



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

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EDITORIAL

(Terry Ireland)

YOU ARE YOUNGER THAN YOU THINK....

All of us remember the excitement of the last day of school before the summer holidays; it was special as we all left for six weeks of joyful freedom. Part of this period would be the family holiday, often by the seaside. Then in the 1960s and 1970s the British discovered Spain and sangria, red wine, olives, paella and sand and sun near a hotel with a swimming pool. Such was the enthusiasm for Spain that we started to import tapas bars to our towns and cities, Chester and Liverpool sporting several. Covid 19 has changed all this as health restrictions such as compulsory hotel quarantine and impossibly expensive insurance and higher flight costs resulting from restricted seating capacity, make family travel out of reach for ordinary people. Common sense suggests we should stay healthy at home whether we want to or not for the time being.

In Wales we are very lucky, for it is a country perpetually green with unspoilt majestic mountain landscapes, spectacular coastal headlands fringed by sheltered bays with golden sands. Wales is unique too in that it boasts so many castles and ancient buildings, stone circles and dolmens, well maintained impressive castles and many beautiful gardens open to the public. The summer weather can be problematical but as the Norwegians put it, there is no such thing as bad weather only the wrong clothes. The young people too have found that swimming in the sea is a different experience if you wear a wet suit and there is some very fine surfing to be found.

Those of us who have been used to flying away for our holidays will find that things have changed a lot in the U.K. as our tourist industry has had to improve facilities for foreign visitors or British holiday makers with higher expectations. Camp sites are no longer the primitive and simple places we knew in the past but provide modern kitchens, well equipped shower and toilet blocks and often comfortable club houses or T.V lounges while nearby restaurants and pubs have geared up to attract trade. Some of the finest floral beer gardens are in holiday areas and provide excellent food and a warm welcome. Raymond Blanc, the famous French chef, admitted recently that you can find excellent food in Britain, quite a compliment.

In Wales there are some unique attractions for The Great Little Trains of

COVER PICTURE

A view of Whitford on a hazy summer day.
Courtesy of Steven Jones.

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Wales using formerly closed rural railways now renovated often by retired railway men and amateur enthusiasts afford a chance to see some of the most Welsh scenery from steam trains. The West Highland Railway from Caernarfon to Portmadog passes through really stunning scenery. Naturally, Wales has some exceptional gardens, Bodnant in North Wales being known internationally as one of the finest gardens in Europe and Aberglasney House and Gardens in South Wales is a plantsman's paradise.

For the more youthful and adventurous an 18 ropes and ladders adventure at Gelfach Ddu at Llanberis also includes a 4 to 8 year old section. Here too you can travel underground to see Dinorwic Power Station and nearby lies the Slate Museum of Wales.

Search out the underground illuminated trampoline in a North Wales mineshaft if you dare. Hopefully too, this summer will afford opportunities to walk the hills of Snowdonia or the Welsh Coastal Path. During the pandemic so many people have discovered they have legs and enjoy walking and talking. A wealth of information can be googled, including activity holidays. You don't have to go abroad to enjoy yourselves! One thing many of us would greatly enjoy is rebuilding our social lives, form local groups for walking, singing, swimming, gardening dining and dancing and exploring Wales. You will be amazed by what you will find. Why not start by walking in Coed y Brenin ...

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**CYNGOR CYMUNED
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WHITFORD COMMUNITY
COUNCIL**
(R. Phillip Parry, Clerk)



Councillor Richard Dolphin; pictured with wife Caroline and 5 month old daughter Beatrix Rosemary

**NEW CHAIRMAN OF WHITFORD
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Councillor Richard Dolphin was appointed as Chair of Whitford Community Council at the May Annual Meeting; which was held virtually. Councillor Richard is 32 years old and resident in Carmel for 26 years; is a qualified Social Worker and employed by the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust as a Safeguarding Specialist. Previously employed by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board within safeguarding and children's mental health.

Councillor Richard is a JD Cymru Premier (Welsh Premier League) Match Official; and more locally; a Trustee, Safeguarding Officer, and Vice-Chair of Carmel Village Hall.

The Community Council have received an unprecedented number of complaints in relation to litter



The following crimes have been reported to the North Wales Police; over the past three months:

Carmel – 8 x anti-social behaviour / 2 x criminal damage / 1 x theft / 2 x other crime /

5 x violence / 1 x anti-social behaviour / 1 x vehicle crime

Gorsedd – 1 x vehicle crime / 1 x anti-social behaviour

Lloc – 6 x anti-social behaviour / 1 x violence / 2 x theft / 1 x drugs / 1 x public order

Pantasaph – No crimes reported

Whitford – No crimes reported

Children's Summer Play Scheme:

The Community Council have agreed to provide financial assistance for the children's summer play scheme to be held in Carmel (bilingual) and in Whitford; for three weeks in late July and early August. The cost of the scheme will be £1,428.00 for each village. The County Council will advertise the event nearer the time.

Speeding Traffic:

Over the past year the Community Council have requested vehicle monitoring tubes to be placed on a number of roads in the Council area; due to numerous complaints from residents in relation to vehicles travelling in excess of the speed limits. Residents will have noticed two speed activated signage installations in Carmel and Gorsedd; which have been recently erected.

During the month of April, Monastery Road in Pantasaph was subject to the monitoring tubes. The speed statistics revealed that a good number of vehicles

were travelling over the speed limit. The North Wales Go-Safe department have requested to Flintshire County Council; to place a road traffic order in Pantasaph; which will result thereafter in frequent visits by the Enforcement Officers.

Council Members brought the following concerns, and other matters to the attention of Street Scene:

(1) Flooding in the area of Mertyn Lane and Llwyn Ifor Lane (near border with Mostyn Community Council) (2) Non collection of recycling and food contains in Post Office Lane, Pantasaph and Park Crescent in Carmel (3) Highway verge in the area of Penfforddallan, Lloc. Concern has been expressed, that a number of shrubs have been planted on the grass verge. If left in situ, this will cause reduced visibility as the shrubs grow (4) Pot holes on Whitford Road - Travelling from the junction of the A5026 at Carmel to the area of Pen Y Maes Farm (5) Road gullies require clearing in Whitford Road - Travelling from the area of Tyddyn Ucha Farm to Whitford (6) Grid in Park Road, Carmel. This grid is unable to be cleaned as a car is parked over the top of it; this has now resulted in water cascading across the road - as the grid is full to the top (7) Salt Bin required at the bottom of Park Road, Carmel. Previous bin removed and not replaced (8) Pothole: Outside Chapel Car Park, on Carmel Road, Carmel (9) Potholes: Carmel Road (in area of red 30mph road markings) near Gorsedd House (Lime Kiln), Gorsedd (10) Allt Y Golch Road: Water is cascading across the road and during the cold weather periods the water has frozen; resulting in a dangerous situation for vehicles and



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pedestrians. It appears that the water is emanating from the School field area. Local knowledge suggests; that the gullies in the School field area are blocked (11) Whitford Road – request for the gullies to be cleaned from the area of Tyddyn Ucha Farm to Whitford (12) Celyn Park, Carmel – request for additional salt bin and for visits by the gritting vehicle during frosty weather (A salt bin in the area had been moved to a more acceptable position) (13) Monastery Road, Pantasaph – large pothole outside entrance to Pantasaph Farm; travelling towards Brynford (14) A5026 Road – travelling from Lloc to Carmel. Further concern expressed in relation to the completion of removing undergrowth from the pavement; in particular, in the area of the 50mph; which includes a blind corner; whereby pedestrians have to step into the road to manoeuvre past each other (15) Broken & jagged kerbstones: Turning left from the MacDonald's entrance on the A5026 – towards Holywell; the kerbstones have been damaged, no doubt, by heavy goods vehicles using this area (16) Litter – General concern with litter from Macdonald's and the garage food outlets; especially travelling up the hill on the A5026 from the services. – and past the area of Carmel Cricket Club (17) Litter – in the hedgerow and some in bags; from the entrance gate to Misty Waters on Fachallt Road, to the layby area (18) Litter – Carmel Woods in the Crecas Lane area. The rubbish consists of empty glass bottles, coffee cups and other items; in particular, along the edges of the public footpath (19) A5026 footpath from Lloc to Carmel. A number of areas that require slurry seals; in particular, from the crossroads to Carmel.

