit Major Events Group. At 7pm a beacon will be lit in the Old Swan garden, in a tribute called *Heaven of Light*, signifying the 'light of peace' that emerged from the darkness of four years of war.

At 7.05pm St Blud's Church bells will ring as part of the Ringing Out for Peace, organised in association with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Llantwit Major Town Council would like to thank all those individuals who have worked and volunteered to ensure this tribute to those people who lost their lives and returned home wounded from the Great War.

Many of the events are part of an international commemorative event called *Battle's Over*.

If you would like more information on any of the events or have any memorabilia please contact the Town Council office on 01446 703707 or [lm.ac@btconnect.com](mailto:lm.ac@btconnect.com).

## National Refill Day celebrated in Llantwit



Llantwit Major Town Mayor Cllr Dr David Ellis refilling water bottle in Wine Street Coffee, Llantwit Major.

TODAY, September 27, sees the first ever National Refill Day and Llantwit Major is proud to be the first town in Wales to have signed up to the scheme.

The Refill scheme, launched by the environmental charity *Plastic Planet*, aims to encourage the UK public to stop plastic pollution at the source by switching from a plastic bottle to a reusable one.

The goal of the Refill scheme is to make carrying a reusable bottle the norm and to make

everyone, sure, easy it is to find and refill with free, quality tap water. You can now fill up your bottle in most businesses across Llantwit Major, just look out for the Refill sticker in the windows.

The Refill Wales coordinator, Hannah Osman, said: "We're so excited that Llantwit Major is leading the Refill movement in Wales, it's great to see so many local businesses supporting the scheme."

Look out for the Refill Llantwit Facebook page the norm and to make coming soon.

## Llantwit offers a new home to Dyffryn carp



Kenny and Kelly were moved from Dyffryn Gardens.



The Koi carp are now settling in at West Street Pool.

LAST year, there was a mysterious disappearance of all the Koi carp from West Street Pool in Llantwit Major, but fresh fish have arrived to bring colour back to the pool.

The town council is pleased to announce that there are now two new Koi carp, named Kenny and Kelly, now residing in the pond with Jennifer the duck.

Dyffryn Gardens kindly offered two Koi carp from their own ponds for West Street Pool.

Chris Flynn, head gardener at Dyffryn Gardens, and a member of his team gave up their time to help council staff catch the two lively fish, which weighed in between 6 and 8lbs.

They were transported to West Street Ponds on April 26 and slowly released into the water.

A big thanks goes to Dyffryn Gardens for their generous donation and local residents are asked to watch out for Kelly and Kenny so they can have many happy years residing in their new home.

## Llantwit's old phone box has a new role



The Mayor of Llantwit Major, Cllr Dr David Ellis, in the newly-restored defibrillator phone box.

THE old phone box in the Square, Llantwit Major, was to be decommissioned by BT and it looked as though Llantwit Major would lose the iconic sight from the Old Town, a council spokesperson reports.

With the support of 'Community Heartbeat', Llantwit Major Town Council has managed to preserve the phone box, and a defibrillator has been installed inside, which is accessible to the public 24-hours a day.

Community Heartbeat, in conjunction

with The Collective Dairy, arranged sponsorship with AkzoNobel, who donated free pillar box red and gold paint to the town council to restore the phone box to its former glory.

Community Heartbeat Project is run in conjunction with The Collective Dairy by Sara, who launched in memory of her husband Mike (they owned the company) and he passed away from cardiac arrest.

The town council wish to thank both Community Heartbeat and AkzoNobel for their support in the completion of this community project for Llantwit Major.



# RAF ST ATHAN'S FREEDOM OF THE VALE EXERCISED IN LLANTWIT MAJOR



ABOVE: Last Post is played. Image by MoD St Athan.



Llantwit Major mayor, Cllr Jayne Norman, making her inspection. Image by MoD St Athan.



Photo by Andy Wicks.

ROYAL Air Force Personnel stationed at MoD St Athan exercised their right to the Freedom of the Vale of Glamorgan on April 28 by parading in Llantwit Major as part of RAF100, the centenary of the service's founding.

The camp, which itself celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, was granted the freedom of the borough in 1972, followed by the award of an illuminated address from the Llantwit Major Town Council in 1976.

The parade made its way along Boverton Road, in front of the Precinct, and down to the war memorial where prayers were said and wreaths placed. It then made its way back through the town.

Crowds of people with flags turned up to enjoy the march past of more than 60 RAF personnel, which was led by Parade Commander and Squadron Leader Gareth Thomas, Officer Commanding Training Squadron on Number 4 School of Technical Training at MoD St Athan.

Wing Commander Steve Rowley, Station Commander MoD St Athan and CO No 4 School of Technical Training, said in his speech: "The award of a Freedom to a military unit is a privilege and an honour and gives the receiving Unit the distinction of marching through the awarding Borough on all ceremonial occasions with sword drawn, bayonets fixed and drums playing, as we have exercised today. We Cdr Rowley added: "It is an

understanding to say that RAF St Athan could not function without the support of Llantwit Major. The majority of my civil servant and contractor staff are Llantwit Major residents, RAF veterans often settle here once they leave the Service and many of my serving military personnel have bought homes in Llantwit Major and have been fully integrated into your community.

"So on this auspicious day I formally thank you on behalf of all personnel at RAF St Athan for your continued support and friendship."

Speaking of the illuminated address, Wg Cdr Rowley said it recognises the link between Llantwit Major and RAF St Athan, acknowledging the goodwill, friendship and colouring relationship between both parties. Cllr Gwyn John said: "It was great to welcome the RAF into Llantwit Major on Saturday because it has been a big part of the lives of local people for over 80 years."

Wg Cdr Rowley said: "As one of Mayor Jayne Norman's final official engagements in her tenure as mayor, I thought she finished on a real high and it was fantastic to also see 30 veterans on parade and also Air Cadets, all celebrating RAF100 looking to the past and the future."

