

# DePend



## DPVC Community Newsletter / Autumn 2025



**Inside:** Bethesda reaches 100, The Music Festival celebrates 25 years and the Village Show triumphs in spite of the weather!

# Village News

## Village Show Success



Despite it being one of the wettest shows ever, the 2025 Village Show welcomed over 400 people to the Parish and Lee Halls on Saturday 30th August.

The standard of entries was exceptional. The Whoppers certainly caused a stir and the baking was mouthwatering.



The Ecumenical 7 returned and moved inside. Entrusted with the baton was Dan Dennis. Tribute was paid to Dr Haydn Jones who

will be missed by all involved with the show. Thanks to the ladies of the WI, who did a roaring trade in cakes and tea and to all the organisations, judges and stewards who support the show every year.



The show is run by a committed group of independent volunteers who work all year to bring it together. It is self funded and isn't run by the council or any other charity so relies on support from the local community to continue.

Next year's show is on August 22nd at the Parish and Lee Halls so save the date and look out for the show schedules from May 2026. What will you enter?

## Cup Winners 2026

BG Wales Cup - Cooking  
*Noemi Kolnhofer*

Harry Phillips Plate - Fruit & Veg  
*Paul Searle*

DP Garden Society Cup - Flowers  
*Elizabeth Richards*

Randell Rose Bowl - Floral Art  
*Elizabeth Richards*

DPVC Cup - Needlecrafts  
*Fiona Thomas*

D. Hampton-Jeffery Cup - Painting  
*Nicola Meredith*

DP Community Council Cup - Craftwork

*Noemi Kolnhofer*

Bernard McParlin Cup - Photography  
*Rupert Boston*

WI Plate - Highest No. of points in show

*Elizabeth Richards*

## Young Person's Classes

Dell Smith Cup - Nursery Classes  
*Ella McEntyre*

J. Brockhurst Cup - Reception  
*Elin Watkin*

Aquarius Cup - Infants yrs 1&2  
*Megan Dafydd*

DP & St Andrews WI Cup - yrs 3, 4  
*Efa Dafydd & Leif Allman*

St Cyres Cup - Yrs 5 & 6  
*Carys Watkin*

Enid Jackson Cup - Highest No of points  
*Elin Watkin*

## Bethesda Chapel Centenary - Roger Newberry Writes...

Bethesda Chapel in Fairoaks, an independent evangelical church near the Library and Dinas Powys Primary Juniors, will celebrate its centenary in November 2025.

Preparations began in summer 1923, when two young men preached in a tent at the end of Millbrook Road and continued evangelism for two years. By late 1925, the group felt inspired to establish a church as a result of their efforts, as recorded in the first leaders' meeting minutes.

*'Being convinced that the time has come when Christians in Eastbrook should obey God's express command 'Do this in remembrance of Me' and convinced that we have the mind of God on the matter, we purpose carrying out this ordinance for the first time at Eastbrook on Sunday next Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 1925.'*

Where would this new church meet? There was an old store building used by Mr. Dix, one of the five people who started the church, which they rented from him. There were stone walls, no mod cons, no toilets and no plaster. The house is currently called The Old Forge and is on the sharp bend near The Royal India Restaurant in Eastbrook.

What did they do? - Communion Service, a Sunday School of about 30 children, Gospel service on Sunday; prayer and teaching meeting on Tuesday evening, children's meeting and another teaching meeting on Thursday.

The minutes repeatedly note a lack of funds. 1926 was the year of the General Strike and The Great Depression. They often struggled to afford paraffin for

lighting and coke for heating, even paying for coke in instalments. At one point, they discussed switching to gas, though it's unclear if this happened.



Sunday School Outing

Despite financial hardship, they managed to fund Sunday School outings to Llantwit Major by charabanc, requesting a 'sober, preferably married driver.' A local caterer offered crockery, hot water, and a bun for 1/- per person, or a more generous tea for 1/8d—they chose the cheaper option. Twice during this period, when women in the church were in urgent need, the leadership gave them all the church's available funds.