(20) Councillor Caradoc Jones wishes to thank Flintshire Street Scene and Highways; for the efficient way that a sinkhole in the area of Mertyn Uchaf Farm, Whitford, was dealt with.

Planning Applications:

The Community Council Members, provide their observations to the Flintshire Planning Authority, on all planning applications within their Community. Full details of the observations made, can be viewed in the Minutes of each Council meeting, which are displayed on the Council web site – as per details below: (1) Application number: 062266 – for a pitched roof extension to garage, at St. Vincent's Monastery Road, Pantasaph (2) Application number: 062348 – for removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permission number: 059661, at Bryn Mair, Gorsedd (3) Application number: 062455; for use of barn as separate dwelling independent of Fachallt Farm – change of use at The Barn, Fachallt Farm, Whitford (4) Application number: 062540 – for alterations and rear extension, at Lloc Service Station, Lloc (5) Application number: 062556 – for a Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed use or development, at Gelli Farm, Gelli Road, Trelogan (6) Application number: 062540 - for alterations and rear extension, at Lloc Service Station, Lloc (7) Application number: 062613 – for new standalone building to provide early years and wraparound childcare facility; with additional site improvement works; at Ysgol Bro Carmel (8) Application number: 062679 – for erection of a two storey side extension to existing dwelling house, at Pen Y Gelli Fawr, Lloc.

Planning Decisions:

The following planning decisions have been received from Flintshire County Council: (1) Application number: 061243 – for removal of condition number 8; following grant of planning permission (99/32/848), at Cambrian House, Gorsedd. Approved (2) Application number: 062032 – for extension to dwelling to form an enclosure for a swimming pool, at Cambrian House, Gorsedd. Refused (3) Application number:

061349 – for the erection of extension and alterations to provide accommodation for dependant relative on ground floor and erection of first floor extension, at Dwyfor, Carmel Road, Carmel. Approved (4) Application number: 062235 – for erection of a portal steel framed building, at Bryn Hedydd Farm, Llyn Helyg Road, Lloc. Prior approval required / Refused (5) Application number: 062266 – for a pitched roof extension to garage, at St Vincent's, Monastery Road, Pantasaph. Approved (6) Application number: 062270 – for single storey extension to side of existing dwelling, at St. Vincent's Monastery Road, Pantasaph. Granted Under Permitted Development.

Planning Appeal:

The following planning appeal hearing decision, has been issued by the Wales Planning Inspectorate: Appeal Reference number: APP/A6835/A/20/3261103, at land East of McDonalds, Lloc, for a drive-thru restaurant and drive-thru coffee shop. Appeal allowed and planning permission granted.

Applications for Financial Support and Donations:

The Community Council have granted the following financial assistance since the last edition of the Five Villages Chronicle: £100.00 Urdd Gobaith Cymru (National Eisteddfod) / £350.00 Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant (towards running costs) / £1,000.00 Five Villages Chronicle (towards printing & other expenses) / £350.00 Carmel Cricket Club (towards running costs).

Contact:

R. Phillip Parry

Clerk & Financial Officer to Whitford Community Council

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E-mail: clerk@whitford-council.wales

Web site: www.whitford-council.wales



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CARMEL W.I. BOOKCLUB **(Sally Brighton)**

With our face to face meetings still postponed, our members have continued to rely on their private reading, and the small writing group which has been an offshoot during Covid has now embarked on their third, serially written short story. Perhaps by September our group will once more be enjoying our monthly meetings, but until then, here are a couple of reviews of reading which one of our members, Helen Audley has especially enjoyed... two contrasting books both based on truth.

Beneath A Scarlet Sky by award winning American writer Mark Sullivan is based on an incredible true story. The account of the daring wartime exploits of Giuseppe "Pino" Lella who by chance became a spy for the Italian resistance in Milan in World War Two.

It graphically portrays the horrors of the Nazi occupation of Italy but it also highlights the heroism of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances and the human ability to find love and happiness even in the darkest times.

This is a gripping 'unputdownable' adventure story which will challenge your views on good and evil and the tragedy of our fallen human condition. An emotional roller coaster which would make a very exciting film.

In contrast, **Eye Can Write**, is the true story of twelve year old Jonathan Bryan born with cerebral palsy after his mother was involved in a car accident. At death's door many times he was determined to live to plead the case for non verbal, severely physically impaired children like himself to be taught to read.....which most special needs schools thought impossible. His mother and many carers spent countless hours teaching him to read and spell using his eye movements and spelling boards. The results were astounding and far reaching. He became a media celebrity and his views were read out in the House of Lords etc. **Eye Can Write** is his first book. It is an inspiration.

He is the founder of the charity www.teachustoo.org.uk

60s MEMORIES AND LIVERPOOL POETS **(Kath Williams)**

When I was at college, many moons ago, I joined the Literary Society. I had always loved language, reading and poetry and thoroughly enjoyed participating in the readings and discussions, occasionally writing my own simple, but enthusiastic offerings.

It was the Swinging Sixties, the time

of The Beatles when 'all things Liverpool' thrilled us. Imagine our excitement when our secretary managed to entice some young Liverpool poets and lyricists to attend our meetings. One member of the group was Mike McGear, younger brother of Paul McCartney and all of you won't be surprised to hear the number attending our society swelled considerably. The other young men were Adrian Henri, Brian Patten and Roger McGough. Apart from their connection with 'the fab city', they were very talented and entertaining. We loved their original, lovely, self effacing and often comic lyrics. I was not surprised to learn that they all had bright and successful careers.

Mike McGear, together with Roger McGough and the comedian and writer, John Gorman, formed 'The Scaffold', writing and performing comic songs and sketches.

Oldies like me may remember 'Lily the Pink' and 'Thank you very much', as two of their offerings.

Roger McGough, Adrian Henri and Brian Patten came into prominence with the publication of 'The Mersey Sound' in 1967, an anthology with conscious association with the musical phenomenon caused by the eruption of the Beatles and other groups in Liverpool. The book was an outstanding success. Adrian Henri continued writing and performing until his death in 2000; whilst Brian Patten continues to write lyrical poetry and many children's books. It is however, Roger McGough and his work that has influenced me the most and he is still a huge favourite of mine.

He was born in 1937 in a suburb of Liverpool. He attended Hull University, reading French and German and becoming University Librarian, only to be succeeded several years later by Philip Larkin who found McGough's poetry exhilarating! Since his contribution to 'The Mersey Sound', he has written many

poetry books for adults and children. He has also penned theatre plays and his autobiography, 'Said and Done'. In fact, he is a poet, performance poet, broadcaster and playwright. His radio programme, 'Poetry Please' on Radio 4 proved very popular as he read and discussed his own writings and those of others, frequently younger and lesser known writers.

One of his most famous early poems which I know well is: 'Let me die a Young Man's Death'. It was voted one of the hundred favourite poems and was included in the 'Oxford Book of 20C English Verse'. The collection I have been reading, recently, is titled 'As Far as I Know'. It demonstrates the tremendous variety of his work. He has a wonderful blend of word play with a distinctive sense of humour. Although amusing, he frequently offers food for serious thought. Not in the least pretentious, he writes moving poems on growing old, lost youth, love, death and just life. The poems display feeling and humility. The striking reworking of 'Let me Die a Young Man's Death' in this book becomes, 'Not for me a Young Man's Death' as he, himself, ages. I love his description of a butcher's window as 'The friendly face of the abattoir!' I loved, 'As Far as I Know', when he comically discusses awful things that he may have done but hopefully, didn't. 'Another Person's Dog' is amusing, showing how we hide our true feelings rather than offend.

I could go on but very much hope that I have encouraged folk to read and enjoy for themselves. Called, 'The Patron Saint of Poetry', by Carol Ann Duffy, one of the many beauties of McGough's work is that it has such a broad appeal. I can testify to that as my husband, not a great fan of Blake, Keats or Wordsworth, loves McGough's work. If you haven't already, just give it a try. It will lift your spirits and you'll enjoy, even without my wonderful memories of sixties Liverpool and the unknown young poets.

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THEATR CLWYD ANNOUNCES SUMMER SEASON

Live performance is to return to Theatr Clwyd as Flintshire's award-winning arts centre today announced its summer season.