"This year, MoD St Athan and the largest RAF formation based in the Unit, Number 4 School of Technical Training, are also celebrating noteworthy milestones, both turning 80 years old."

Number 4 School has been training engineers at RAF St Athan consistently since 1938, and we still take



Photo by Andy Wicks.

great pride in training the RAF's Trade Group 3 engineers of tomorrow.

"At one stage there were around 14,000

servicemen at St Athan and hundreds of local people were employed either by the RAF or by contractors working at the base."

He concluded: "RAF St Athan, now MoD St Athan, has had a variety of roles over the years and its evolution is far from over."

## Promotion delight for tennis club!

LLANTWIT MAJOR Tennis Club are delighted to announce that for the second year running the mixed doubles first team have gained a promotion in the Cymru Kitchens Winter League.

After an unlikely promotion in the 2016-17 mixed league, when they entered a team for the first time after re-establishing the club, it was a tough ask to play in League 3 with clubs which have been running for many years with experienced teams.

The squad performed outstandingly and drawing on many players from the club, the team had it off! It's a fantastic achievement for a small club and they are hoping for as much success in the summer league.

The players were: Dawn Howles, Neil Davies, Roger Williams, and especially the expert Viki McNally, Peter Rees, Chris Day, Liz Parsons, Sue Barker, Sue Grafton, Nic Farmer, Rob Cunningham, Helen Jones and Kelly Merritt.



Making a racket... Llantwit Major Tennis Club's mixed doubles first team have achieved promotion again!

The team are now in the Second Division and on the lookout for new players to bolster their team. The club would also like to thank Filo for their fundraising by their doors and a bouncy castle, it's going to be a whole lot of fun.

To register, sign-up online or the expert guidance of professional coaches. All equipment is provided. There is a 2pm session for families with children (year 6 and below), and a 3pm session for adults.

For more information or to join the club visit <https://clubmark.lia.org.uk/LlantwitMajorTennisClub/Events> or just come down on the day.

Far more information or to join the club visit <https://clubmark.lia.org.uk/LlantwitMajorTennisClub/Events> or just come down on the day.

## Work starts on revamping town's sports facilities

LLANTWIT MAJOR Town Council started work on improvements to facilities at the Tennis Club, Club and lighting along the nation field footpath - after a £100 grant from the Welsh Government's Rural Development programme.

Local council spokeswoman said: "The £100 grant from the Welsh Government's Rural Development programme, which involves the much-needed resurfacing of tennis courts and an extension to the pavilion to replace the current dated wooden structure.

At the same time the council will install new lighting along the new footpath alongside the tennis courts and the construction of a sports pavilion extension at the bowls club will start at the end of this month."

Contractors will be accessing the site via Blyd Avenue gates and the entrance to the side of the rugby club car park. Cllr Foster, the chair of Planning at Llantwit Major Town Council, said: "The council is delighted to have received this grant - the largest for recreation facilities ever awarded to the council."

"I would like to pay tribute to the members of the Bowls Club and the Tennis Club who have worked hard to raise a large proportion of the 'match funding' necessary to secure the grant."

"I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the former Social Club committee for their contribution."

"When the schemes are completed, the facilities for both the clubs will be greatly improved and will hopefully allow the clubs to attract new members."

## PARKING CHARGES PLAN IS BLASTED



Locals gathered in the town to oppose proposed car parking charges. Photograph by Glyn Evans.

LLANTWIT MAJOR traders, councillors and the local chamber of trade voiced their strong opposition on October 5 to the proposed introduction of car parking charges in the town.

The Vale Council said proposals in the 'parking strategy report' aim to make local areas more accessible, improve the experience for visitors, generate maintenance costs and secure income to reinvest in areas.

Traders said councillors say the strategy could backfire and cause economic damage. The consultation ended last month and it will be up to Vale councillors and the Vale Cabinet to make decisions on whether the ideas in the report are adopted.

It could mean charging in Llantwit's short stay car parks at Boverton Road (the council owns spaces at the rugby club): Le Poulguen Way, the Town Hall (Rural Lane) and Wise Street. Charges could be up to two hours free, up to three hours £1, up to four hours £2, up to five hours £3, and all day £5.

On street car parking could be introduced in Le Poulguen Way to Stallcourt; Stallcourt to East Street; and Boverton Road in Church Street, with one hour free, up to two hours £2 and escalating to

£6 for up to five hours. The town car park faces summer charges of £1 for up to an hour and £3 all day with a reduced charge in the winter.

Kelly and Jay Jones run two pubs in Llantwit Major. Kelly told The GFM she was concerned parking charges would deter existing customers and said: "People may not come in for lunch because they don't want to be clock watching."

Confined on Page Three

## Old School now licenced as a wedding venue

THE Old School in Llantwit Major is now licensed as an approved venue for marriage and civil partnership ceremonies.

Llantwit Major Town Council is offering a wedding package which includes the hire of the Old School (council chamber and back room) for the ceremony and the newly-refurbished Town Hall for the reception. Alternatively, the Town Hall can be hired individually for a weekend.

For further information, telephone 01446 793707 or email [lm.tc@btconnect.com](mailto:lm.tc@btconnect.com)

## Family fitness sessions in Llantwit Major

THERE was a fantastic turnout, despite the weather, for the first Children and Parent Fitness Session in Llantwit Major.

A town council spokeswoman said: "Due to high wind, the session was moved to Llantwit Major and tennis courts."

"Over 25 parents and children attended and all thoroughly enjoyed the session. A local mum posted on social media: 'An amazing fitness class for

parents and kids started on Sunday. So much fun and lush to see so many families on the first day... and it's FREE! See you all next week... thank you Llantwit Major Town Council and Graham Bell sport scientist for starting this up for our town."

Future sessions will be held at Seaview Park, Llantwit Major, every Sunday from 11am to 12pm.