The premises in which they met were clearly not suitable, the roof leaked, the pipe taking the smoke from the stove to outside became corroded and draughts came in through cracks in walls and ceilings. To cap it all, the north wall was slipping out of place and threatening to collapse. They were told it would cost £40 to put the wall right. They tried to get an old army hut, but that would cost £64. Finally, a Christian architect thought that a T girder would solve the problem, or a length of railway line which could be purchased cheaply from a 'junk yard' – the cost of the whole job, £15-£20.

By 1933, we find the church in an ex-army hut on Cardiff Road at the

entrance to what is Perclose, next to Andrew Wilson Motors. It had a Bible verse painted on its roof at some stage and must have been seen by thousands of train passengers. Some of the members of Eastbrook were still there, and there were also new members, the numbers being about 20 at the time.

The small green hut posed challenges due to its size and lack of modern facilities—including no toilets—with creative, undocumented solutions. Despite this, the church ran a Sunday school, children's meeting, Ladies Bible



The army hut Gospel Hall on Cardiff Road.

Class, and Tuesday teaching sessions. Efforts to find a new site included a rejected offer on land in Greenfield Ave and an unused opportunity in Eastbrook. In 1958, they purchased the plot the hut stood on and decided to build there. Members submitted design ideas, and by May 1959, architectural plans were presented to the church.

After some membership growth, revised plans were approved by the church in July but rejected by the Cardiff Rural District Council. Attempts to secure land at Valley View through builder Mr. Northway and later the Council failed, as no land was available

# Village News

## Bethesda contd.

for church use. An appeal was made to the Welsh Office, prompting involvement from the county council. Their representative suggested buying land behind the current hut from local farmer Mr. Meredith, but this also failed. A second approach to the council was again unsuccessful. Persistent prayer followed—and finally, in May 1960, came a breakthrough.

The Anglican Church in Wales was offered land on the Murch, prompting calls for independent churches to be given the same chance. As the only independent group to apply, the Bethesda leaders were invited to meet with the Council Surveyor and offered a plot—now the site of Bethesda Chapel. However, building was not allowed until a builders' road was constructed, which would only happen when nearby houses were built, and the church would have to contribute to the cost. The land was initially priced at £1,100, more than the church's £800 fund. Advised to seek a

price reduction, they approached the local rector for support. Though he agreed in principle, he didn't follow through. Still, the council reduced the price to £265, and the church purchased the land—though building was still not permitted at that stage. The land was put to use, however, by having a five-week tent mission on it the following summer. (1961)



Four of the men who worked on the 'site' with their wives at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the new building in 2014. From left to right: Shirley Nurcombe, Gill Osborne, Ruth Locke, David Nurcombe, Colin Locke, Bernard Osborne and Austin Evans.

A second breakthrough came in 1962 when plans for a new junior school near Bethesda's plot meant access would be created, allowing them to build. Their plans were approved by November, and

groundwork began in March 1963 after winter delays. On the day concrete was to be poured, heavy rain turned the site into a quagmire. The ready-mix lorry couldn't reach the footings, so the concrete had to be transported by dumper, driven by Len Triggs. It was a tough, muddy job, but with teamwork, they completed the work by 8 p.m. Despite exhaustion, everyone attended communion the next morning—tired but undeterred. Much of the building work would have to be done by church members themselves, and in that period the church had grown, including members who had the skills we would need. From these a building committee was formed.

The church engaged Bert Parker, a Christian from Cardiff, to do all the brickwork. They were held up somewhat by a hard winter, but by March 1964 the roof was on, the plastering was finished, the drains were nearly finished and the electrics were to be done. The church had received gifts of labour, expertise, materials and some financial gifts. On the last Saturday of August 1964, the new church was named Bethesda Chapel, and an opening conference was held.

By the end of 1968 the purchase of more land was being looked into. The Sunday school had grown, as had the youth work, and the church had increased in membership. The need for extra accommodation had become more acute. Boy Covenanters had now started soon to follow by Girl Covenanters whose Sunday meetings were held in the





homes of Austin Evans and Dave Nurcombe.