The season includes two home-grown world premieres showcasing Wales' best writers, outdoor events for summer evenings, an acclaimed musical by Anglesey's Seiriol Davies, the annual Family Arts Festival and an eclectic mix of theatre, comedy, classical music, jazz, and dance. With tickets for most events from just £10 and covid safety measures in place, the season promises to be a step towards normality after the challenges of the pandemic.

Theatr Clwyd are producing two home-grown world premieres – Alan Harris' *For The Grace Of You Go I* (12 – 25 June), a dark comedy starring Remy Beasley (*Tourist Trap*, BBC), Darren Jeffries (*Hollyoaks*, Channel 4) and Rhodri Meilir (*Hidden*, BBC) and *Curtain Up* (18 August – 4 September), a new show which sees 30 actors perform 15 new plays by some of the best Welsh and Wales-based playwrights.

Theatre highlights include *How To Win Against History* (10 – 13 June), the acclaimed musical about the 5th Marquis of Anglesey, written and performed by Anglesey's Seiriol Davies, *A Splinter Of Ice* (21 – 26 June), a drama set in 1980's Moscow imagining a meeting between Graham Greene and notorious Soviet spy, Kim Philby, and John Peel's *Shed* (20 August), a show about love, music and a box of records from John Peel's Radio 1 show.

Classical and contemporary music includes acclaimed classical harpist Catrin Finch (6 June), jazz and blues from Ma Bessie and her Pig Foot Band (29 August) and Tomos Williams Trio (3 September), Paul Simon's cult classics in *Something About Simon* (11 July), and local favourites including Tip Top Productions' *Summer At The Musicals* (15 August), Carmarthen's post-punk band Adwaith (7 August) and Chester-based indie pop trio, Peaness (27 August).

Families can look forward to the return of the theatre's annual Family Arts Festival (23 – 25 July), as well as modern children's classics on stage including *Horrible Histories: Gorgeous Georgians & Vile Victorians* (5 September) and *Sarah & Duck's Big Top Birthday* (30 May).

Finally, big name TV comedians headline the theatre's monthly comedy club with Stephen Bailey (1 June), Tudur Owen (4 July), Brennan Reece and Hal Cruttenden (8 August) all taking the mic.

Throughout the last year Theatr Clwyd has supported its local community – encouraging creativity in young and old and those most isolated through the online Together programme, hosting blood donation sessions for the Welsh Blood Service, distributing food packages to vulnerable families, leading digital dance workshops for those with Parkinson's, becoming a creative hub for vulnerable young people, supporting freelance artists, and streaming theatre and comedy shows. The theatre was named by The Stage as its 2020 Regional Theatre of the Year and was the Welsh Government test partner for live events last summer.

For full listings, tickets and further information, visit www.theatrclywd.com



SMOKE, SMOKE, SMOKE THAT CIGARETTE

(Dennis Rosser)

At the present time, and with Government warnings of severe health issues boldly shown on packets of cigarettes and tobacco, the dire warning does not seem to deter the ardent smoker. It's their choice of course.

But the situation was quite the reverse during the period of both WW1 and WW2 when the public were openly encouraged to donate monies to supply our fighting servicemen with smoking materials. A WW2 bookmark issued by the Tobacco Fund states that a donation of £1 would enable them to send 1,000 cigarettes to our fighting men. Included in the parcel sent to the serviceman or POW was a card addressed to the donor on which he could write a message thanking them for their gift.

Advertisements and leaflets appeared in newspapers and magazines and school children were also asked to raise funds for the same purpose.



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HIP ARTHRITIS: DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

(Stephen Massey)

Hip arthritis affects a lot of people. It can cause a wide range of problems because the hip is a weight-bearing joint. It can be managed effectively with treatment if the symptoms are diagnosed early.

The most common symptoms of hip arthritis are stiffness and pain which become worse over time. The pain will start off as mild but will worsen and become more persistent if not treated.

Movement will usually relieve stiffness in the hip joints though they can get worse during periods of rest. Cold weather usually exacerbates the pain. Patients may also suffer from morning stiffness, which may typically last for 30 minutes. Some patients will experience localised pain to the groin area as well as the thigh. The hip can also have limited range of motion and pain with weight-bearing. If the condition worsens the symptoms may become more persistent and painful.



HOW TO DIAGNOSE HIP ARTHRITIS?

Pain in the hip region may refer from the low back, the pelvis or the knee. The first thing a Chiropractor does is take a full medical history. They will identify the exact location of the pain and find out what makes it worse and what relieves it. They will also investigate the possible causes. The Chiropractor will complete a physical examination of the patient and perform several tests, including orthopaedic and neurological assessments, muscle strength/tone and postural analysis.

Of course, the best way to diagnose hip arthritis is with an x-ray.

OPTIONS FOR HIP ARTHRITIS TREATMENT

In treating hip arthritis, it is best to first consider non-surgical and non-drug treatments. Physical therapy is recommended for strengthening and stretching the muscles. Some aerobic exercise will further benefit rehabilitation.

Treatment for hip osteoarthritis has two main goals – to reduce pain and inflammation and rehabilitation. Once pain and inflammation are under control the chiropractor and patient work together to prevent the problem from recurring. This rehabilitation process may include:

Adjustment and mobilisation of the hip and other involved areas.

Active soft tissue therapy.

Education on home exercises, which includes stretching and strengthening exercises.

Lifestyle changes to prevent aggravation of the injury.

Orthotics or shoe inserts

A course of Chiropractic treatment can improve hip mobility. By using hands-on treatment techniques and combining these with home exercise, it is possible to restore hip function if the arthritis is not severe.

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GOOD COMPANIONS (John Saunders)

Sad to say that the Good Companions still find themselves with no means of fundraising at present. The hospital tea bar is not open to the public, but the staff are able to access it on a self-service basis.



Fortunately, we are still receiving some donations, the latest being from Holywell Golf Club. The sum of £600 was raised for the 2020 Captain's Charity and a cheque was presented by captain Terry Petrie to John Saunders, Chairman of the Good Companions, at Holywell Golf Club on 19th May 2021. Thanks were given to all members, staff, friends, and family who contributed and participated in the fundraising. All the money raised goes toward equipment needed to care for patients and their needs during their hospitalisation.

We have learned that Mrs Lynn Siebenmann has been appointed to enhance the care of dementia patients at the hospital, and she plans to redesign one of the sitting rooms to look like an old-fashioned café and to hold functions like film shows for these patients.

Although our income is vastly reduced, we are still able to meet the requests made by the staff. Recent purchases are a bladder scanner £6,300, a Camera for the wards £251.98, and five trolleys at a cost of £3,567.82

It seems that life may slowly be returning to something like normality, so we hope to have better news in the near future.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Any comments, opinions and feedback relating to the Five Villages Chronicle or any aspect of local news would be gratefully received.

Dear Sir,

There was a time when all the footpaths across local fields and common land were used by local children and adults as they walked to work, school, church or chapel.

The Covid pandemic has changed so much but interestingly it has engaged both young and old in walking again for exercise and relaxation. Walking and talking for some have become acceptable again and walking side by side without eye contact, encourages frank and serious conversations. This helps to express how we are feeling and is part of staying mentally healthy. In our society feet are often forgotten as they are concealed but they are a very important and vital part of our anatomy.

Walking daily stimulates a multitude of nerves in the feet and tunes up the whole body and keep joints in good condition and lowers blood pressure.

Since March 2020 we have watched walkers of all ages wander down Mertyn Lane in Carmel for walking around the block a distance of just under two miles can be completed in 40 minutes. However, as a member of Holywell Rambling Club I am used to walking on footpaths, so I leave the road usually marked by a footpath sign and head into real green country with fresh air, wild flowers, wild life and trees.

There you will be free of cars and their poisonous diesel fumes. Some seven thousand years ago you may meet sabre toothed tigers or woolly mammoths,

but today it is perfectly safe to walk our footpaths which are legal rights of way. Perhaps local walkers might benefit from a guide who will know all these paths but modern phones and 1:25000 Ordnance Survey maps show all these footpaths in green and field boundaries in black lines. The only equipment you need for a local walk is good waterproof footwear, alight waterproof and a water bottle. Perhaps a pair of secateurs is a good idea to cut brambles on less used footpaths. Many stiles at field boundaries may need some care and agility for the older walker but I know walkers well in their eighties who cope. It is best to walk with friends to talk and walk.