Look out for updates on the Llantwit Major Town Council and Llantwit Major Hub Facebook pages.



## Mayor holds his civic service



The Mayor, with family and friends in the Galilee Chapel.

(Photo by Clare Price.)  
SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 4.

## Town council invites nominations for 'Citizen of the Year'

DO you know somebody who lives, works or attends school in Llantwit Major who has gone 'above and beyond' during 2018 and deserves recognition for all their endeavours?

Llantwit Major Town Council is holding its Citizen of the Year awards in April. If you would like to nominate an individual or team, who make a difference to our town, please send in a nomination form. Forms can be collected from the Town Hall or downloaded from our website - [www.llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk).

Categories up for awards are Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Sports Personality of the Year, Business or Organisation, Service to the Community Award, Award for outstanding Fundraising for Charity or Local Organisation.

The closing date for nominations is February 28 and the ceremony will be held in the Llannanion Hall on Saturday, April 6.

Llantwit Major Town Council



The Community Heartbeat Trust session was to train those who attended in the use of a defibrillator.

## Defibrillator session held

A LLANTWIT MAJOR town council spokesman thanked the Community Heartbeat Trust, which held a community defibrillator seminar in Llannanion Hall on May 23.

The seminar was well supported with more than 30 people in attendance.

Llantwit Major Town Council took on the project of adopting an old BT telephone box and converting it into a new home for a defibrillator, with help from Community Heartbeat Trust.

The recent awareness session was part of the package from the Trust when adopting the kind.

Thanks went to David Treweek, a former senior resuscitation officer at St Mary's Hospital in London, who ran the session.

An attendee said: "I learned so much. I would now feel confident to use a defibrillator if I was ever in that unfortunate situation."

The defibrillator is located outside the old BT telephone box in Llannanion Hall and has 24-hour access.

## Budding garden designers win town council prizes

CONGRATULATIONS to St Illtud's fantastic effort was put in by every school and nursery involved.

It was clear that a lot of hard work had gone in to each garden which left the councillors with a difficult decision to make.

Last week, the children were invited to the Town Hall where the winners were presented with their prizes.

This year's theme was World War One and a

LM



## SUN SHINES ON LLANTWIT MAJOR TENNIS CLUB!



IT was only two years ago that Llantwit Major Tennis Club was re-instated and the club recently celebrated the Great British Tennis Weekend and their open day with the courts packed with children and adults enjoying tennis in the sun.

An outstanding day was had by all. The sun shone down and members of our community turned up in droves to try out tennis free and to get to know our local tennis club.

The afternoon began with a fantastic number of children signing up to join in the afternoon's sessions of activities, ball games and mini tennis, so much so, an extra session was added to the day.

It was tremendous to see so many children getting involved and

having such a lot of fun on court.

Later on in the afternoon, it was the turn of the adults, some playing for the first time ever, and others picking up where they left off.

With club membership discounted especially for the open day, the club was absolutely delighted to sign up lots of new adults and children to the annual membership.

Coaching sessions were especially popular among the children and the club is looking forward to seeing everyone on court in the new cycle of coaching starting on June 4.

The club would like to thank everyone who turned out to try tennis and everyone who gave up their valuable time to help out at the event, on our food stall, signing people into the event, providing information and helping on court.

If you'd like to try

tennis or play more, social tennis runs every Saturday at 2pm.

All levels of player are welcome to join in from beginners to wannabe Fedexers - it's a mix-in session so you are guaranteed a game!

If you would like information about Llantwit Major Tennis Club membership, coaching or social calendar go to our website [llantwitmajortennis.co.uk](http://llantwitmajortennis.co.uk), or find us on Facebook.



## Llantwit Major remembers...

IN recognition of Remembrance Day and commemorating 100 years since the end of World War One, Llantwit Major Town Council is playing its part in Battle's Over, an international event marking of 100 years since the guns fell silent at the end of The Great War.

The Town Council, Royal British Legion, Chamber of Trade and other organisations and volunteers have come together to commemorate this special day on Sunday, November 11.

Leading up to the day poppies will be placed on lampposts and shop windows throughout the town, as well as a cascade of poppies hanging from the Town Hall.

A new commemorative bench is being installed outside the cemetery on Beccles Road, as well as a Silent Soldier silhouette.

An exhibition of war memorabilia will be on display in St Illtud's Church on November 9, 10 and 11 between 10am and 6pm. A big thank you to all those residents who have kindly donated items for exhibition including war medals, photographs, postcards and much more. Also on display will be work from local schools, including poems and artwork. Please come along and visit the exhibition; it is free of charge with tea and coffee being provided.

On Saturday, November 10, the Vale half marathon will take place from 9am to 11am from Llantwit Major Youth Centre. There will be approximately 150 runners so why not come and show your support to these individuals taking on a very challenging multi-run course. The finish line will be under the rugby posts on the recreation field from approximately 10.45am onwards. Places are still available.

On November 11 at 6pm a low paper will play 'Battle's Over', a traditional Scottish air played after battle in front of The Cenotaph.

At 9am St Illtud's Church bells will ring at half muffle for a traditional service.

At 10.15am those taking part in the Remembrance Sunday parade will

At 10.50am the Remembrance Sunday service starts at The Cenotaph.

At 11.30am refreshments are available in the Town Hall, from Llantwit Major Events group.

At 12.30pm St Illtud's Church bells will be ringing for 'Ringing Remembrance'.

At 2pm a children's World War 1 commemorative event takes place in Llannanion Hall, Llantwit Major Events group.

A 7pm a beacon will be lit in the Old Swan garden signifying the light of peace that emerged from the darkness of four years of war.

At 7.05pm St Illtud's Church bells will ring as part of the Ringing Out for Peace, organised in association with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

On the Sunday the commemorative wall hanging will be on display on the side of the Town Hall. This is made up of individual poppy squares designed and created by the residents of Llantwit Major and put together by a group of hard working ladies who volunteered their time. It is hoped that the wall hanging can be placed somewhere in town for a couple of weeks following Remembrance Sunday for display, although it will be permanently on display upstairs in the Town Hall.

