

Dolwyddelan Community Newsletter

Spring

2026

The illustration features a large white cloud in the center with the text 'EASTER AFTERNOON' written across it in a red, hand-drawn, cursive font. Below the cloud, the date 'March 29th' is written in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font. The background is a light green color. There are several decorated Easter eggs: one on the left with a blue and white pattern, one on the right with green and white stripes, and a cluster of four at the bottom (two orange with white patterns, one green with white patterns, and one blue with white patterns). A pair of white rabbit ears with pink inner linings is positioned at the bottom center, appearing to peek out from behind the eggs. Green leafy branches are also visible on the sides.

EASTER AFTERNOON

March 29th

2:00 – 4:00 Dolwyddelan School

Easter Egg Hunt / Tea and Cakes

Duck Race / Raffle



To contact the Pavilion – 01690 750 490 (answerphone)
Or contact the following for a more immediate response –
Paul Donnelly 07534 120 193 Bob Valintine 01690 750 205
Kirsty Jones 07703 834 322
mentersiabod@googlemail.com
Community Pavilion – Rear of Ysgol Dolwyddelan
Dolwyddelan, Conwy LL25 0SZ

Village Cinema

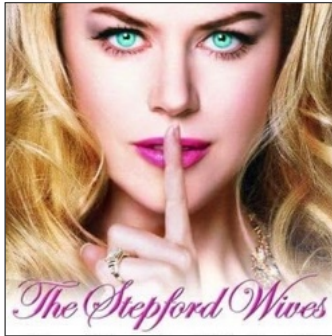
Gwyddelan Suite – 7.00pm

Forthcoming attractions

March 18th

April 15th

May 20th



**Available to hire by the day
from Menter Siabod at the Pavilion . . .**



Wheelchair – a donation

Marquees - £50 per day (plus £50 deposit)

Folding tables – free to locals

Carpet shampooer - £10 per day

Spot cleaner (good for stairs) - £5 per day

Pavilion and Gwyddelan Suite hire charges . . .

Organisation	Morning (up to 4hrs)	Afternoon (up to 4hrs)	Evening (up to 4hrs)	Full Day
Regular meetings (weekly/monthly) Local / Charity / Voluntary Organisations	£10	£10	£10	£25
One-off or occasional Local / Charity / Voluntary Organisations	£15	£15	£15	£35
Business	£25	£25	£25	£60
Use of Audio/Visual equipment is an additional charge of £5 per session				
Local / Charity / Voluntary Organisations (regular meetings) with less than 10 attendees will pay £1 per head per session up to 4 hours				

Any enquiries please contact . . .

Bob Valintine 01690 750 205 Paul Donnelly 07534 120 193

Kirsty Jones 07703 834 322

Dolwyddelan Youth Club is thriving, with 15–20 young people attending each week! It's fantastic to see so many local young people coming together to take part in activities, make friends and enjoy being part of the community. The club runs every Wednesday during term time from 17:00 until 19:00 at the Village Pavilion. We're so proud of how well the youth club is doing and look forward to welcoming even more young people along.

Thanks Matt



PRE-LOVED VINTED STYLE EVENING

Bring items along to sell,
or just come along to browse or buy.

At the Pavilion, April 9th, at 7pm

£5 admission including tea/coffee and home-made cakes.

Proceeds from entry fees go to Dolwyddelan Carnival

Everyone welcome

Bring along your items on the night.

Clothing – Handbags – Shoes etc (in good condition.)

Whatever you make on selling your item will be yours.

For further information **07538 265 626**



SEFYDLIAD Y MERCHED - DOLWYDDELAN WI

BINGO NIGHT

All Welcome - Croeso i Bawb



FRIDAY 10TH APRIL 2026 -
DYDD GWENER 10FED O EBRILL
Prize Games & Refreshments

£1 per book

7PM - YSGOL DOLWYDDELAN - DOORS OPEN 6.30PM

Dolwyddelan Fishing Association

We are now accepting
applications for the position of
Club Chairman.