This brings me to the real point of this letter not only to encourage walking but to bring people together to do this. A Five Villages walking group or groups of various ages, a youth group, a young adults, and an over 50s section can use the Five Villages to establish contact. All children should be taught walking in green areas but perhaps they need guidance. I am sure people will come forward to lead walks and the summer holidays of staycation are the time to start.

Hopefully the Five Villages can collect names of people interested in holding a meeting to get things going.

Terry Ireland,
Clearbrook,
Mertyn lane
Carmel

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY - CLWYD GROUP



We are a friendly gardening group.
We enjoy talks and garden visits.
Meetings are normally held at the Holywell Community Centre (by the Leisure Centre) on the third Tuesday

evening or Sunday afternoon of the month and we are hoping to start these up again from October 2021.

We will be keeping in touch with our members through monthly newsletters until then and are planning garden visits over the summer.

If you would like to join our HPS Clwyd Group until the end of December 2021 we are offering a discounted rate of £5 per person.

Information on 01352 375385 or clwyd@hardy-plant.org.uk, or www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd. Programme can be subject to change.

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SUMMER RECIPES

(Isobel Burnage)

Baked Chicken Joints

This is a delicious and finger licking recipe which can be oven baked or barbequed.

Ingredients and Method

1. Select your chicken joints and pieces.
2. For the marinade:
 - 2 spring onions finely chopped
 - 1 smaller chilli finely chopped
 - 1 tablespoon liquid honey
 - 1 teaspoon ground ginger salt and pepper
3. In a large bowl mix the marinade ingredients.
4. Toss the chicken in the marinade and allow to flavour for at least an hour.
5. Either bake the chicken in a roasting tin at 190C / gas 5 (375F) for about 35 mins or cook on a barbecue.
6. Serve with a mixed salad, crispy French bread or jacket potatoes.

Summer Fruit Crumble

This is a tasty and easy recipe which can be cooked in advance and warmed to taste. It is also suitable for freezing and ready for a future meal.

Ingredients and method

1. 8 -10 oz (250g) mixed fruit, eg. Apples, raspberries, blueberries, gooseberries. A bag of frozen mixed fruit is useful.
2. Topping: 5 oz (150g) SR flour
 - 2 oz (50g) rolled oats
 - 1 oz (25g) ground almonds
 - 3 oz (75g) sugar
 - 3 oz (75g) butter
3. Place prepared fruit in a shallow ovenproof dish and sprinkle lightly with sugar.
4. Rub topping ingredients together to a crumble consistency.
5. Cover fruit with crumble mix and bake on the centre shelf at 190C / gas 5, 375F for about 39 mins until lightly brown.
6. Serve with custard, whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.



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MIRROR IMAGE

(Norman Closs – Parry)

We (I now) have a large oval wall mirror above the mantelpiece, next to it on the left as I am looking at it quite a wide screen television. When (and it's very often now) I do not view anything on T.V, nothing, but nothing can move on our front patio or indeed around my parked car that I don't see. When the grandchildren and their friends would gather and play – we could keep eagle eye on all that was going on – it was during one of these play sessions that I saw Ela's right arm bowling action! First of all, although only 10 years old – she did not bend the arm at the elbow when delivering. Secondly, she quite naturally was bowling side on to the batsman – not square on – but thirdly and more importantly – in the mirror on the wall, I saw that she released the ball **over** the third finger of her right hand – this was done naturally, maybe she had been observing some of the top class Indian/Pakistani spin and cut bowlers on the telly, which as some know – I am besotted with.



I got up from my easy chair – and joined in the fun! Bit by bit – Gareth, Heulwen, Gwawr and I realised that if she was keen enough, determined enough, she could become a very good cricketer.

She has worked hard! All that is water under the bridge now, since over the past 4 seasons she has represented her school, county and North Wales at the game. The bowling has come on naturally – and under coaching at North Wales and Welsh National Level the batting has improved by leaps and bounds – not hitting cross but IPL style at everything but more of the Root way!!

Last year, and this year, she has been involved with Welsh under 15 squad – going to Merthyr, Swansea and Cardiff – and once



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or twice they came up North!

A few weeks ago – Heulwen had to take me all masked up for some injections to the Community hospital...when I came out (Alive!) she asked how I got on – then I could see a little bit of tear letting her down...Gareth had received a call from the Cricket Head Office in Cardiff (letter followed) informing them that Ela Closs-Sharp has been selected to play for Wales! I'm sure I did not have a tear – but I did have a mighty lump in my throat...there is no need to say more than wishing her a very good summer wearing the Welsh jersey – supporting the dragon in Cornwall, Somerset, Worcester and Gloucester – to name but a few of the fixtures she has received to put in her diary.....Now it's busy in our house – looking for overnight stays etc – and maybe a run or two for Taid who has been **warned** not to shout – as has been known he can do!! Da iawn ti Ela! Pob hwyll!

GARDENING CLUB (Isabel Burnage)

The Committee met for the first time since March 2020 on Monday 17th May 2021 in Carmel Village Hall. All Government guidelines were followed including use of sanitiser, sitting 2 metres apart and completing track and trace form. Our Chairman, David Bentley welcomed us all to the meeting.

The main reason for meeting was to discuss a programme for the rest of the year. All meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month and will start at 2pm, apart from August when the annual Mini Show is held. So that members have time to prepare their exhibits this meeting will start at 7.30pm.

For the June meeting members are being asked to bring a photograph of their garden along that can go on the notice board in the Hall.

The outline programme is as follows:

3rd June 2pm - a general get together with the members for a cup of tea and biscuits and discussing the ideas and thoughts for the programme being put together. The schedule for the annual Mini Show will be handed out.

1st July 2pm - a plant sale. There will also be a competition this month. This is a single flower from your garden, in a vase. Points are awarded to participants of the competitions which are added up over the year. Gift vouchers are awarded to the winners.

5th August 7.30pm - The annual Mini Show with 12 categories.

2nd September 2pm - an outing to a garden. The venue to be decided.

7th October 2pm - Isabel Burnage will give a talk on the use of vegetables.

4th November 2pm - the AGM
2nd December at lunchtime. Christmas lunch with the venue to be decided.

If you would like to come along to any of our meetings you will be warmly welcomed. For further information please contact Christine Hamer on 01352 716273 or c.hamer21@btinternet.com



WHERE ARE THE BATSWOMEN? (Timothy Abraham)

Women and girls from the area are invited to give a safe and fun version of cricket a go this summer to get active again after lockdown.



Carmel's women and girls cricketers are on the lookout for more players

Following on from a taster day held last year, Carmel & District Cricket Club are running a new and exciting type of cricket using a softer plastic ball negating the need for pads, gloves and other expensive equipment. It is aimed at women and girls

who are complete newcomers to the sport, or those who have played other sports, and would like to give it a try. The club has also entered the North Wales Soft Ball Cricket League with matches played against other clubs in the region on Sundays.

Organiser Rachel Waltemeyer said: "Before I'd played cricket I kind of thought as a bit of a boring sport but that's absolutely not the case at all! I have discovered it's a great way to get active, have fun and make some new friends. It really is a very inclusive sport which any girl or woman can play."

"Most of our players are complete beginners and, for the first year, it will be completely free for anyone to join training and play in the matches for Carmel. We are playing with a plastic ball as we develop our skills which means the risk of injury is pretty low. The role of women in cricket has traditionally been making the teas, but we're now showing we can bat and bowl as well as bake."

Carmel's women and girls cricket players train every Wednesday at 6:45pm at the club's Pen-y-Gelli ground (near Lloc, St Asaph Road, CH8 8RF) and are keen to welcome players of any ability.

Contact Rachel Waltemeyer by telephone, text or WhatsApp via 07859557632 or email carmelcricket@hotmail.co.uk to get involved or to find out more.

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COME AND SAY HELLO! (Paula Jones)

All Aura libraries are now open and ready to welcome our customers back and see new members for select browsing and computer access. Computers are free to use and available to book by phoning your local library.

- Broughton Library : 01352 703760
- Buckley Library : 01352 703860
- Connah's Quay Library : 01352 703730
- Flint Library : 01352 703737
- Holywell Library : 01352 703850
- Mold Library : 01352 703780

Holywell library staff have been holding virtual sessions with pupils from Ysgol Maes Y Felin, Holywell and Ysgol Glan Aber, Bagillt sharing stories, talking with pupils and giving them a virtual tour of the library.