Details and timings are still being finalised for the lighting of the Beacon and these will follow.

Llantwit Major Town Council would like to thank all those individuals who have worked and volunteered to create this tribute to those people who lost their lives and returned home wounded from the Great War.

Many of the events are part of an international commemoration event called the Battle's Over, which is a tribute being organised by Bruno Pres, visit his website [www.brunopres.co.uk](http://www.brunopres.co.uk), which has details of over 1,000 poppies playing nationwide, the locations of the beacons being lit and the 65+ societies of regiments taking part.

If you would like more information on any of the events or have any memorabilia contact the Town Council office on 01446 793707 or [lm.ac@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lm.ac@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk).

## Offering support to charities over the coming year

FIRST, I must say I am delighted that the town council is doing all it can to retain the youth centre in the town, as you will have read in last week's GEM.

I must also compliment local traders and, in particular, the Llannid Fawr in Flower group for making the town look so beautiful during these fine summer months.

I would like to focus this month on telling you about the charities I have chosen to support over the next year, namely Headlines, Age Concern and St. Illtud's Church.

My choices represent a national charity, a regional charity, a town charity, covering younger and older people.

You may not be familiar with Headlines, a small national charity supporting children and adults with cognitive and non-cognitive disabilities, which is a rare genetic condition at birth that causes the senses of the skull to fuse.

This affects the formation of the skull and in syndromic cases can also lead to facial and limb abnormalities. If not treated, the skull cannot expand as the brain grows, which can lead to pressure on the brain and learning difficulties.

Headlines is very personal to me because my daughter was born with non-syndromic craniosynostosis and had to have four major skull reconstruction operations.



by Cllr David Ellis, Mayor of Llantwit Major

Hospital in Oxford when she was younger.

It is for this reason that I became a trustee of the charity. I am very pleased to say that the operations were successful.

You may be more familiar with Age Concerns. This is a regional charity, which operates in Llantwit Major and provides a range of services and programmes to combat loneliness and isolation and to help older people, for example those with dementia.

There are many people in the local area who benefit from the charity and town councillors have been involved over recent years in promoting its work, for example by helping to arrange its Christmas party.

Thirdly, I am a member of the Church Council and because I have been a worshipper there for over 30 years, the building and its role in the community is a central feature of the heritage of the town.

I think forward to meeting many of you here throughout the coming year.

'cradle of Celtic Christianity' and is attracting a growing number of visitors and pilgrims. It is also a very active church.

However, unfortunately, the fabric of the building does need continual restoration work. In addition, the bell rings have asked for a defibrillator to be kept on the premises.

I am, therefore, working closely with Friends of St Illtud's to raise as much money as possible to maintain the building and to support the church in its aspirations.

I would encourage you to make a visit if you have not already done so, particularly to see the recently restored Gwilym Chapel with its very impressive display of Celtic crosses.

We are arranging a number of fundraising events in the coming year to support my chosen charities.

The first event is a coffee morning on Saturday, June 30 between 10am and 12 noon in the Llannanion Hall, when Sue McDougall will be exhibiting some of her paintings.

We will then be holding a strawberry in conjunction with Friends of the Church the afternoon of July.

In the autumn, we will be hosting further coffee mornings and various concerts and social events, so 'wa' hoo space'.

I look forward to meeting many of you here throughout the coming year.

## Singing for their supper



WHEN David Parsons, who lives in Cowbridge, was asked by Eva Thomas of Llantwit Major Foodbank to write a song to support the group's fundraising, he was happy to help.

Mr Parsons worked with members of a ukulele band and musical friends of the foodbank to produce his song 'A Hidden Hunger', which has been recorded.

He said: "The song is about raising funds, but above all it is about the message of helping to stop 'hidden hunger'."

Bethel Baptist Church provided its hall for the band to rehearse and the official launch of the CD took place at the hall's coffee morning on October 20. The Mayor of Llantwit Major, Cllr David Ellis, attended the launch event and Anne-Marie Taylor from Vale Food Banks thanked all those involved for their support.

For more information, contact [bhavin.musi@gmail.com](mailto:bhavin.musi@gmail.com).

At the launch are (from left): the Mayor of Llantwit Major, Dr David Ellis; David Parsons; and Eva Thomas.



# Crowds throng Llantwit Major Cenotaph to pay their respects on Remembrance Sunday



THE Mayor of Llantwit Major, Cllr Dr David Ellis, described the response of local people to local Remembrance events as 'unprecedented'.

At 6am people gathered for an early morning ceremony at the Cenotaph. Later in the morning, at 11am the old town in Llantwit Major around the Cenotaph was packed with hundreds of people keen to pay their respects.

The bells of St Illtud's Church rang out to remember the 1,400 bell ringers who never returned from the First World War.

In the evening a centenary beacon was lit in the town.

Local photographer ANDY WICKS took these images of the main ceremony in the town.



Photographs by ANDY WICKS

## FOURTH LLANTWIT MAJOR 10K DRAWS RUNNERS FROM ACROSS SOUTH WALES

### 'We are the best option for looking after our youth centre,' says Llantwit Town Council

F Vale Council is inviting proposals from organisations or groups to take the lease of Llantwit Major Youth Centre building and run a community facility. The lease lasts for 99 years and full rent is available on the Vale web site. The Vale Council stresses that the building is very close to Llantwit Major and could be suitable for a range of services, childcare, office use or as an artist's studio.

by GEM REPORTER  
GOT A STORY?  
Call us on 01446 774484 or email  
editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

"Nevertheless, we are confident that our bid will convince the Vale Council that the town council is the most viable and sustainable option to benefit the community of Llantwit Major and to provide quality youth and community facilities.

"We have already been impressed by residents who have approached us voluntarily to provide a youth club in the centre and other people who have ideas to make the centre a valuable and well-used facility for the town."

