

# Canolfan in the Community

*The Newsletter of Canolfan y Fron*

April 2021

Four Board Members have been away due to other commitments and there have been some Board changes. As a result, this edition of Canolfan in the Community is shorter than normal.

## The Siop

Eriona Williams has made a very welcome return to the shop. She has completed her hygiene training, tasty snacks such as pasties are now being stocked and microwave has been installed. The Editor has tried a pasty and will definitely be back for more!

## Cegin Fron

The Café reopened in December on a trial basis as a takeaway and was then rebranded as Cegin Fron. The results achieved by our consulting chef were very promising. The trial of Cegin Fron resulted in a complaint that the Canolfan Welsh Language policy was not being followed. Aspects of the complaint were incorrect, but we accept that there were failings on Facebook also in recruitment. Action has been taken. We have now recruited John Davies as chef. He has introduced Sunday Roast Lunches which have sold out. On the 26<sup>th</sup> April outdoor hospitality will be allowed to resume and at the same time John will be launching a new menu. Keep your eyes open for it!



John Rowlands (left) and chef John Davies exchange contracts at Canolfan y Fron

## The Llety

The Llety could have reopened on a limited basis from the 27<sup>th</sup> March but since most guests come from England there has been little demand. Travel from England should be permitted from the 12<sup>th</sup> April and we are planning to reopen it soon after. While it has been closed some building work has been done to improve Covid security. Having been empty for 3 months and undergone building work the Llety now needs to be got ready for visitors. Anibal is busy repairing the paintwork and contract cleaners will come in to give it an extra thorough clean to Covid standards before reopening.

## Hall Rental

Hall rental business remains slow because of uncertainty about relaxation of indoor Covid 19 restrictions. Yoga, Pilates and dog training classes are planning to return when possible. Later in the year (subject to Covid restrictions at the time) a couple of events will be taking place. Mike Elsdon's wife Jen died early in the Covid outbreak at a time when funerals were very short and few were allowed to attend. The 2<sup>nd</sup> October would have been their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary so Mike is planning a private family memorial at Llys Twrog in the morning and a Memorial Service at the Canolfan from lunchtime at which all members of the community will be welcome. The following weekend (8<sup>th</sup> October) the halls and the Llety have been booked for a Martial Arts event. The organiser expects more people to attend than the capacity of the Llety, so if you have accommodation to rent out please give details to Mike Elsdon at the Canolfan or via [mike@canolfanyfron.org](mailto:mike@canolfanyfron.org) and he will pass the details on to the organiser.

## The Board

Following the complaint about the use of the Welsh language at Cegin Fron, Eiriona Williams has taken responsibility for the Welsh Language Policy at the Canolfan. If you have any concerns about the application of the policy, please email her on [eiriona@canolfanyfron.org](mailto:eiriona@canolfanyfron.org). John Rowlands has stepped down as Chair because he needs to devote more time to his business. He will also shortly step down from the Board, but has promised to continue to look after Building Maintenance and help with the Shop on a voluntary basis. John deserves huge thanks for keeping the Canolfan on course through these incredibly difficult times. Mike Elsdon has taken over as Chair. Also about to step down from the Board and her role as Treasurer is Sandy Barthorpe who needs to spend more time on work commitments. Sandy took over in extremely difficult circumstances following the sudden resignation of the previous Treasurer. Apart from having to deal with Nat West Bank (no mean feat),

Sandy's greatest achievement has been to manage the introduction of Sage accounting system. Sage will give the Board better visibility of the performance of the business and will greatly simplify the preparation of annual accounts. Sandy will continue as a volunteer. We thank both John and Sandy for the huge contributions that they have made to the Canolfan.

## Volunteers

Mandy Hindle is away for personal reasons, but her absence has not stopped our dedicated band of volunteers from continuing to deliver great things for the Canolfan. Volunteers are essential to keep the shop and Cegin Fron running smoothly so if you would like to become involved with our community venture as a volunteer, please contact [enquiries@canolfanyfron.org](mailto:enquiries@canolfanyfron.org) in Mandy's absence.

Chef John Davies has a volunteering opportunity that is a little different. He would like to trial a Cegin Fron delivery service to test demand. Someone with a clean driving licence would be ideal, but deliveries could be taken by bike around a smaller area. To discuss this please email [chef@canolfanyfron.org](mailto:chef@canolfanyfron.org)

## 2020 Income & Expenditure Accounts

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 have been published on the website. With Covid-19 severely affecting business from March 2020 onwards, they are the last accounts for some time that will give a true reflection of the business opportunity for Canolfan y Fron. The accounts show a net deficit of £6,433 on turnover of £71,913, which at first sight does not look too bad for a start-up business. However, the true deficit was reduced by grants totalling £102,877 from the lottery and other sources. Without grants and excluding depreciation, Canolfan y Fron had a net deficit of £66,091 which means that it was a very long way from paying its way. Government grants have helped to cover losses during Covid-19 but with very little lottery funding yet to come the Board have to control costs and grow revenues to ensure post Covid survival.

## Annual General Meeting

A postal vote was held in March to adopt of an updated Memorandum and Articles of Association that would allow the Canolfan to hold non face-to-face company meetings. The votes counted were 28 for and 13 against, a turnout of 41%. Although there was a clear majority in favour, the existing Memorandum and Articles of Association require a 75% majority for such changes, so the new Articles have not been adopted. Because of Covid-19 restrictions an AGM under the existing Articles cannot be held at present, but the Company Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 overrules Company Articles so we will hold a meeting under this Act. The Board is currently reviewing the most democratic and secure option for holding an AGM. We expect the date of the AGM will be in early May and nominations for Directors will be very welcome.

## The Canolfan Magazine – a (very short) review of events

**Defibrillator** The defibrillator is now installed and functional in its housing by the main door of the Canolfan. Many thanks to those who gave their time and donations to make this happen.

**The Roof** The reason why slates were being stripped from the roof was a mystery, it did not happen in the days of the school. Theories put forward included the shape of the roof vents and the thickness of the slates. The mystery has now been solved – the slates on the school were glued down to prevent this from happening. John Rowlands has replaced the lost slates and has securely glued them in position.

**Cegin Fron** Access to Cegin Fron is over loose chippings covering the old playground, a difficult surface for some to navigate. An energy company agreed to fund a concrete path, but Covid-19 stopped that. Alternative funding has been found and John Rowlands expects to organise the work for May.

### ..... and finally

Sharp eyed residents of Fron will have spotted a new noticeboard being installed in the village by Snowdonia Nation Park for the benefit of the community. This picture of it was taken right at the very beginning of April.