SPORTING MEMORIES




Join our new Online 'Sporting Memories' club starting Wednesday 19 May 10.00am

Where we talk about and remember sport

Email Susannah.Hill@aura.wales for joining information

Why not join our fantastic new 'Sporting Memories' group which meets every Wednesday at 10.00 am via Zoom. 'Sporting Memories' sessions are aimed at people over 50 and are designed to get conversation flowing, help re-live positive memories and provide joy and companionship. At Sporting Memories Clubs, everyone finds fun, friendship and increased well-being. Why not join

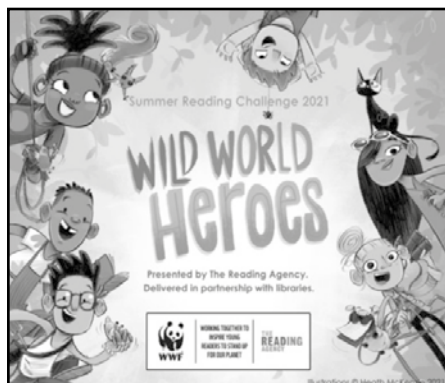
us and find out what it's all about! The sessions will run weekly and we hope to be able to meet in person very soon in Holywell Library. The sessions are suitable for people living with Dementia and their carers. We would love for you to join us!

<https://www.sportingmemoriesnetwork.com/what-we-do>

For more information and to register for the session please email Susannah.Hill@aura.wales

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE- WILD WORLD HEROES

Pack your bags, we're headed for Wilderville! It's a pretty cool place, but there are lots of things that the Wild World Heroes can do to make their town even better for the people and animals that live there.



Join the Wild World Heroes for the Summer Reading Challenge and discover how you can make a difference to the environment too.

We're teaming up with WWF for a very special nature-themed Challenge that will inspire you to stand up for the planet!

Wild World Heroes will feature amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for taking care of our environment.

Are you excited to join the #WildWorldHeroes this summer? Join this year's Summer Reading Challenge

at Holywell Library in July. There'll be lots of free fun activities to join with too at the library or out and about around Holywell. Get in touch with us to find out more! 01352 703850.

STAY CONNECTED THROUGH ONLINE EVENTS

To connect with our library members online, we have put together a schedule of online library events, hosted on Zoom. We also post weekly Rhymetime and Storytime videos on our Facebook and YouTube page.

Our online events are as follows:

- Family History Group: second Tuesday of the month 2.00-3.00pm
- Reading Friends Shared Reading Group daytime session: second Tuesday of the month 11.00am-12.00pm
- Reading Friends Shared Reading Group evening session: second Wednesday of the month 7.00-8.00pm
- Rhymetime: third Thursday of the month 2.00-3.00pm
- Children's Reading Group: last Thursday of the month 4.00-5.00pm
- Babies and Books : Friday 10.30am – 11.30am
- Ffrindiau Darllen Cymraeg Fluent Welsh speakers / Advanced Welsh Learners Tuesday 7.00pm-8.00pm
- Intermediate welsh learners Wednesday 2.00pm-3.00pm

To register for any of our online events please email Susannah Hill at susannah.hill@aura.wales

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TAKE TIME TO TALK WITH AURA LIBRARIES

Now more than ever it is important to talk, it costs nothing, only time and seconds if that. But that couple of seconds can make a difference to a person's mental wellbeing. Just by saying 'hello' and asking 'how are you'.

Aura libraries provide a Community Call service to residents in Flintshire, we will link up with the person and arrange to call them at a convenient time to suit them. The main aim is to provide customers with a verbal link through conversation and remove any sense of isolation or loneliness as they are able to look forward to receiving a call, having a chat and sharing stories.

So don't be without a conversation, if you or someone you know would benefit from a call please contact 01352 704400 or email libraries@aura.wales and we will be available to talk.



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CARMEL VILLAGE HALL



(Richard Dolphin)

We're open again at last! Since the easing of COVID19 restrictions in Wales, the Hall has once again become a hive of socially distanced activities. During such a significant period of time, the Hall really is an asset to Carmel and the surrounding area as a focal point affording children, young people and adults the opportunity to come together and have shared experiences within their groups and activities.



The 1862 stone plaque pictured is on the western wall near the front door of the Hall. Whilst still a school in 1949, a conveyance took place between the then Trustees; Llewelyn Edwards (carpenter) of 7 Hafod y Coed, George Higgins of Pine View, Carmel Hill, (Holywell Grammar

school teacher) and Baron Mostyn. Thus, the land where Clydfan bungalows are became available for building. Authority witnesses for this "gift" were the Leaders and Trustees of the local Presbyterian Church, Seion Chapel, Girl Guides, Carmel FC, and the school (Hall) itself.

The Hall stopped being the local school in 1953. In 1972, a 21-year Lease was signed by Trustees; George Ferguson of the then Post Office and Dewi Fidler of Fron Carmel. This led to a Declaration of Trust in 1973. A new 25-year Lease was at last secured by Trustees in September 2014 with five Trustees.

On February 21st, 2020, the Hall further changed governance to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This modern document is now a model for many organisations. The Hall is a Charity and managed for the community by Trustees.

Since the last issue and our advertisement, we have successfully appointed a new Treasurer who will take the reins on 1st August, once the Hall's financial year has ended.

So, what's on now?

Mondays: 5-6pm, Theatre Gemz & Cubs
6:15-7:45pm

Tuesdays: 7:30-9pm Scouts & Delyn
Gymnastics are due to start in June, 5-7pm.

Wednesdays: 5-6pm, Theatre Gemz &
Yoga with Jane 7:30-8:30pm

Thursdays: (1st Thurs of the month) 1:30-
4pm, Gardening Club

Fridays: 2-4pm, Tai Chi & Gigong & Irish
Dancing 5-7:30pm

Saturdays: 8am-12noon, Slimming World

Sundays: 6-8pm, Carmel Christian Church

Other groups are due to start when they feel able to; the Hall is ready and eagerly awaits their return.

If you would like to get involved in any of the advertised activities then please contact the Facebook Page – Carmel Village Hall, email carmelv bookings@gmail.com, or telephone Chris Dolphin on 01352 713415.

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PEN LLYN (Geraint Roberts)

Curtains, no, grey shrouds of rain were marching across the open vista of close-cropped grass and orange winter bracken in front of my parked car which was rocked every so often by a particularly strong gust of wind. It was actually quite snug as I cradled a thermos coffee putting off my intended hour's walk just a little longer! I had driven two and a half hours to the very tip of the Llyn peninsula and negotiated several twisting lanes to reach



Concrete road

the narrow concrete road which ended at the Coastguard station on the exposed summit of Uwchmynydd. It brought to mind the poet R.S. Thomas who had also "...crawled out... as far as he dared on to a bough of country that is suspended between sky and sea" when he became vicar of nearby Aberdaron. The concrete



Bardsey Sound

road had been built by the military during the second world war to service the look-out station overlooking the Bardsey Sound.

Another rain sensor sweep of the wipers showed the soaked moorland gently falling away for half a mile before ending abruptly in a series of steep rocky plunges and gullies into a troubled sea. Large wild waves were waltzing demonically in grey and white as the moving dance floor flooded north. Beyond, and black the form of Ynys Enlli rose out of the murk displaying an occasional white collar as the Irish Sea waves broke on its rocky shore. It looked like a giant dinosaur sleeping on its tummy.

Further out, possibly close to the Emerald Isle itself the silvery sheen of the sun painted the water a platinum shade of yellow whilst peeping beneath the dark clouds. It was indeed a privilege to be there alone on my lofty viewpoint in the solitude which only a winter storm could offer in so beguiling a spot.

A perceived lessening of the wet fury outside saw me wriggling into my waterproofs, fleece cap and gloves. And after wrestling with the wind for control of the car door I set off down the gentle slope meandering between the odd boulder, bushes of yellow gorse and drifts of heather still clinging stubbornly to bits of purple. The land was sodden, the walking squelchy and my heels very nearly went beneath me a couple of times.



The ruins of St Mary's church

Ahead on a slight plateau the remains of St. Mary's Church (Eglwys Mair) could just about be traced as a shape in the grass where many of the pilgrims to Bardsey would have visited before crossing the dangerous sound. This was the first of the places I was looking for.