The spokesman added: "Unfortunately, we understand the youth centre building will effectively close on September 1 and users have been given notice to this effect."

"The building, therefore, will not be generally used for some months while the bids are assessed and legal documents are drawn up. The town council sought to prevent the closure by taking over the building but this will not now happen."

Bids need to be submitted by August 31.

### VOLUNTARY SECTOR BODY IS THE PREFERRED BIDDER Town Council loses chance for youth centre building

LLANTWIT Major's councillors on the Vale Council are seeking an urgent meeting with its managing director to find out why the Town Council missed out on getting the local youth centre building.

The Town Council announced on October 5 that its bid to take the building over had been unsuccessful.

On Facebook Llantwit residents expressed disappointment and anger - pointing out that St Athan and Barry had youth provisions, and asking the question: what sort of youth service will Llantwit Major get?

Local councillor Gwyn John told The GEM: "We have asked

Rob Thomas, the Vale's managing director for an urgent meeting to discuss the outcome and ask questions that need to be answered.

"The final decision on this was taken by the Vale Leader Cllr John Thomas with advice from officers."

"I am deeply disappointed the Council was not given the lease on the youth centre building."

Cllr John said the terms of the lease on the building had included housing a youth centre, a music and dance studio and facilities for local people, and he wanted to know what terms of reference would apply to the organisation taking over the building.

He added: "The people of Llantwit put

millions into the Vale's coffers and are concerned about cuts like these."

"GVS's bid clearly shared those ambitions and I'm sure once implemented these plans can provide a major boost to the local area."

Exact details are still to be finalised, but plans consist of using the building for events and activities involving local residents.

Cllr John Thomas, the Vale Council Leader, said: "The council was put forward by GVS and now looks forward to working with them to bring these exciting proposals to fruition."

"When we considered the future of this site, it was clear in my view that the building should continue to be used for community purposes for the benefit of residents and the town of Llantwit Major."

"GVS's bid clearly shared those ambitions and I'm sure once implemented these plans can provide a major boost to the local area."

the benefit of residents and the town of Llantwit Major."

"GVS's bid clearly shared those ambitions and I'm sure once implemented these plans can provide a major boost to the local area."

Exact details are still to be finalised, but plans consist of using the building for events and activities involving local residents.

Cllr John Thomas, the Vale Council Leader, said: "The council was put forward by GVS and now looks forward to working with them to bring these exciting proposals to fruition."

"When we considered the future of this site, it was clear in my view that the building should continue to be used for community purposes for the benefit of residents and the town of Llantwit Major."

"GVS's bid clearly shared those ambitions and I'm sure once implemented these plans can provide a major boost to the local area."

### Mayor's charity concert helped to raise £800



by Llantwit Mayor Mayor, Cllr David Ellis

FIRSTLY, I would like to thank all those who helped to make the youth concert in St Illtud's Church on February 16 such a resounding success.

I would especially like to thank all the brilliant performers and their accompanists, our two presenters, Leah Elliott and Jess Fitzpatrick, the Youth Council, Nigel Rowland and his fellow technicians who ensured everything ran smoothly.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank Alyn Jones who organised the whole event. Well done to everyone! The church was full and over £800 was raised for my three charities.

The final charity event for my mayoral year will be a coffee morning on Saturday, April 13 in the Llanthomas Hall, when we will be announcing the winners of a silent auction. Watch this space over the next six weeks for news of the great star prizes that

will be available for you to bid on.

I am also very grateful to all those who turned up to the meeting on January 17 to consider reviving the Town Twinning Association.

This was another success with over 30 people attending and many others offering their support.

It was agreed enthusiastically to resurrect the association; and many thanks to Kelly Marsh who agreed to act as an interim chair. An inaugural AGM has now been arranged for Tuesday, March 5 at 7pm at the rugby club to form a committee and plan the way forward. If you are interested in being involved, please come along.

Residents will be pleased to know that Llantwit Major Town Council continues to

have various plans in place to enhance the town and its facilities.

For example, the work on the new sports pavilion at the recreation field is proceeding well and the building should be in use soon.

The council is also introducing a 'Best Front Garden' competition this summer. If you are a keen gardener, do please enter. Forms are available from the town hall and the winner will be announced at the annual horticultural show on August 17.

You will also start to notice now the work of the Llanilltud Fawr in Flower group, who are busy planting spring flowers around the town. I would like to extend my gratitude to all those who volunteer to make our town such a wonderful and pleasant place to live.

### Looking for the best front garden

LLANTWIT Major Town Council is holding a competition throughout the town this spring/summer for the best front garden.

Entries open on March 1 and judging will take place from July 22 to 26. Winners and runners-up will be announced at the annual horticultural show in Llanthomas Hall on August 17.

A council spokeswoman said: "If you would like to enter, all you need

to do is pick up and complete an entry form at the Town Hall or download a copy of the form online at: www.llantwitmajortowncouncil.co.uk

"There is no entry fee. Why not have some friendly neighbourly competition, make Llantwit Major colourful for the summer and see if you can be the first winner of the town's Best Kept Front Garden?"

For more information, contact the Town Hall on 01446 793707.



## Photographs of Events during the past



Town Hall – Nations Tributes celebrations



Carols with the Councillors – by the Cenotaph



Course in Llantonian Hall on Defibrillator Training following the installation of a new defibrillator in the Phone Box by the Cenotaph



New kitchen installed in Llantonian Hall





Repainted and new windows installed in Lantonian Hall



Mayor inspecting the RAF troops to celebrate 100 years of the RAF and 75 years base at MOD St Athan





### School Gardens Competition – Gillybeans Playgroup



### Refurbished courts at Llantwit Major Tennis Club







Mayor by the wooden plaque showing Recreation Field is a Field in Trust Site



Rebuilding of the Sports Pavilion – March 2019

## **A NATIONS TRIBUTE**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 marked a hundred years since the end of the First World War. Llantwit Major came together in a number of ways to commemorate the occasion. At 6am a lone piper, Mr Lawson, played Battle's O'er at the Cenotaph with around 100 people in attendance. At 11am thousands of residents made their way back to the Cenotaph for the Service. At 2pm a WW1 children's event was held in the Llantonian Hall by the Events Group. A WW1 Exhibition was held in St Illtud's Church over the weekend which had memorabilia from local people, school, artists and History Society.