Negotiations with the Council to buy land next to the chapel for a sports hall were lengthy, concluding in October 1969. The initial price of £1,000 was reduced to £375. Planning permission was granted, and construction was carried out by a building firm, overseen by church member and quantity surveyor David Nurcombe. Church members played a key role in preparing the timber flooring, salvaging and processing wood from a Cardiff yard. The original building cost £5,000, and the extension £8,000.

Relief came with the completion of the sports hall, the enclosed Oasis area, a new kitchen, and classrooms. Further extensions and improvements have since been made, resulting in excellent facilities, including a quality car park.

A pick-up taxi service was arranged for those who found it otherwise difficult to get out on Sunday evenings. Children were picked up from Michaelston-le-Pit for Sunday School. One aspect of the work that Dinas Powys residents may remember well was Covenanters, which commenced in 1970 under the

leadership of Norman Courtney ably helped by Dave Nurcombe, who later took over the leadership helped by Austin Evans, Peter Reid, John Loosemore, Malcom Thomas, John Cann, and later Ken Lewis, Roger Newberry and Doug Reed. At its peak the Boy Covenanters numbered over 50, and at one time were the second largest group in England and Wales.

A little later, Girls Covenanters started and were ably led by Margaret Stuffins, Shirley Nurcombe, Diane Evans, Pat West, Jean Reid, Shirley Lewis and Jean Newberry. Children's meetings were held, led by Derrick Morse and John Foote.

Bethesda Chapel has an interest in missionary activity - Paul and Cheryl Davies were commended to Hebron school in India, and more recently Mark West who went to work in Lesotho. Mark's parents were instrumental in setting up Hebron Hall.

Over the years the work of Bethesda has grown. Besides our main Family and Teaching services, we have Discoverers Inc, a Sunday children's group, BLAST! a group for young people in Years 5-8, which meets on a Sunday and a Friday evening, Sunday Morning Youth which meets on a Sunday and on Friday as Friday Night Youth. All

children and Youth workers have been DBS checked! During the week we meet in Small Groups for prayer and Bible Study and hold monthly, a whole church Prayer Meeting. In addition, there is the weekly Coffee Morning on a Wednesday at 10:30, Scallywags – the pre-school toddlers and parents/carers group on a Tuesday at 9:30am and Purls of Wisdom, a crafting group that meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening.

Bethesda has hosted the Vale Foodbank every Tuesday for the past 11 years and partners with Cardiff's Rainbow of Hope to support the homeless, refugees, and asylum seekers. It became a Warm Welcome space during the energy crisis and continues to serve the community by hosting funerals and weddings. The church works closely with Dinas Powys Primary School through the TLG programme, seasonal events like Easter Cracked and Christmas Unwrapped, the annual carol service, and half-term assemblies. Bethesda also supports and collaborates with the local library, regularly sharing resources

Other special events are advertised on our outside notice screens and our website [www.bethesdachapel.com](http://www.bethesdachapel.com). We can also be contacted for any details or information on 07859 014834.

We will be celebrating our centenary in November with a Bethesda Open Day on 15<sup>th</sup> November when every church activity will be showcased and a very special Centenary Family Service on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – all are invited. These will be followed by a year of special events – details to be announced.

## Looking forward to 25 more years of the Gwyl Gerdd Dinas Powys Music Festival



Hadyn Jones and the 2025 Festival Committee

This is an opportune time to celebrate the 25 years of Gwyl Gerdd Dinas Powys Music Festival (GGDPMF) entertaining the village to a variety of musical events. It's equally important to pay tribute to the festival's Ambassador, Dr Hadyn Jones, who sadly passed away in the last few months. His contribution to the village community is immeasurable. His commitment to the musical events in the village has included his band, the Ecumenical Seven (E7) (or more), and significant contributions to the festival over many years.



RWCM at the Methodist Church  
The GGDMPF is a not-for-profit organisation supported by the Dinas Powys community. Over the past 25 years, it has expanded its number of events, including free and paid performances. Its core aim remains to offer a wide range of high-quality musical

entertainment at affordable prices. The organisation strives to offer diverse musical programmes, covering everything from classical and cabaret to steel pans, swing/jazz bands, tribute acts, West End stars, and traditional Welsh music like brass bands and choirs.