If you wish to apply, or for more
information, please contact

sianeirianlloyd@gmail.com



A Day in the Life . . . of a Churchwarden

At St Gwyddelan's, in the small village of Dolwyddelan, much of what happens each week goes unseen. Doors are unlocked, spaces prepared, candles lit, rotas organised — often without fanfare. For the past six years, Sue has been one of the Churchwardens helping to make sure all of this happens.

Sue stepped into the role when the previous Churchwarden was unable to continue. "I took over at the time, and I've just carried on ever since," she says, in a way that reflects her practical, understated approach to service.

For Sue, being a Churchwarden is very much a role you shape yourself. "It's what you make of it," she explains. "Because I'm short of time, my role is mostly about coordinating — making sure that anything that needs doing *does* get done, and that the people who help have the support they need."

That often means looking after the building: locking up, cleaning, setting up for worship, and organising service rotas. But it also means something less tangible. "Being a listening ear," Sue says. "That's part of it too."

People are sometimes surprised to hear that the role isn't as daunting as it sounds. "It isn't difficult," she says simply — particularly when it's shared.

The highlights of the year, for Sue, are the festivals. "Decorating the church with greenery — always eco-friendly — and seeing it all by candlelight," she says. "It looks so lovely. Magical, really."

There are, of course, responsibilities that don't always get noticed. Some are more challenging than others. "Understanding how the heating works," Sue laughs — proof that every ministry has its mysteries.

Certain moments stay with her more than most. "Weddings," she says without hesitation. "They're always magical."

Balancing the role with the rest of life comes down to organisation — and people. "I have an excellent and hugely helpful team who actually do most of the bits and pieces that need doing," she says. "Many hands really do make light work."

Support comes from many places: the congregation, the clergy, and



faith itself. "Having faith that it will all work out, somehow," Sue reflects. When asked what being a Churchwarden means to her personally, she pauses. "I don't think about it very much," she says. "But it's important to me to use my skills to help others where and how I can." And her message to readers is simple and encouraging: "We all just do what we can. But the more people who help and get involved, the more life there is — and the easier and more manageable things become for everyone."

St. Gwyddelan's

Services and Event dates . . .

Sunday **1st March** 2026 – at 09:30 St Gwyddelans – Eucharist

Sunday **15th March** 2026 – at 09:30 St Gwyddelans – Eucharist

Easter Sunday **5th April** 2026 – at 09:30 St Gwyddelans – Eucharist

Contact details . . .

Tel 01690 710313 or stuartelliott@cinw.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1181120

Facebook: Bro Gwydyr and St. Gwyddelan's



Ardal Weinidogaeth
Bro Gwydyr
Ministry Area

THE MONDAY CLUB

The Dolwyddelan Monday Club will now meet on the third Monday of most months in the Pavilion. Our meetings commence at 2 o'clock and finish when we feel like it.

The meetings for this next quarter will be on . . .

March 16th – April 20th – May 18th

Some meetings involve entertaining ourselves with a quiz or a chat - and at other meetings we have a guest speaker and have had talks in the past on many diverse subjects. For our March meeting we will have a talk and demonstration on 'Stump Embroidery'.

Tea, biscuits, a good natter and laughter are always the norm.

We also have an annual day trip out, and in the past have taken a boat trip around Puffin Island, visited the 1950's Museum in Denbigh - and a tour of Ynys Mon (Anglesey) etc.

Newcomers always welcome.

Finally - once again - we will miss enormously the presence of Eurwyn Roberts who has been a guest speaker so many times and a good friend to Monday Club.

John Weedon.

Dolwyddelan Rolls Out the Sunshine on Boxing Day

If you needed proof that Dolwyddelan can turn absolutely anything into a world-class sporting event (with a straight face and a big laugh), Boxing Day delivered it in barrels.

Under a rare, suspiciously perfect winter sun, the village gathered for the annual Boxing Day barrel rolling competition, an event that sits proudly in the great Welsh tradition of “we’re not entirely sure how this started, but we’re definitely not stopping now.”