Moses Griffiths, Pennant's artistic travelling companion had sketched its then still skeletal ruins in 1788. That day it looked more like a latticework of shallow dykes and low banks barely protruding from a saturated paddy field than the ruins of a once important stopping place of a pilgrimage. It was accepted that three pilgrimages to Bardsey were equal to one pilgrimage to Rome.

Two hundred yards south in one of the few weaknesses in these cliffs is a gully called Ogof y Gath (The Cat's cave) which can, with care be clambered down. Steps cut into the rocks lead the final few feet down to a natural spring in a bowl of rock; this is Ffynnon Mair (St. Mary's Well); another 'must' for the discerning pilgrim. Such is the strength of flow in this well that despite being covered each high tide, once the ebb has cleared its rocky lip, the water is immediately drinkable!



Ffynnon mair

Below the angry waves churned and broke against the rocks; they came as irregular battalions of raw strength and roaring anger adorned with long streaks



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of spume and froth. I shuddered in contemplation of falling in and thought of the young daughter of a circuit judge who had slipped in and drowned at this spot in 1904.

It was indeed a far cry from the conditions which prevailed here one morning in July 1978 when, with three companions I set off for Bardsey (Ynys Enlli) by kayak from this very spot. Looking at the tempestuous horror which was the sound today I couldn't even imagine being out there. I took the obligatory sip from Ffynnon Mair and casually looked around for her footprints which, according to folklore were to be seen in the rock. A liberal dose of fancy and imagination showed a couple of unconvincing indentations before I climbed back up on to the windy plateau. According to legend if a mouthful of the water is kept without swallowing until the summit of Uwchmynydd is reached a wish can be granted! Today I would need my mouth for breathing as I prepared to battle the gale above the rocky lip.

Turning back to the west and into the driving rain I climbed the slope and went to look for the third of the four things of interest I sought in my projected hour's walk: the 'Maen Melyn' (The yellow Rock).



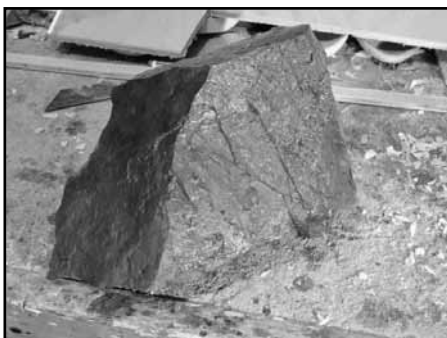
Maen melyn llyn

I'd seen photographs of the Maen Melyn and had always intended to visit and take some of my own. This solitary boulder translates as the Yellow Stone and had given its name to the craggy point protruding into the sea. I was looking for a single boulder, yellowish in appearance and poised on the very edge of the cliff.

Would I find it in this weather?

I needn't have worried; once I emerged out of the gully, I could see what looked like a figure bending away from the wind on the distant skyline on the very lip of the peninsula. As I approached it resembled a cross between a bent old hag and a melting snowman cringing from plunging into the frothy bedlam which was today's sea. I wasn't disappointed, it merited its name. It is in fact a large piece of jasper which by happy coincidence was a direct link to my afternoon's intended walk. It was covered in yellow lichen which gave its name.

Nearby, apparently, I would find the



A piece of jasper

hoof marks made by Mair's horse in the rock. It needed a flexible eye, more fluid imagination but a couple of speculative photos later and my fourth target was completed. The Maen Melyn was also known as Carreg Samson (Samson's Rock) as indeed two other rocks on the peninsula are so named.

Samson was born in South Wales in the fifth century and spent some time as Abbot on Caldey, he also spent time in Ireland and the Scilly Isles where one of the islands has been named after him. Along with St. Tudwal and five other holy men they were the founding saints of Brittany. Ten miles due east two islands have also been named after St. Tudwal.

There is a Neolithic burial site above Porth Trecastell in Cardigan also known as Carreg Samson. He reputedly lost one of his fingers whilst raising it and the finger is buried on the island in the bay.

Below the spray-soaked cliffs rose out of a clapotis of chaos as huge rollers exploded into caves with seismic violence and I was glad to turn and set off back up the slope to finish the coffee in the thermos and turn the car heater on. It had been a fruitful morning and the afternoon was yet



The sea's fury

to come.

In winter Aberdaron is a quiet seaside village with a significant church, two pubs, a few cafes and shops, a couple of quaint arched bridges, oh, and a heron on the post office tin roof balefully staring as you walk past! Its summer transformation to a bustling, crowded tourist trap is betrayed only by the size of the car park. Despite this it still manages to retain its charming dignity throughout the tourist season.



Heron on the roof

A snack and a cup of tea in the only open café went down very well before I decided to have a look at the church before my afternoon's jaunt, a little further up the coast.

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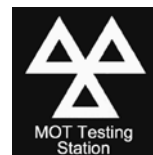
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century twin naved church built on the site of earlier churches was actually abandoned by the 1840s in favour of a new church built further inland; this however didn't prove popular and by 1868 the decision was made to renovate this one and it has been in use ever since. The poet R. S. Thomas was Minister here from 1967 – 1978.

Inside it was calm and peaceful in contrast to the storm raging outside as I wandered around soaking in the atmosphere. I can never resist a bookshop and there on one wall were three shelves of Llyn related books for sale. I bought three which included the evocative 'Tide Race' by the tragic Writer and Artist Brenda Chamberlain in which she describes living on Bardsey Island for fourteen years after the war. I paid the 'honesty box' and went back outside where it had actually stopped raining.

My next goal was Gwylfa'r Garreg; a viewing point on National Trust land high above the ancient Plas Carreg and looking down on Llyn's northern shore. The shelter is a circular wall which afforded some respite from the tugging blasts of wind as my watering eyes struggled with my binoculars in the violent gusts. Peering across and up the blurred coastline revealed the singular rocky island called 'Y Maen Mellt' (The lightning Rock) sticking up out of the seething petulant sea a good mile and a half to the north. A guano covered buttress of bare rock which is utterly devoid of vegetation; it is the domain of the cormorant. Folklore will explain its name as a lightning magnet whenever there is a storm in the vicinity. I seemed to recall certain rocky outcrops in the lead rich uplands above Betws y Coed having similar properties. I turned my binoculars towards Anglesey but all I could see was its blurred existence!

Below, in a series of rocky craglets covered in brush and brambles the slope



Quarrying for jasper

opened out to become a meadow hosting a miserable looking herd of Friesians before reaching the inevitable rocky foreshore. Somewhere in these craggy bluffs I was hoping to find an ancient jasper mine which had reputedly made a tidy sum for the Carreg family in years gone by. One Captain Trevethan has been credited with its discovery. Pieces of this red semi- precious rock from here can still

be seen adorning St. James' Palace and Westminster Abbey in London. A more organized quarrying enterprise opened here in 1904 hoping to compete with the Indian and Egyptian market. A two-inch polished cube of jasper could fetch sixty pounds at that time!

I meandered down with care and soon found the old quarry, much of it hidden under foliage. One significant piece of bare rock displayed some obvious bore holes and elsewhere there was some signs of more recent but modest 'activity' which allowed me to prise off a small piece resembling a raw joint of beef to put in my rucksack.

Another vicious gale borne squall arrived as I retraced my steps back to the car. The old farm had obviously seen better days and bore the air of yesterday. It seems the Plas had been in the same family since the fourteenth century until it passed through to two different families in the eighteenth century.

I had been here before and I remember noticing how the large copse of sycamores surrounding the old homestead were amongst the first in the area to turn their leaves brown as early as August; a phenomenon I had assumed was linked to the salt air and their exposed location. Or could it be the incessant cawing of the rooks were responsible for shriveling the leaves?

I stayed in my clammy waterproofs and needed the windscreen heater on full to see for the short drive of a kilometer to my next port of call, Traeth Porthor.

That day the large car park above the track down to the beach was deserted, a far cry from the summer when finding a parking space depends on arriving early.

Porthor (gate keeper) is thought to refer to a large sentinel of rock standing at the far end of the beach 'guarding' its entry! A rocky bay about a mile south which has two such rocks is called Porthorion, i.e., more than one keeper. It is also known as Traeth Oer (cold beach) which is most likely a corruption of its pronunciation. Whichever the correct Welsh name it is probably better known by its English name 'Whistling Sands'.