The idea for the music festival began in 1999 with David Evans, who became its first Chair. It launched on June 30th, 2000, and has thrived through financial prudence and artistic integrity. Surplus funds are reinvested into future events. The festival relies on the dedication of its committee, local sponsorship, patron support, and its audiences. Past chairs include Janie Jones, Peter Elias-Jones, Gill Lewis, and current chair Mark Thompson, the 2025 DPCC local hero recipient.

The festival balances attracting national and international stars with showcasing top local talent, such as the Dinas Powys Orchestra, Bethesda Community Choir, and Forte, who have opened the festival for over a decade. It has featured renowned Welsh choirs and bands like Cory, as well as acts like Only Men Aloud and Welsh of the West End. Longstanding highlights

include performances by Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama students, festival dinners, and educational workshops for school children, including steel pan and opera sessions.

The festival benefits from excellent local venues such as the Parish and Lee Halls and has expanded to others including the tennis club, the athletic club and local churches. Saturday morning events at the Twyn showcase local talent such as Flora Brass, No Worries Ukelele Band, Soloflex Steel Pans, Jazz quartet, E7, the Treble Makers and a trombone quartet. The weather can impact and on one occasion the jazz quartet performed from the bus stop in driving rain!



Music on the Twyn

The future of the festival relies on support from many quarters not least its patrons and its audiences. **The festival's annual general meeting will be held at the Dinas Powys Library & Activity Centre at 7.30pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025. All are welcome to come along and hear about plans for 2026.** In December, it's hoped that the festival can repeat a Christmas event in the Methodist church with students from the RWCM. Further information can be found at <https://dpmusfest.co.uk/> where tickets for future events can be purchased.

# DPVC News

## NGS Open Gardens Support DPVC



Ginny Golding presents the cheque to chair of DPVC John Fanshaw and trustees, Keith Hatton and Chris Franks

Once again the local NGS Open Gardens members chose to support Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern. A number of beautiful gardens across the village were open to the public in July this year and proceeds from ticket sales, cakes and plants were split between 3 local charities, including DPVC. Donations throughout the year from organisations and individuals are so important to the organisation and help to keep core services such as transport and befriending, free of charge.

## Strawberry Tea Success

A huge thanks to all DPVC volunteers and supporters for another Strawberry Tea success. Cakes, sandwiches and scones as well as strawberries and cream were on offer and the No Worries Ukelele band entertained everyone during the afternoon.



## Playgroup Donation



Becky Ford from St Peter's Playgroup and John Fanshaw, Chair of DPVC

St Peter's Playgroup donated their end of term show ticket money to the DPVC garden in the church grounds. The garden is open to anyone to sit and relax or take part in volunteer led sessions on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 10am.

## Ribbons Playschool Joins the Community Garden

Thanks to funding from the community action fund, DPVC is pleased to welcome Ribbons Pre School to the community garden at St Peter's with their own raised bed and trough! The charity has also been able to purchase a compost store, made Seeder Wood, and a shed for tools. For more information about the community garden contact Judith 029 20513700 or email [dpvc@btinternet.com](mailto:dpvc@btinternet.com)



# Events & Services

## USEFUL NUMBERS

Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern  
029 20513700

Dinas Powys Medical Centre  
029 20512293

Murch Pharmacy  
029 20512279

Cardiff Rd Pharmacy  
029 20515678

Greenfield Dental Care  
029 20515151

Castle Court Dental Care  
029 20512646

Active Health Chiropractor  
029 21159388

Dinas Powys Chiropractor  
07399 079035

Dinas Powys Community Council  
029 20513114

Vale of Glamorgan Council  
01446 700111

Murchfield Community Centre  
07765 513424

Minor Injuries Unit Barry  
111

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Dinas Powys Medical Centre.**

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**Back pain, Neck Pain, Sciatica, Headaches, Joint pain**



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