



Cletwr newsletter

December 2013

Cwmni Cymunedol Cletwr is a project to re-open Cletwr Services at Tre'r Ddôl, on the A487 between Aberystwyth and Machynlleth, as a community run enterprise.

What next for Siop Cynfelyn?

A new mascot

Have you seen the cartoon otter on the display boards at the North End of the car park? Siop Cynfelyn has adopted this character, called *Cletwr*, as the shop's mascot. Otters have occasionally been seen along the length of Cwm Cletwr, probably searching for fresh local food. They ought to visit the shop. There is plenty of fresh local food for sale there!



Working on a new menu. Our simple start-up fare of homemade hot savoury pastries with salad has been doing well. Now it is time to put more winter comforts on the menu. We have just taken delivery of new kitchen equipment, and volunteer cooks led by Jane Burnham (founder of the Treehouse) and Mike Smerdon (experienced catering lecturer) will be putting it to good use. They'll be developing soup recipes and homemade rolls and sandwiches – so drop in and try them out and let us know what you like.

A new space. Not too many people want to sit outside in the winter, so a team of volunteers are doing their best to transform the unused garage-shop area into an extra cafe space and function room. Work began on Sunday 17th November, with the clearout of a large volume of stored paraphernalia. Carpentry, electrics, painting and flooring will follow soon after. It's all being done on a shoestring budget, funded by small loans and input from volunteers. We hope to have it ready by early December in time for the Christmas wine-tasting on 6th. Come and check on progress – and do please offer your services if you have useful practical skills!

Planning for the future. This winter we are working with Machynlleth architects George and Tomos on plans for the

long-term: a spacious and welcoming shop and cafe, with room for interesting displays about our local heritage and for community events. Then in the spring we'll use these plans to support our bid for a grant from the Big Lottery to make it happen.

Rethinking our bid: petrol is off the menu. The company has done a lot of research into the pros and cons of petrol services, but we have now been informed by the Big Lottery, who we hope will be funding the project, that re-opening the petrol would make us ineligible for public funding. So now we're pursuing the option of purchasing and developing the site without petrol facilities.

Getting down to business. There was a good turnout from the community on October 6th for the first AGM of Cwmni Cymunedol Cletwr, which is responsible for Siop Cynfelyn. You can read the minutes, and the reports by Shelagh Hourahane (Chairperson) and Tom Cosson (Treasurer) at www.cletwr.com. The current Board of Directors was confirmed and two new members elected. The Directors are: Shelagh Hourahane, Tom Cosson, Marie Hockenhull-Smith, Jane Burnham, Mike Indeka, Nigel Callaghan and Ian Mitchell.

There are lots of ways for you to join in with any aspect of the project – and we especially need new volunteers to do a couple of hours in the shop and cafe every week - you'll get very useful professional training, new friends and a huge amount of community goodwill! Just ask at the shop.

Winter specials

If you are looking for a 'made in Wales' Christmas present, we have prepared festive hampers with a selection of speciality products. Debbie's Delightful Chutneys, Kate's Preserves, Dilys Morgan's Jams, Sarah Bunton's luxury chocolates and cult Welsh brand Nom Nom chocolate, as well as biscuits and cheeses and lots more . You can give a fine taste of Wales to friends and family – or yourself – as well as supporting your local economy. Prices from £20-£30.

You can come in and order your Rob Rattray turkey here, and you'll also find wrapping paper and tags, ingredients for your cake, Blaeneinion winter vegetables, port and sherry, organic wines, logs for the fire... so there's no need to go dashing all over the place for your winter supplies.



Siop Cynfelyn is partly funded by CAVO, Cronfa Eleri and Village SOS, a scheme supported by the Big Lottery Fund.

For more information on anything contained in this newsletter please log on to

www.cletwr.com

We've been hosting sociable and fund-raising community events

Food Bank Machynlleth now has a collection point in Siop Cynfelyn. Non-perishable food items can be left in the basket in the shop entrance. They are regularly collected and distributed to help people who are struggling to feed their families.

Recently we've entertained the drivers of a Tractor Run, with a colourful convoy starting from here with bacon sandwiches, and raising £110 for Welsh Air Ambulance; and a buzzing coffee morning that raised £370 for Macmillan.

Siop Siarad. We want to encourage the use of the Welsh language in our shop and cafe, and recently a group of volunteers and community members has found a fun and practical way to pick up some handy Welsh. Siop Siarad (Talking Shop) has been run by experienced tutor Medi James from Talybont, who told us "the group has been learning the Welsh names of foods we sell and useful phrases, and has been practising its new language



Saturday morning, September 7th: MP Mark Williams did a shift alongside the regular volunteers at Siop Cynfelyn. He said it is great to see a rural initiative that is 'clearly not on the back foot'.

skills on some pretend customers. The lessons have been very worthwhile and lots of fun, and we hope to continue practising on real customers!"

If you would be interested in attending Welsh lessons after Christmas please let Tom Cosson know on tomcosson@gmail.com or 01970 832128.

Coming up • Coming up • Coming up

December 1st, 2.00-5.00, **Children's Christmas Activities**, with free refreshments. Have fun making decorations for the shop, cards and gift tags for home. (While the children have their party at the front, you could perhaps join the working party doing up the back!)

December 6th, 5.30-8.30, We will be holding our second sociable **wine and cheese tasting** event. You can sample a selection of fine wines imported by our own supplier Dylanwad Da, of Dolgellau and pick up a bottle or two for your Christmas list. There will also be mince pies and we will be raffling one of our super hampers...

December 28th - 2nd February, a **healthy and fun outdoor activity for families on the Cletwr Trail**.

The trail, which begins and ends at Siop Cynfelyn, is a simple hide and seek, map-following game, featuring Cletwr the Otter. It's designed mainly for families with children aged between 4 and 11, and, of course, adults who are young at heart. It takes 1-2 hours to complete. The route is moderately strenuous and can be muddy, so wear suitable footwear and clothing. Pick up a map and instructions from the shop, then come back afterwards for a small reward. Don't forget to treat yourselves to hot chocolate or something else warming from the cafe!

The trail will be maintained from December 28th until 2nd February so there will be lots of opportunity to take part.

Opening Hours

Shop	
Sunday and Monday	8.30 - 13.00
Tuesday - Saturday	8.30 - 18.30
Cafe	
Sunday and Monday	10.00 - 12.00
Tuesday - Saturday	10.00 - 17.00

We can do home deliveries:

Contact the shop 01970 832 113; cletwr@cletwr.com