Owing to the shape of the sand crystals on this particular beach a distinctive squeaking or whistling sound can be heard

when someone walks across the sand similar to when fresh snow is trampled. For this to work the sand has to be clean and dry and as I walked down the track, I knew I wasn't going to hear any whistling that day!

Such desolation! Huge waves were crashing loudly sending white tongues of foam high up the beach bringing glistening pieces of driftwood as toys for the next wave. Tufts of loose seaweed ripped from the rocks by the savage waves lay strewn along the sand with rainbow-coloured bubbles scudding along before the wind. Brown clumps of suds and froth had piled into various corners quivering like frightened living things. Cackling, screaming seagulls wheeled in the wild air above ready to pounce on any broken shelled morsel battered on to the shore, and a constant misty spray seemed to hang in the damp air, and dry sand snaked along in mini dunes carried by the wind. It was a wild, cheerless place and I didn't tarry long; I would have to come back in the summer to hear the whistling!

I was wet, cold and a little tired as I walked back up towards the car, but I wasn't quite finished with my clammy waterproofs! I continued past the car and up to the minor road and turned left to walk another five hundred yards. I wanted to see the small bridge which crossed the little stream of Eiddion.

It was during the time that the old Jasper quarry was in full production that a particularly big block of the stone was being transported to Pwllheli station along the road. It was on a robust four wheeled cart and towed by a traction engine. When it attempted to cross the stream, the bridge collapsed under its weight, so I just had to have a quick look at the location!

Removing my wet coat when I got back to car park was a pleasure and a change of shirt was heavenly!

Apart from the sands of Porthor which had been howling instead of whistling I had pretty much got my money's worth from a tempestuous winter day down on the Llyn. And as the heater built to a comfortable level of fug, I reflected on all that I had sought and found. It had certainly been a wild one and I decided that without doubt the storm was the price I had to pay to have those special places all to myself!

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Barbara Whiteside

In January we lost a very dear friend, Barbara Whiteside. She was a long standing member of Carmel Papercraft Group and Carmel W.I., and a much loved Mum, Nan and Great Nan. When I asked her friends for their memories of Barbara, the same words came up again and again - kind, loving and generous with her time and talents - always willing to help, a skilled artist and cheerful despite her many health issues. Barbara never complained, and always made time for others' problems. I had many phone conversations with her over the past year when we were unable to meet in person, and we always found something to laugh at. Our last conversation was a week before she died, when we were looking forward to getting back together again. Alas, that wasn't to be - but when we can all meet up again, we will raise a glass in memory of our dear friend Barbara, and in celebration of a life well lived.

(Carolyn L. Lewis)

1ST CARMEL SCOUT GROUP

(Russell Williams, Group leader)

Beavers (6-8 yrs)

Cubs (8-11 yrs)

Scouts (11-14 yrs)

After 15 months we were finally able to restart face to face Scouting again at the beginning of May.

Although we can go indoors, the advice is to do as much as possible outdoors, so

weather permitting that is what we are trying to do.

There are still rules we have to follow, which places some restrictions as to what we can do, so it's a little bit of a challenge organising activities, but it's nice to be running again.



About ¾ of the Scouts, we had when things shut down, have returned, which is very pleasing, and the leadership team has largely remained intact.

The Cubs have mainly been doing games, with some little challenges as well. The Scouts have done an evening making shelters, a couple of Evenings of activities using penknives and a treasure hunt walk.

We do need more leaders, especially in the Scout section.

If anyone would like to get involved, or wants more information, please get in touch.

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"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" (After Herodotus)

The Five Villages Chronicle is immensely proud of the volunteers who deliver their copies, some for many years. We are very grateful and it couldn't realistically be done any other way.

These are our deliverers - I hope I haven't missed anyone!

Alun Jones, Alun Williams, Andrea Davies, Astley Jones, Bob Brown, Bob Hughes, Ceinwen Roberts, Chris Bell, Chris Dolphin, Christine Artus, Daphne Edwards, Dave and Geraldine Thompson, Dave Jones, Emma Warbrick, Evan Roberts, Evelyn Griffiths, Gayle Shacklady, Joe Williams, John and Barbara Butler, John Williams, Julie Jones, Larry Davies, Mair Jones, Matthew Marshall, Melanie and Stuart Wallis, Norman Nixon, Paul Brighton, Paul Forsyth, Paul Harrison, Peter Erasmus, Polly Porter, Rachel von Borstel, Richard Dolphin, Roger Batey, Steven Jones, Tegwyn Thomas, Toni Parry, Victoria and Graham Haley.

Some comments:

Alun and Margaret Jones, Carmel write: Margaret and I moved to Carmel eleven years ago from Penymaes in Holywell. We soon took on the role of helping to deliver the Five Villages Chronicle. We have been married for over 52 years, have two children and four grandchildren.

Hobbies include Walking, golf, gardening, and watching football. I sing in St Peters Church Choir and am a member of the Good Companions of Holywell Hospital. We really appreciate living in lovely Carmel.

Bob Hughes has fond memories of when the Five Villages began, helping to fold papers and take them to Mr Williams in Brynford.

Chris Bell uses his cycle to visit the country areas.

Norman Nixon has delivered for, well its hard to remember, particularly if its over 20 years.

Barbara and John Butler, Carmel: Ruth Parry asked them to deliver...34 years ago.

If you see Dave Jones out litterpicking, give him a toot or wave. note: Dave has litterpicked Whitford Road and the country lanes to Lloc for years.

Graham Hayley also litter picks in the area, Give him a Wave and a toot as you pass by.

Paul Brighton, "Been doing the round longer than I have sense"

Julie Jones says, "I always enjoy delivering the Five Villages Chronicle as it's a good excuse to have a chat and a catch up with my neighbours. Long may it continue!"

Dave and Geraldine Thompson deliver their copies when walking with their dog around the village.

Steven Jones (on the unicycle): They do it differently on Carmel Hill.

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Our deliverers!





MARK ISHERWOOD MS



Based on official statistics, the British Deaf Association believe 7,200 people in Wales use British Sign Language of whom 4,000 are Deaf. In October 2018 calls were made at the North Wales 'Lend Me Your Ears 2018' Conference for British Sign Language (BSL) Legislation in Wales, looking at the 2015 BSL (Scotland) Act and their national BSL Plan published in October 2017, establishing a National Advisory Group including up to 10 deaf people who use BSL as their preferred or first language.

In February this year I was pleased to introduce a Member's Legislative Proposal for a British Sign Language Bill for Wales. The motion was passed which means that the Senedd noted the proposal, rather than endorsed it, and no further proceedings will happen on the proposal unless the Welsh Government, or a Member via the backbench ballot, decides to introduce an actual Bill in this new Senedd term. However, as members of all Parties voted in favour of the motion, there is clearly an appetite for such BSL legislation across the Senedd Chamber and I will continue to pursue this on behalf of the deaf community.

As the British Deaf Association (BDA) state: 'BSL is not just a language; it is also a gateway to learning, a path towards a sense of Deaf identity, and the means whereby Deaf people survive and flourish in a hearing world'.

In 2019 "Deffo! Wales Deaf Youth Forum" submitted a petition to the Senedd to improve access to Education and services in BSL. Currently there are deaf children in Wales in mainstream education with limited access to other deaf peers and communication support. As a result, they leave School at 16 with an average median reading age of nine. They often also have poor speech and lip-reading skills - which hasn't changed since the 1970's with

failures in increased mainstream education only exacerbating this.

Families have limited access to support groups and other similar families, and are unable to learn BSL unless they can afford the high costs involved. There is limited opportunity for deaf children and young people, or their families, to learn their own language, BSL, or even to gain BSL qualifications until they are 16 years old when they leave School. They have missed out on important life skills, life changing conversations within the home and local and world-wide news.

Three years on since submitting their petition, Deffo! are disappointed that nothing has happened and state that "one of the most important things is that BSL starts in early years and is continued through the whole of educational development".

On National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Cymru's advice, the Welsh Government established an advisory group on access to the new curriculum for BSL users and develop guidance. However, an independent review of opportunities for families of young deaf children to learn sign language, published by the Welsh Government, confirmed NDCS's view that opportunities are far too limited and that many families of deaf children want to learn to sign to aid communication with their deaf child, but feel unable to do so.

