

Your community council (Pelenna Community Council) is composed of unpaid members of the community who give their time, expertise and local knowledge to make our area the best it can be.

We have limited resources which we endeavour to use wisely. We rarely claim any expenses. We employ a Council Clerk, a Maintenance Officer and a Cemetery Manager. The money to pay for their wages, annual grants to the Community Centres in Pontrhydyfen and Tonmawr, as well as any other expenditure comes largely from the Community Council Precept on your Council Tax. We apply for grants for projects whenever we can. We liaise with our County Councillor Martin Ellis and raise any points of concern that have been reported to us or noticed by us.

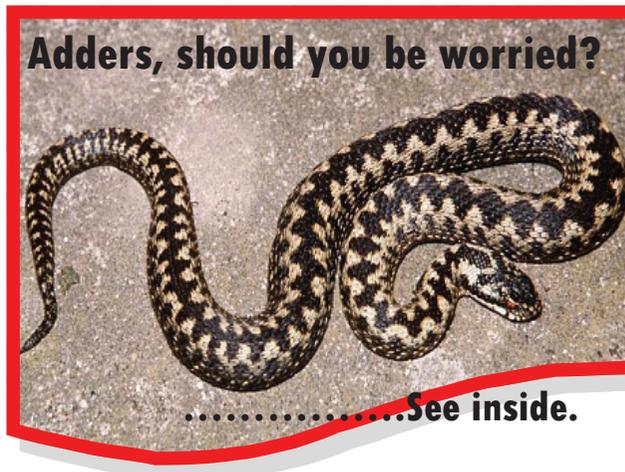
You may not have thought much about your Community Council until now but we would like to hear from you. Tell us what we could do better and let us know what you think we have got right.

### List of Councillors:

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs Diane Evans   | Mr Malcolm Jones   |
| Mrs Janice Evans  | Mrs Theresa Leslie |
| Mr Clive Harffy   | Mr Philip Lewis    |
| Mrs Lisa Hawkes   | Mr Wayne Pugh      |
| Mr Jeremy Hurley  | Mr Desmond Sparkes |
| Mr Robert Jenkins |                    |

Lots more information is available on our website:  
[www.pelennacc.co.uk](http://www.pelennacc.co.uk)

Contact: Clerk to the Council Mr David Mackerras  
telephone 01792 361526



A big thankyou to Peter, our Community Maintenance Officer, for maintaining and caring for both Pontrhydyfen and Tonmawr so beautifully. He divides his time between the two areas, painting, weeding, grass cutting, litter collecting and more.

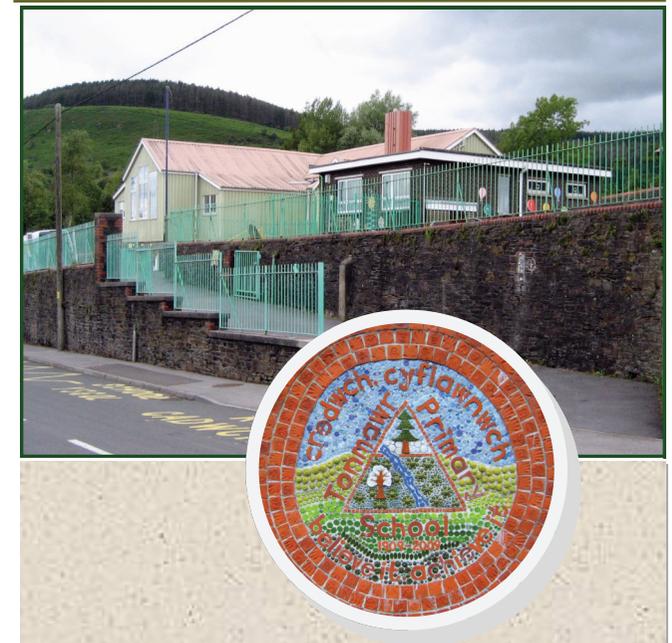


Look out for him and give him a wave.



Tonmawr playground equipment, purchased by the Community Council with a grant from NPTCBC.

## PELENNA NEWS



# OUR SCHOOLS

Over the last few months the Pelenna Community has fought hard to retain its schools. When it was clear that Neath Pot Talbot County Borough Council was determined to close both schools we tried to retain at least one school in the ward by combining Pontrhydyfen and Tonmawr schools. A huge amount of work was done by the Governors of both schools, and parents and teachers, but NPTCBC ignored all the arguments and closed both of our village



schools. Your Community Council (which includes Governors from both schools) did all in its power to represent the

views of the community to NPTCBC. We would appear to have lost this battle but we have been impressed by the dedication of so many to the good of the whole community. As your representatives we want to work together with you to make Pelenna the best it can be. We rely on you to tell us what we are doing right and where you think we could do better.

Our web address and the telephone number of the Clerk to the Council are on the reverse of this leaflet. If you have an opinion we'd like to hear it!

# Macpelah Cemetery



Macpelah Cemetery is the only operational cemetery in the Pelenna Ward. When its previous owners, the trustees of Sardis Macpelah Chapel, realised they were unable to continue to run it they approached the Community Council to see if we would be prepared to take it over. As you can imagine this was a difficult decision. After many months of discussion and consideration the decision was taken to accept the responsibility for the running of the cemetery for the benefit of Pelenna residents. It will now be the responsibility of the Community Council to maintain the cemetery and to oversee the safety of burials as well as their efficient recording. This is a huge responsibility and was not undertaken lightly. All donations made towards the upkeep of the cemetery will continue to be gratefully received and will be "ring fenced" for the intended purpose. These donations, together with all fees collected, will be kept in a totally separate bank account. Please note that our records will be open to scrutiny as is required in Community Council Audit regulations.

We live in a very beautiful part of the world. Living in the heart of the countryside brings many advantages and some disadvantages. We share our lovely surroundings with diverse and fascinating wildlife. Which brings me to the subject of adders. They are not cute and cuddly and most of us are afraid of them. However, adders are shy by nature and will usually retreat into cover long before you realise they are there. Snakes do not have ears but they are able to sense the vibrations caused by footsteps and will usually quickly disappear before their presence is even detected. Dogs however, move faster and cause little vibration, and dogs that are keen to rummage in undergrowth are also more likely to disturb adders. If bitten urgent veterinary treatment is needed. Adders are a protected species under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and it is illegal to harm, attack or kill them – call your dog back if it approaches an adder and put it on a lead and leave the snake undisturbed. Adders are venomous, but they are not aggressive and most bites result from deliberate handling, or accidental encounters. An adder's first line of defence is to disappear into nearby vegetation rather than bite something much larger than itself. Warn your children never to pick up snakes (and follow the same advice yourself!) Most adders are distinctively marked with a dark zigzag running down the length of the spine and an inverted 'V' shape on the head. Males are generally white or pale grey with a black zigzag. Females are a pale brown colour, with a darker brown zigzag.