On the day, the Commemorative Wall Hanging draped from the Town Hall which was made by 300 individual textile squares of Poppies.

The tribute continued in to the evening when the Ukulele band played World War songs prior to a

Beacon of Light being lit by Llantwit Major Town Mayor at 7pm.

Llantwit Major Town Council would like to thank everyone who helped make the day so memorable.

The Commemorative Wall Hanging is now inside the Town Hall. Please drop in to take a look.



## **SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Work on the sports development project is well on its way. The lighting along the recreation field footpath is now installed and the tennis courts have been resurfaced.

The Council is able to undertake this work as a result of a £128,000 grant from the Welsh Government's Rural Development Programme.

The project also includes an extension to the sports pavilion to replace the previous home of the Bowls Club. The demolishing of the old wooden structure has taken place and the foundations have been laid for the new build.



# LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Issue No: 14 – Winter 2018 Edition

## **REFILL**

Llantwit Major is proud to be the first place in Wales to join the Refill campaign.

Jacquie Jenkins, owner of the Hair Studio, was eager to do something about plastic waste after her son reported seeing excessive plastic waste on a trip to Bali. Inspired also by TV's Blue Planet II, Jacquie turned to social media to ask people of the town 'How can we, as businesses, reduce plastic waste? Any ideas please?'

A fellow business owner suggested Refill so Jacquie did some research before contacting the Town Council who were thrilled to back the idea.

You can now refill your water bottles in many businesses/organisations across town. Look out for the blue Refill sticker in business windows.



*Llantwit Major Town Council  
Town Hall  
CF61 1SD*

## **MAYOR'S CHARITY EVENTS**

It's been a busy time for the Llantwit Major Town Mayor. As well as attending numerous events, Councillor Dr Ellis has been hosting a few of his own. The Charity Concert in October was a huge success with performances from the Bridgend Voice Choir, Rock Choir and soloist Angharad Morgan. In November a Local Schools Charity Concert took place which was a thoroughly enjoyed by all. December saw a Coffee Morning which local Art and Crafts Group held an exhibition.

## **WHAT'S ON THIS CHRISTMAS**

This Christmas why not join your local Councillors in singing carols around the Cenotaph. 'Carols with your Councillors' is taking place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of December at 6pm around the Cenotaph. Please note that this event is weather permitted.

This year's pantomime is 'Sleeping Beauty' by the professional touring company Gerry Graham Pantos and Productions. The panto will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 in the Llantonian Hall with two performances, at 4pm and 7pm.

Tickets are £5 and can be purchased from the Town Hall. Get yours today!



*Tel: 01446 793707  
Email: [lm.tc@btconnect.com](mailto:lm.tc@btconnect.com)*



## Llantwit Major Town Council 2018 – 2019





**Front Row** (Left to Right): Councillor D Foster, Councillor E Williams, Councillor A Clarke, Councillor G Thomas, Councillor G Wilkie, Councillor D Powell, Councillor G Morgan

**Back Row** (Left to Right): Councillor G John, Councillor Mrs J Norman, Mrs Barbara Ellis (Mayors Consort), Councillor Dr D Ellis (Mayor) , Councillor B Gant (Deputy Mayor), Councillor Mrs S Hanks, Councillor J Evans

## COUNCILLORS

### WEST WARD

	<p>Councillor Gwyn John Ashgrove House High Street Llantwit Major CF61 1SS</p> <p>01446 793669</p> <p><a href="mailto:johngandg@gmail.com">johngandg@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><u>Committees</u></p> <p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation &amp; Buildings Committee Sports Development Committee</p>
	<p>Councillor David Powell Purlon Farm Wick Road Llantwit Major CF61 1YU</p> <p>01446 792527</p> <p><a href="mailto:Dave.purlon@gmail.com">Dave.purlon@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><u>Committees</u></p> <p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Footpath Forum Town Study Steering Group Planning Committee Reshaping Services Committee Small Sculpture Committee Friends of Glamorgan Heritage Coast</p>

## SOUTH EAST WARD

	<p>Councillor Gordon Wilkie 64 Ham Lane South Llantwit Major CF61 1RN</p> <p>01446 795490</p> <p><a href="mailto:Gordy.wilkie@tiscali.co.uk">Gordy.wilkie@tiscali.co.uk</a></p>	<p><u>Committees</u></p> <p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Allotment Sub-Committee Youth Activities Forum Citizen Awards Panel</p>
	<p>Councillor Gerwyn Thomas 71 Illtyd Avenue Llantwit Major CF61 1TH 01446 792007</p> <p><a href="mailto:gerwyn@valleysboy.com">gerwyn@valleysboy.com</a></p>	<p><u>Committees</u></p> <p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Town Study Steering Group Town Hall Working Group Youth Activities Forum - Chair Youth Link Councillors Bowls Club Sub Committee Reshaping Services Committee Nations Tribute Celebration Committee Small Sculpture Committee British Legion Panel Pub watch One Voice Wales – Main Representative Wellbeing of Future Generation Committee Provision of Youth Services Sports Development Committee</p>

	<p><b>Councillor Graham Morgan</b></p> <p>19 Waterfall Mews Ham Manor Park Llantwit Major CF61 1BA</p> <p>079 832 126 38</p> <p><a href="mailto:Gm30635@gmail.com">Gm30635@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Committees</u></b></p> <p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee – Deputy Chair Footpath Forum Town Study Steering Group Planning Committee Town Hall Working Group Youth Activities Forum 5 Year Plan Committee Bowls Club Committee Reshaping Services Committee Nations Tribute Celebration Committee Small Sculpture Committee Vale of Glamorgan Council Community Liaison Committee – Main Representative Sports Development Committee</p>
--	--	---