Organised by the team @ Y Gwydyr Pub, this year’s competition had everything: a proper crowd, excellent noise levels, and a roll-line of competitors ranging from seasoned locals to a team bolstered by international visitors from Australia - who arrived as tourists and left as honorary Dolwyddelan residents, presumably after learning the key rules of the day:

1. Grip tight.
2. Run faster than your dignity.
3. If it wobbles, commit.

And wobble it did.



The barrel, an object best described as “determined to do its own thing”, took on multiple personalities throughout the course. At times it rolled like a disciplined athlete. At other times it behaved like it had just remembered a different appointment elsewhere in the village.

Still, the competition was fierce in the way only a Dolwyddelan contest can be: half sporting ambition, half comedy theatre, all heart. Spectators

cheered, laughed, offered tactical advice that nobody could possibly follow at speed, and provided that special kind of encouragement that sounds supportive but is actually just beautifully heckling. A huge shout-out goes to Purple Moose Brewery for their sponsorship, because nothing says “elite athletic performance” quite like the promise of a well-earned pint afterwards. Hydration is important. So is morale. Purple Moose, as it turns out, covers both.



But above all, what made the day was the community. From the organisers to the supporters lining the route, it felt like the whole village turned out, smiling, clapping, and reminding us that traditions like this aren't just entertainment; they're the glue that holds a place together. (That and the occasional shared opinion about barrel trajectory.)

This year also saw the crowning of a new champion (well done Cai Price), an achievement that will undoubtedly be remembered for generations, or at the very least until next Boxing Day when someone else turns up with stronger legs, better balance, and fewer scruples about sprinting down Maes-Y-Lan after a runaway barrel.

Special thanks must go to Urien and Namthip for making it happen. Events like this don't organise themselves, despite what the barrel may have believed, and their effort, energy, and good humour helped create another Dolwyddelan day to remember.

So here's to sunshine in December, to international visitors who fully embraced the chaos, to sponsors who understand village sport, and to a community that shows up, every time, with warmth, laughter, and the perfect amount of competitive nonsense.

You bring the running shoes. Urien will deliver the Barrels, I'll keep the contestants aligned, The barrel will bring the drama and afterwards we all return to our community pub, share laughs, spirit and stories.

Same time next year?

Mike Hewitt

Our First Dolwyddelan Christmas and Winter

When we imagined our first Christmas in Dolwyddelan, we pictured frost on the valley floor, church bells drifting through cold air and mugs of tea cooling on the windowsill, while rain — because rain here never merely falls, it commits — tapped at the glass.

Instead, we spent Christmas Day in Santiago, Chile.

Work carried us to the other side of the world. While the valley settled into winter stillness, we were standing beneath a Southern Hemisphere sun, celebrating Christmas in summer. Yet even 7,000 miles away, we found ourselves checking the Dolwyddelan weather. Had it frosted? Was the river high? Were the mountains clear? Christmas music played in hotel lobbies, but in our minds, we could hear carols echoing closer to home.

We returned to winter waiting for us. Slate roofs darkened by rain. Hills wrapped in mist. The river louder after storms. Winter here is not decorative; it is elemental. Light becomes precious. Logs become strategic. A clear morning feels like a gift.

Then January delivered what every valley hopes for — snow.

Beautiful, postcard-perfect snow.

We know this because we missed it.

While we were away again for work, Dolwyddelan briefly transformed into Narnia. Photographs arrived: white rooftops, crisp blue skies, Moel Siabod standing proud. We were disproportionately devastated. It turns out that belonging means wanting to be in the snow, not just admiring it remotely.

And just as we were recovering from that disappointment, village life produced another surprise — the discovery of a very large cannabis farm. Not quite the rural idyll brochure image. Yet even that was absorbed with characteristic calm: raised eyebrows, practical conversations and life carrying on.

Our first Dolwyddelan winter has taught us this: perfection is overrated. What matters is rhythm, community and the quiet exhale you feel when the valley opens before you on the drive home.

We weren't visiting.

We were coming home.

Dolwyddelan in summer made us fall in love.

Dolwyddelan in winter made us belong.

