



TOPP News

(The Oakdale & Penmaen Community Partnership)

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

Sorry we are late with this edition, due to the "Editor's" temporary incapacity.

We continue to remember

A very big 'thank you' to all who gathered in the Square for last year's Remembrance Day. It was again a tremendous turnout, still one of the largest in the valleys. We thank Alison Venn for organising it for the past five years and have shown our appreciation with a gift of flowers. We also welcome David Morgan (ex Royal Navy) as the new Remembrance Day organiser, and thank him for volunteering.

Christmas lights guaranteed for future

We told you in our last newsletter that we had just enough money to provide Christmas lights in the Square last year, but will not be getting any more funding from Oakdale Community Benefit Fund. We are pleased to report that the Management Committee of the Community Centre have agreed to fund the lights in future, as they believe the lights are an important part of our community's Christmas celebrations. We wish to thank them on your behalf for their very generous gesture.

Where have all the flowers gone?

Due to lack of funds the Partnership is unable to provide hanging baskets for the Square this year, so please just enjoy the bulbs we've planted around the village. Our 'green man', Geoff Jones, is hanging up his trowel this year, so we are looking for volunteers to adopt our four large flower planters. If you can help, get in touch.

. and the woods?

Penmaen Woods is still there of course, but our lease on them ran out last year. We have no funding to continue maintenance and insurance cover, so responsibility has reverted to the owners, Penmaen Undivided Estates.

Woodfieldside wall completed

At long last the community boundary wall to the south of Woodfieldside has been built, our final project using money from Caerphilly Council's 'Area Forum Fund'. The Partnership has used this fund to complete around 30 projects, mainly suggested by you, our residents, over the past 14 years, and amounting to over £16,000.

Your Partnership needs You . . .

The Community Partnership has been active since 2004, bringing many improvements to our area. We would love to see some 'new blood' joining us, so you are welcome to attend the **Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16 May 6.30pm** in the Presbyterian Church, Penmaen Avenue.

Hotel renovation nears completion

The building work by M&J Cosgrove Construction will soon be completed and they will hand over the site to Pobl Housing Group around the end of May. There will be an 'Open Day' in June/July for everyone to view the buildings before they are occupied. The hotel site of nine flats will be called simply 'The Oakdale' and the three town houses in Central Avenue 'Oakdale View'. The Hotel will be registered as another 'History Point' for Oakdale – see www.historypoints.org; local artist Gwynfor Roberts has produced a new painting of it which you can view at www.gwynfor.com. Copies will also be displayed in the hotel and the Community Centre in due course.

Co-op news

We heard (just after we circulated the last TOPP News) that the Partnership has been chosen as one of three local groups to receive the latest Co-op Community Dividend. If you are a Co-op member, please nominate us to get your share of the 1% 'divi'. You can do this either by logging in to the Co-op website www.membership.coop.co.uk/sign-in or by asking one of the shop staff to help you.

We are also pleased that one of the other local causes being supported is Jack's Appeal/Welsh Hearts, which provides schools with defibrillators in memory of local boy Jack Thomas. Remember, if you don't choose either local cause, the money will go to Blackwood!

Our thanks to the Co-op and Parson's Bakery for staying open for supplies during the recent 'cold snaps' when Blackwood was cut off by snow.

We were also sorry to get confirmation that the Co-op will be relocating to the site of the New Forge later this year. Co-op Head Office have told us they need room to expand and that the current premises are not suitable; also they don't own the building. This is bad news for the village which has loyally supported them for many years. Many of you have told us that the new location is not convenient, but who knows which other 'convenience store' may open up in the Square to replace them?

Community Centre News

Please note new contact number for **Bookings: 07969 291157** (Russ Newman).

Lunch Club expands – The Lunch Club is now open on Mondays, as well as Thursdays. Open from 11am, and serving at 12 noon. Two courses, plus tea or coffee, for only £3.50. Contact: Suzanne on 07769 310441 to book your place.

New class – Moo Music: a great fun and interactive regular music session for 0 to 5 year-olds. Fridays at 1.15-1.55pm. Phone 07504 193516 for more details.

Yoga classes have now finished as the tutor has moved away.

Annual Meeting – All residents of Penmaen Ward (Oakdale, Penmaen & Woodfieldside) are invited to the Centre's Annual Meeting, to be held **Tuesday 8 May** 6.30pm in the Centre. If you'd like to find out more about what the committee does, please contact rogerevans23@hotmail.com or phone 222160.

Website – The Centre hopes to have its own website available shortly.

Charity Event

Sat 12 May 7.30pm
in Community Centre

A 60s Singalong & Quiz

– organised by Pontllanfraith Inner Wheel, in aid of Wales Air Ambulance and Epilepsy Research UK.
Tickets £10 (includes Buffet Supper & raffle)
Contact C Clark on 07836 631730 for more details.

A Special Gift to local pupils

Once again, Oakdale Baptist and Presbyterian Churches are joining with Croespenmaen Baptist and Paran Manmoel to present International Children's Bibles to all Year 6 pupils in Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary and Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmdrwen who will be transferring to Islwyn High School this year.

Community Partnership Meetings

Meetings are held on the **third Wednesday** of every other month. Everyone is welcome to attend, 6.30 pm in Oakdale Presbyterian Church, Penmaen Avenue.

16th May (AGM)

18th July

19th September

This edition kindly sponsored by a local resident.