## BOVERTON WARD



	<p>Councillor Jeff Evans</p> <p>10 The Walled Garden Llantwit Major CF61 1RP</p> <p>074 841 602 43</p> <p><a href="mailto:Cllr.jeff.evans@hotmail.co.uk">Cllr.jeff.evans@hotmail.co.uk</a></p>	<p><u>Committees</u></p> <p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee - Chair Town Study Steering Group Planning Committee - Chair Town Hall Working Group Youth Activities Forum 5 Year Plan Committee Allotment Sub-Committee - Chair Bowls Club Sub Committee - Chair Wellbeing of Future Generation Committee Reshaping Services Committee Small Sculpture Committee Nations Tribute Celebration Committee Provision of Youth Services Sports Development Committee</p>
	<p>Councillor Sally Hanks</p> <p>Greenmeadow Mill Road Llantwit Major CF61 1UH</p> <p>01446 796803</p> <p><a href="mailto:sallyhanks@hotmail.co.uk">sallyhanks@hotmail.co.uk</a></p>	<p><u>Committees</u></p> <p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Mayoral Inauguration Forum Town Hall Working Group Allotment Sub-Committee Chamber of Trade Governor Ysgol Ddraig Junior School Citizen Awards Panel Sports Development Committee</p>



	<p>Councillor Robert Gant (Deputy Town Mayor)</p> <p>1 Glamorgan Close Llantwit Major CF61 1UF</p> <p>01446 795367</p> <p><a href="mailto:robertgant@btinternet.com">robertgant@btinternet.com</a></p>	<p><u>Committees</u></p> <p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Cenotaph Forum Funding Forum School Garden British Legion Panel Good Neighbour Scheme Steering Group One Voice Wales - Reserve</p>
	<p>Councillor Gill Hughes</p> <p>12 Voss Park Drive Llantwit Major Cf61 1YD</p> <p>07978 707058</p> <p><a href="mailto:Gillchem57@gmail.com">Gillchem57@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><u>Committees</u></p> <p>Finance and Policy Recreation and Buildings Committee</p>



## NORTH WARD

	<p>Councillor Dr Peter Dickson</p> <p>Fairfield Cowbridge Road Llantwit Major CF61 2YS</p> <p>01446 790393</p> <p><a href="mailto:Peter.dickson@btinternet.com">Peter.dickson@btinternet.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Committees</u></b></p> <p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Town Study Steering Group Planning Committee Youth Activities Forum Nations Tribute Celebration Committee Small Sculpture Committee Vale of Glamorgan Community Liaison Committee – Reserve Power Station Liaison Group Friends of Glamorgan Heritage Coast</p>
	<p>Councillor Mrs Jayne Norman</p> <p>28 Dyfrig Court Llantwit Major CF61 2GA 01446 796039</p> <p><a href="mailto:jaynemnorman@gmail.com">jaynemnorman@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Committees</u></b></p> <p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Mayoral Inauguration Forum - Chair Town Hall Working Group Youth Activities Forum School Garden 5 Year Plan Committee Allotment Sub-Committee Wellbeing of Future Generation Committee - Chair Nations Tribute Celebration Committee Charities Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower</p>



Councillor Dr P D Ellis

(Town Mayor)

Willastones  
13 Heol Pentre'r Felin  
Llantwit Major  
CF61 2XS

01446 796517

[dellis@elliscymru.co.uk](mailto:dellis@elliscymru.co.uk)

### Committees

Finance and Policy Committee  
Recreation and Buildings Committee  
Footpath Forum - Chair  
Mayoral Inauguration Forum  
Town Hall Working Group  
School Garden  
5 Year Plan Committee  
Wellbeing of Future Generation Committee  
Nations Tribute Celebration Committee – Chair  
Charities  
Good Neighbour Scheme Steering Group  
P.A.C.T  
Small Sculpture Committee – Chair  
Citizen Awards Panel – Chair  
Youth Link Councillor  
Town Study Steering Group – Chair



Councillor Eddie Williams


3 Grange Gardens  
Llantwit Major  
CF61 2XB

01446 793021

[eddiewill@aol.com](mailto:eddiewill@aol.com)

### Committees

Finance and Policy Committee  
Recreation and Buildings Committee

	<p>Councillor David Foster</p> <p>17 Llanmaes Road Llantwit Major CF61 2XD 01146 792179</p> <p><a href="mailto:Salad99@btinternet.com">Salad99@btinternet.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Committees</u></b></p> <p>Finance and Policy Committee – Chair</p> <p>Recreation and Buildings Committee</p> <p>Footpath Forum</p> <p>Planning Committee – Deputy Chair</p> <p>Town Hall Working Group – Chair</p> <p>Funding Forum</p> <p>5 Year Plan Committee – Chair</p> <p>Wellbeing of Future Generation Committee</p> <p>Reshaping Services Committee – Chair</p> <p>Provision of Youth Services</p> <p>Sports Development Committee</p>

## Appendix A

### Citizen of the Year Award Ceremony 2019

On the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 Llantwit Major Town Council hosted the 2019 Llantwit Major Citizen of the Year Awards in Llantonian Hall.

The event was attended by over 100 people who experienced an evening of laughter and tears listening to all the amazing individuals and organisations that had won Awards at this prestigious event. The Nominees unselfishly give up their time and energy to make a difference to our Town. Llantwit Major Town Council wish to thank and also celebrate these citizens for all the dedication and hard work that they give to our Community.

The event was kindly sponsored by two companies, Alun Griffiths Ltd and Kingfisher Development (Wales) Ltd who kindly sent representatives to hand out prizes to all the worthy winners and runners up during the evening.

