

BAGILLT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 2

February 2008

Chairman's Comments

Welcome to the second Community newsletter, which I hope you will enjoy reading. The Community Council has decided to produce a further edition following positive feedback from local residents, but as well as continuing to share information on services it is intended to concentrate on other organisations in the village as will be seen from the articles on the subsequent pages concerning Ysgol Merllyn, Branch Library and the Community Policeman.

Following on from the recent discussion by the Council on estimates for the next financial year I would like to comment on some of the activities that will continue to be undertaken by the Council. In relation to the precept on the County Council which pays for the services undertaken by this authority, it has been decided it should remain at £30,000. This will mean a reduction of 1.45% in the amount charged to Band D equivalent properties in the community.

It will continue to financially support the play schemes and activities for older children held in the summer and have offered to provide a new notice board at the Community Centre in the High Street. The provision of hanging baskets in the High Street will continue with the opportunity taken to review the watering arrangements. Although there were problems in 2007 due to circumstances beyond the control of the Council Christmas lighting will continue to be provided in co-operation with the property owners. In addition financial provision has also been included to use presently unused lights such as the rope lights in the West end of the village, subject to there being suitable locations.

A sum has once again been included for donations, but a review has been undertaken of the criteria for giving financial assistance to local organisations. From the start of the new financial year in April the Council will only consider applications at the October and February meetings and require specific details. Applicants can obtain further details from the Clerk or the Council website.

Mike Reece

The newsletter is distributed free - volunteers will be delivering copies to many properties in Bagillt and others will be available at the Branch Library, Post Offices at High Street and Boot Garage, Bagillt Road and Costcutter, High Street as well as the Council website.

This newsletter is published by the Bagillt Community Council

Focus on a local organisation – Ysgol Merllyn, Foel Gron, Bagillt

As headteacher of one of the two primary schools in Bagillt it is with great pleasure that we at Ysgol Merllyn have the opportunity to contribute to this second edition of the Community Newsletter.

I know that both schools are keen to forge links within our community to build a better and more sustained foundation for the people of Bagillt by starting with the children in our respective schools.

It is important that the children in Bagillt have a voice that resonates throughout all aspects of community life so that they feel proud of Bagillt and are more willing to make a contribution. In this way the future of our community is in good hands.

It is with this in mind that I have included comments from the children about their village so that you get a sense of what they value about the place in which they live. They were excited at the prospect of writing for a newsletter and I hope you feel this as you read a selection of their comments.

'I like Bagillt because the people that I know are friendly and kind to me.'

Emily Year 4

'How many people can live by the sea and the countryside like we can?'

Kane Year 4

'Bagillt is a great area to live in but I don't like it when people drop litter.'

Lucy Year 5

'I like my village but I would like less graffiti and broken glass.'

Sophia Year 5

'I like the green and the library which is full of books.'

Karamveer Year 5

'Bagillt has lovely fields to gaze at or play in. It has farms with sheep and cows. There are schools and clubs that are enjoyable for everyone.'

Oliver Year 5

It is reassuring to read that our children have values that I suspect we all share. It is with optimism that I believe they will grow, with our support, into valuable members of our community. In their observations, they have been able to capture two key aspects of a community, i.e. its location but more importantly, its people.

Steve Lewis ~ Headteacher ~ Ysgol Merllyn, Bagillt ~ January 2008

Focus on a local organisation – Branch Library, Gadlys Lane, Bagillt

The Library in Bagillt maybe small, but it is a friendly place to go to choose your books. It is situated at the bottom of Gadlys lane in the village and is run by Ann Partridge assisted by Marianne Webb on occasions and they are a cheerful and helpful team. Ann, who has spent many years working for the Library service, is a native Welsh lady, but Marianne only arrived in the area a few years ago from the South of England and really enjoys working in Bagillt and being part of the team. As it is a local village Library, Ann has got to know many of the local families and is now serving the children and grandchildren of some of her original customers. The photo below shows Marianne (left) and Ann (right) at the Library.

Photograph

The Library can provide all kinds of books for your enjoyment and information. Fiction to provide entertainment and a lovely escape from the real world, non-fiction to help with studies and hobbies such as gardening and DIY, all manner of books for children ranging from board books for the tiny ones to the latest horror stories for the teenagers and something for those who may need a large print volume or an audio book. In fact the library ladies do their best to find something for everyone and can order things from other libraries in the Flintshire and Denbighshire area free of charge and even put in a countrywide search for a small fee.

The library service also offers an online catalogue, accessible from the comfort of your own home, where you can order titles, renew your books and browse at the many items available. They also stock DVDs, videos and CDs of all musical tastes for your information and enjoyment. They also offer a free computer and internet service; you just pay a small charge for any printing.

Next time you would like to read about your favourite celebrity, enjoy an exciting new novel from your favourite author or choose something for the junior members of your family, why not pop in to Bagillt Library and pay Ann or Marianne a visit? You'll always find a cheerful welcome along with some lovely books.

Opening hours for the Library are:

Tuesday 2- 7 pm: Thursday 10 am – 1 pm: Friday 2 – 5 pm: Saturday 10am – 12 noon

The telephone number is 01352 733167, please feel free to call if you have any questions or queries.

Focus on a local person – Colin Oare, Bagillt Community Police Officer

Colin began his career in the police in October 2004 and prior to becoming the community police officer for Bagillt served in Rhyl and Wrexham. Prior to this he worked for British Aerospace. He decided to become a community officer to enhance his knowledge and gain new experience whereby you take ownership of an area and can make a difference to it. There is a flexible shift pattern to tackle problems occurring at specific times.

To date Colin has visited all shops, garages, library and both schools as well as other organisations in the village. Post boxes have been left in some of these premises to enable the public to fill in leaflets voicing their opinions and problems in Bagillt with the purpose of collating all information over a given period and preparing an action plan to address the three most popular concerns. He has also conducted an environmental audit of the area in association with local councillors and Flintshire neighbourhood wardens and with the help of the latter it has led to an improvement in the appearance of the village by removing graffiti and litter. Colin will continue to maintain contact with the two schools and the youth facilities in Bagillt.

A particular problem he has witnessed is speeding motorists particularly in the vicinity of Ysgol Glan Aber and he arranged for a speed session in partnership with Arrive Alive. He has now received training in the use of a radar speed gun and will now be able to endorse points on licences and issue fines until the message hits home. For the future he intends to hold neighbourhood forums inviting the public to attend and have their say, conduct random speed sessions until motorists slow down, look at ways of deterring youths from crime and strive to improve the quality of life in Bagillt. Colin can be contacted on 07890 525209 or colin.oare@nth.wales.pnn.police.uk

Council Contacts - Dates of Future Council Meetings

The Clerk to the Council is Gareth Roberts of 5, Ffordd Owain, Acton, Wrexham LL12 8JL. Tel. No. is 01978 354617 or E-mail to clerk@bagilltcommunitycouncil.gov.uk . The Council website is at www.bagilltcommunitycouncil.gov.uk

The next Council meetings will be held at Ysgol Merllyn on Friday 14th March and Ysgol Glan Aber on Friday 11th April commencing at 7.00 pm which the public can attend.

Bagillt Bowling Club – New Season Opening

The bowling green at Highfield Road, Bagillt will re-open for the 2008 season at Easter (weather permitting). The Club would like to thank the Community Council and others who have assisted with the successful restoration of the bowling green and all are welcome to join. For further details contact John Ashton on 01352 733542.