Lloyd C. Mason-Boardman

GWYDYR HOTEL

At the heart ❤️ of Dolwyddelan

Eryri • Beautiful Accommodation • Food & Drink

Open Tuesday to Sunday – 12.00 noon till late

Food every day 17.00 - 20.30

Home cooked Sunday Lunch.

Accommodation Upstairs with Catering services available.

Private events catered for.

Thai food every Wednesday - take away available

"Feel free to book a table, I cook from fresh ingredients."



ARTISAN MARKET

Starting Sunday May 2nd at Y Gwydyr Hotel

12.00 to 16.00 – monthly

Please contact Namthip if you would like a stall to sell your crafts or produce.

To book a table, and for all enquiries: 07464 710257

Facebook: Y Gwydyr Hotel Dolwyddelan



Namthip Thai
Meals



Wednesday Night

Dolwyddelan Community Hydro Scheme

Over the last year the community council has applied for some grants that were available for community hydro scheme feasibility studies. We hired a consultant from 'Cymru.Hydro' to undertake a feasibility study and design a plan for the scheme. He has commissioned archaeology, ecology, topographical and tree surveys. We are just awaiting the geomorphology report. Once complete an abstraction licence will be sent to NRW and a planning application sent to Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri.

At this stage the community council has taken the project as far as it can. All the consents will be in place in the next 6-9 months. Going forward an organisation needs to be set up to take the project forward to the build and operational phase, within this 6-9month timescale. This organisation will also need to apply for grants from various funds for the construction works.

Option 1: The community could opt to set up a Community Interest Company (CIC)

A CIC is a regulated social enterprise that reinvests profits into community benefit. The community could set up and use a CIC model to operate the hydro project while ensuring surplus income supports community activities.

Pros:

- ✓ Ensures surplus profits benefit the community.
- ✓ More attractive to grant funders.
- ✓ Can trade freely while maintaining a social mission.

Cons:

- ✗ Limited ability to distribute profits directly to the Community.
- ✗ Increased regulatory oversight and reporting.

This option works well for the community wanting a separate legal entity while ensuring community benefit.

Option 2: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

A CIO is a charitable structure that ensures tax-exempt status, making it ideal for projects with an environmental and community-focused mission.

Pros:

- ✓ Can be exempt from corporation tax.
- ✓ Strong governance and credibility for funding applications.

- ✓ Increased access to grants from environmental and social funds.

Cons:

- ✗ Restrictions on commercial activities may limit energy sales for profit.

- ✗ Higher regulatory requirements than a private company or CIC.

This can be attractive for communities who want to prioritise tax efficiency and strong charitable governance.

Option 3: Cooperative or Community Benefit Society

A Cooperative (Co-op) or Community Benefit Society (BenCom) would allow for community ownership of the project, raising investment through share offers.

Pros:

- ✓ Allows community investment, increasing local engagement.

- ✓ Possible tax relief opportunities for community investors.

- ✓ Aligns with Welsh Government policies on community energy projects.

Cons:

- ✗ Reduces direct Community control over the project.

- ✗ Requires active investor participation.

This could be a good option for Communities wanting a fully community-owned approach with external investment.

Once the plans for the project are finished and ready for planning submission then we will advertise a community consultation where the plans can be inspected, and the community can get more detailed information on the scheme and the potential community benefits and decide on the type of organisation to take the project forward.

Digital Voice changeover

You will no doubt, as residents, have heard about the Digital Voice changeover by 2027, with residents moving over from cable to fibre. The present outdated analogue network will be switched off for all phone providers.

The Community Council are arranging for a representative from Digital Voice to attend an evening at the

**St Gwyddelan Suite, at the rear of Ysgol Dolwyddelan
on Friday March 20th at 7pm.**

An opportunity for residents to attend a question & answer session.

Latest News on Dolwyddelan's Historic Capel Bethel

Bethel Action Group (BAG), a non-profit constituted charity continues efforts to secure Capel Bethel as a significant community asset. We are very pleased to announce that progress is being made, however we are currently unable to disclose any information.