The start of the Celebrations:







Detailed below are a list of all the unsung heroes of Llantwit Major that received Awards:

**Runner Up Young Citizen of the Year Morgan Edwards.**

Prize awarded to him by Anthony Morgan from Alun Griffiths Ltd who sponsored the event.

Morgan has been dedicated to Boys Brigade since the age of 5 and takes part in many community events. He is Captain of Lifeguards as well as pursuing his academic studies. Morgan is a natural leader and an excellent role model.





## **Winner Young Citizen of the Year Jake Fairchild.**

Prize awarded to him by Steve Cottingham from Kingfisher Development Wales Ltd  
who sponsored the event.

Jake is an active member and player of LM Tennis Club. He is Head Boy of LM Comp as well as holding down a part time job.

All this he has undertaken despite the tragic passing of his mum in September last year. His strength, maturity and dignity he showed during this difficult time is an inspiration to us all.



## **Runner Up Sports Personality of the year 2019 – Major Milers Running Club**

Prize awarded to them by Andrew Griffiths from Kingfisher Development Wales Ltd

The Running Club was only established in 2017 and now has over 700 Facebook members and attracts 50+ runners every Tuesday and Thursday night. The Club has improved the health and wellbeing of all those that have run, creating a real social group for the town, that covers all ages and abilities.



## Winner Sports Personality of the year 2019 – Tracy O’Callaghan

Prize awarded to her by Anthony Morgan from Alun Griffiths Ltd .

Tracy represents Great Britain in Powerlifting. In 2018 she became European Powerlifting champion. At the 2018 World Championships in Calgary she came 4<sup>th</sup> overall and won a silver medal in the squat lift and set a new commonwealth record. The year ended by her becoming British Champion. This is an amazing achievement and Tracy fits all this in around family life and running a successful playgroup in the town.





## **Runner Up Service to the Community Award for 2019 – Llantwit Major Coastguards**

Prize awarded to them by Steve Cottingham from Kingfisher Development Wales Ltd

The Coast Guard Team have 12 volunteers that look after our coastline and keep our beach safe. They also are involved in helping at many local events including the LM10K and beach cleaning projects. Last year they spent 1100 hours training, they responded to 59 emergency calls and spent a further 700 man hours at the scene of incidents. They undertake all this whilst juggling their own fulltime jobs and family commitments.



**Winner of the Service to the Community Award for 2019 –  
Llantwit Major Dementia Café**

Prize awarded to them by Andrew Griffiths from Kingfisher Development Wales Ltd

Teresa Mcquire and her volunteers Pat, Rene and Val have set up and run a Dementia Café in Bethel Baptist for sufferers of Dementia and their Carers. They work tirelessly to improve the lives of those with dementia whilst offering support to the carers. The knowledge they have of this traumatic illness and the support they give to the local community is why they were awarded winners of the Service to the Community Award.





## Runner Up Outstanding Fundraising for Charity 2019

### – Toni Marley

Prize awarded to her by Anthony Morgan from Alun Griffiths Ltd.

Toni in the last 12 months she has raised over £3000 for various charities including Health in Adolescence, Action for Children and the Neo Natal Unit at the Heath Hospital. A substantial amount of money is raised by the Christmas display she puts up over November / December outside her bungalow along Eagleswell Road. It can take up to 5 weeks to erect, along with a Father Christmas Grotto for the children. Christmas would not be the same in our Town without Toni's display.



## **Winner Outstanding Fundraising for Charity 2019**

### **– Amber Snell**

Prize awarded to her by Steve Cottingham from Kingfisher Development Wales Ltd

Amber at only 25 years of age has committed to raising money to support the Alzheimer's Society. Last year she raised over £3000 for this worthy cause. She ran Bake Sales and organised Trips whilst still working full time. At present she is organising a trip to Bath and all proceeds will go to 'Memory Jar' and LM Dementia Café. An amazing achievement.



## **Runner Up Citizen of the Year 2019 Sheralee Baldwin**

Prize awarded to them by Andrew Griffiths from Kingfisher Development Wales Ltd

Sheralee is warden of Crawshay Court, a sheltered accommodation for the elderly in Eagleswell Road. Her commitment to the residents extends ways beyond her job description. She pops in and see residents all times of the day and weekends, plus gets their prescriptions and acts as a Carer and friend to many of the vulnerable residents. She suffered a major illness herself a few years ago but was determined to get back to health to look after the residents of Crawshay Drive.



**Winners of the Citizen of the Year 2019 Heather Fox**  
**and Maureen Geary Andrews**

Prize awarded to her by Anthony Morgan from Alun Griffiths Ltd.

Maureen and Heather both work tirelessly and passionately for the local branch of the Royal British Legion. Without these two ladies the branch would not exist. They make LM Remembrance Day a very special event for the town, hand out and collect all the poppy boxes throughout the town and weeks before sell poppies and memorabilia to raise funds for the British Legion in Filco Supermarket. They ensure the Remembrance parade is organised correctly, all relevant dignitaries are invited and the parade and service follow the correct running order.





## **'The Poppy Ladies'**

A special award for all the ladies that helped to create the Poppy Wall Hanging for the Nations Tribute Celebrations in November 2018.



**From Left to Right:** Meryl Hunter, Loraine Savory, Janet Birt, Coleen Tombs, Jacquie Jenkins and Councillor Jayne Norman that presented the Awards to the ladies.

A special award of a Royal British Legion Poppy Badge was given to each of the seven ladies that sewed all the Poppy Squares together to make the Patchwork Wall Hanging for the Nations Tribute weekend that is now proudly displayed in the Town Hall. A big thank you from the Town Council for all their hard work.

## **Llantwit Major Citizen of the Year Award Winners for 2019**

Congratulations to all our deserving winners of awards this evening. Llantwit Major Town Council are very proud to be able to honour such worthy individuals and organisations that give so much to our town.