In the meantime, the current state of disrepair and abuse to which Capel Bethel is being exposed continues to degrade further the building and its grounds. More windows have been broken; more discarded litter, and the chapel's wheelie bin is overflowing with waste from elsewhere. The Capel's grounds are literally being used as a dumping ground.



If you share our vision, please join us. We are looking for volunteers, professional guidance and donations. Maybe you would like to join us at the next group meeting?

Please contact us . . .

BAG Secretary: Helena Wróblewska, 07828 761114,
Helena_w@btinternet.com

BAG Chairman: Richard Griffin, 07736 059925,
Richard_griffin@btinternet.com

BAG Treasurer: Jon Reynolds, 07722 040778,
Jon1reynolds@outlook.com

Website: bethel-action-group.jimdosite.com

Facebook: Grŵp Bethel



If anyone wishes to bring a stall to the carnival, or has any queries, please email - CarnifalDolwyddelan@yahoo.com

MONDAY CRAFT GROUP

We meet every Monday, 10.00am till 1.00pm, in the Pavilion.



Any craft is welcome, as long as it doesn't make a mess! (No welding.)



Our group is experienced in Crochet, knitting, tatting, quilting, weaving, tapestry, cross stitch etc. If it uses a needle, we've probably done it!

Are you thinking of starting a craft, but don't know where to start, we probably have someone whose done it and will be happy to advise.



Have you wanted to try quilting, but are afraid to start?

(We even have two men who come to the group regularly!)





Porsche specialist but able to cater for all makes & models of vehicles. We can carry out all level of work. Diagnostics, servicing including gearbox servicing, brakes, suspension & clutch replacement.

We offer a 10% discount on labour to anyone in the Dolwyddelan area!

Tel: 07802 44 22 85

Email: jmsporschewales@gmail.com

Find us on Google maps or Facebook: search JMS Porsche North Wales

Snowdonia Massage Therapies

Alison Richmond MGHT
Mobile Therapist

Neal's Yard Remedies
Independent Consultant
Massage Treatments and
Hot Stone Therapy

Call: **01690 750 222**
Mob: **07534 284 188**

Visit my Neal's Yard shop:

www.uk.nyrorganic.com/shop/alisonrichmond

Facebook: [alisonrichmondnealsyard](https://www.facebook.com/alisonrichmondnealsyard)

10% discount off all Massage Treatments with this advert. Please quote - Menter Siabod when booking, discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

GARY 'LOGS' EDWARDS

LOGS and KINDLING

Small or large loads

07718 505 093



The Old Surgery,
Church Street,
Dolwyddelan
LL25 0SJ

Injury Assessment, Treatment &
Rehabilitation Sports Massage.

To Book Appointments:

Phone: 07548221712

Email: JWsportstherapy9@gmail.com

Bodhi
MOVEMENT

Bodywork & Movement Studio

The Studio, Royal Oak Stables,
Betws y Coed

Injury Assessment
Sports Massage
Movement Analysis
Yoga Classes

01690 359081

www.bodhi-movement.co.uk

Carrie & Mike look forward
to welcoming you to



ACCOMMODATION
Pont-y-pant

Plas Penaeldroch Manor
Pont-y-Pant, Dolwyddelan
LL25 0PJ Tel: 01690 750 316

For information - **Website:**

www.penaeldroch.co.uk

'Celebrating 10 years, and
still rebuilding'

Follow our restoration blog:
www.penaeldroch.co.uk/blog

Local Artist
Helena Z Wróblewska

Mobile: 07828 761114

Email: HZWDesigns@ProtonMail.com

Website: www.hzwdesigns.com



Personal Commissions
Hand Painted Welsh Slate
Watercolour & Ink Whimsical Paintings
Acrylic Paintings & Portraits



PEIRIANNEG • ENGINEERING

Domesdig ~ Ffermio ~ Busnes

Domestic ~ Farming ~ Business

Cattlegrids – Gates – Railings
Birdfeeders – Garden metalwork
Agricultural machinery repairs

Gwefan: www.ildcattlegrids.co.uk
www.ildengineering.co.uk

Ebost: ildcattlegrids@gmail.com
ildaviesengineering@gmail.com

Ffon: 07760295557