Meanwhile, the RNID state that weaknesses in the 2011 Census resulted in many people who use BSL not being captured. They state that experience from Scotland has shown that their National Advisory Group have struggled to get local authorities to engage with and develop their BSL plans, suggesting that any future BSL legislation in Wales must place duties on local authorities and be sufficiently enforced.

As they state, a BSL Bill would not be a means to an end in itself, but act as a platform to ensure improved services for the deaf community and people with hearing loss, and improve the support currently offered so people can fully engage

in things like employment and education.

They also state that a Bill should be seen as a piece of enabling legislation, to help focus efforts to improve BSL skills within public services and address communication support, so that costs are not borne by the people who need additional help to tackle the barriers faced by deaf people and those with hearing loss, when the cost of BSL classes is high.

RNID staff want to see improved access to education and lifelong learning, employment, volunteering, media and news, and arts, culture and leisure. As a deaf constituent told me: 'BSL is a language in its own right, with its own grammar and vocabulary, which enables many of our deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing citizens to learn, work, be creative, live life to full and make their contribution to our culture and our economy'.

As an adult with hearing loss, and Chair of the Cross-Party Group on Disability and member of the Cross-Party Group on Deaf Issues in previous Senedd terms, I have long been calling for more support for the deaf community and people with hearing loss in Wales, and I will continue pushing for British Sign Language legislation in Wales during this Senedd term, because, as I have previously said, without specific rights-based legislation, the Welsh Government's generic legislation is going nowhere.

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HOLYWELL MUSEUM (Andrea Yarnell Dakin)

Here at the museum we hope to open in a limited way on 17th May. Do come and see what we have been working on:

See and hear our 1940s living room.

See our dressing table adorned with handbags, cosmetics and vintage clothes - see a 1940s wedding dress and read the story of a post war wedding complete with letter from the honeymoon hotel reminding the couple to bring their ration books!!

We have a display - homage to the N.H.S. and don't forget the Point of Ayr exhibition room with knowledgeable ex miners on hand to answer all of your questions.

New display also is "Busses in Holywell" with model busses and memorabilia - if you have anything you can lend us for this display or have anything we can photocopy - please come along or let us know.

When conditions allow we hope to set up many groups - among them will be reminiscence, writing your family story and craftnoons with tea and bikkies. Please let us know if you would like to take part in any of these and if you have any wool, fabric or anything crafty which you could donate to the group.



The unit you see pictured is at the museum and while it is a lovely piece of furniture it is not able to house the displays we want so if anyone would like to take it away it is free to anyone who can take it away. It is in excellent condition - please come and view it when we open. Dimensions are: 140 cms wide, 34 cms depth (top section), 46 cm depth (whole base), 180 cms high.

See you after the 17th!! Thank you

A MURMURATION OF STARLINGS (Douglas Thompson)

A murmuration passed today, across the evening sky
and a thousand starlings dipped and dived, to show how well they fly

perhaps they're only showing off, as we stand and watch in awe
and we wonder how they manage it, and what they do it for

I wonder if they practice this, for hours and hours each day

I wonder if they crash sometimes, when they get in each other's way

I have never seen them practising, or an embarrassing mistake
they do it perfect every time, with each attempt they make

it's a very fine circus in the air, and the ticket price is free
and everyone who watches it, thinks it's the finest thing to see

so the only reason I can find, is that they do it just for fun

and if they ever practice,--- they don't show us, till it's done.

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BORN TO FISH – COUNTRY MATTERS



(Norman Closs – Parry)

It was 1958 when electricity came to my home in Fach-Wen. It was 1958 when I left home – a world away – 20 miles to Bangor! Electricity was brought to the hamlet in order to service the “Starting line” of the Rowing Competitions in the Empire Games Rowing events held at Llyn Padarn. I wonder sometimes how many are still alive that can remember the British Empire and Commonwealth Games of that year. We were given little more

freedom to roam and mix with the athletes as they trained. I wonder if of those who remember, can see the side of the hills around my home dotted with people with big brass binoculars, big baskets of butties, and they would spend the afternoons of competitions...appreciating the spectacle. The straight mile from Giat Bach to the finishing line by the ‘Landing’ in Llanberis could accommodate eight lanes (not many stretches of freshwater in Wales could meet these criteria – and if they could, as maybe Llyn Tegid Bala – there was always the fresh wind – not conducive at all to rowing, especially sculling.)

1958 and the coming of electricity opened the hamlet to the wonderful world of TV. Before, our comings and goings were dictated by the 4 Seasons!! Each day from September to April had to accommodate “lamp fixing times”. The paraffin lamp was refilled, wick trimmed and funnel polished ready for the hours of darkness – one lamp on the table in the back kitchen – candles everywhere else [other than Sunday – and the Best Parlwr – our only parlour] There was no such thing as homework in primary schools then – so we made our own entertainment...I can see it now...The old steam radio for the occasional Welsh programme – mam busy with mending torn trousers and mending socks (It was not the throwaway society you see today), and my father flat out with his pipe and borrowed

book or Bible or Hymn Book...on the sofa...that left me, the lamp and the table for drawing or looking at my growing library of ‘Observer Books’ shelf. I still have some of them seventy years on! The ones that show most wear and tear and margin thumb marks are Observer Book of British Birds, Observer Books of British Wild Flowers and “my testament” – Freshwater Fishes!

I can remember playing mental games between myself and these books – “what did I want to be when I grew up?”, A Bird man, a Flower man or a Fisherman...By now, I have had a wonderful life of being all three and three in one – but – if I was to be absolutely honest – Fish and Fishing always came first!

Although Eryri was naturally Game Fish Country (Salmon family) I remember as sure as I’m sitting here, thinking as I thumbed the Observer book, saying to myself that I wanted to catch every species of freshwater fish as shown in the book! It has been a fantastic adventure!

Life took me to Flintshire, and Flintshire gave me everything a man needs...and much more. It gave me a wife a wonderful family – and very strangely, once we settled in Bryn Ceris, Carmel in April 1965, I have not moved home – but I have been all over Britain and Europe in my quest to be “The Big Fisherman”! Other than those years living in “Hope” – I have been a Carmel man. But whilst living in the Wrexham area,

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it impressed upon me that I had moved from the Salmon, Trout and Char zones of Eryri and the spring / flash flood rivers of the mountains and rivers to where course fish – i.e., ...fish from the roach, rudd and dace family...let alone the ponds and lakes with perch, pike, tench and carp in them. I became an all-rounder, all the year-round fisher with the 4 Seasons birds and flora thrown in!

If one has an ambition – like I had to catch all the fish on the freshwater list in Britain, there are certain “breaks” one needs. They all came my way. I found a few who “dream fish” like I did/do – I had a wonderful time with the late Jim Moore of Carmel...he too was smitten by the species bug, and he was a good engineer mechanic who could make do or mend ‘tackle’ as ‘needs be’. One needs water (rivers, ponds and streams) that contain these fish. We are on Carboniferous Limestone, there are ponds in Flintshire and the Holywell Area. Also, the Mighty Dee – upper and lower, and not too far for a Saturday trip to Bala – Mecca of 13 species. As my job prospects improved, I was able to go further afield.... The Severn and The Wye....

Also, we were very fortunate forming the Holywell Anglers and the fact that we were given the use of Llyn Helyg with its mighty tench and carp – plus a mix of roach and rudd hybrids. Like David Hockney states in “Spring cannot be Cancelled”, artist (and fishermen (my insert) must be able to see through things. I have been blessed with the skill. I do not look at a piece of water – I look through it and I can see the natural movement at the different levels therein. I can also dream fish to come on! I can imagine (very often correctly) what goes on beneath the float! I like to mess about with boats, and I like to concoct different baits, and I’m not a conservative angler but a radical fisherman. Most of my

angling generation came into contact with the feats of the great Richard Walker... probably the best general angler of the last century. He was a carp man (World Record Story – a great tale) – 5-star writer – he was a Cambridge man – 1st in Engineering... he looked through things. He thought, he wrote as a scientist writes – clear analytical, always questioning and experimenting. He experimented with new materials – developing rods and lures he got results and wrote about them in the Angling Press and several volumes. He was not a lyrical essayist “Oh look at that osprey” when it came to his fishing accounts – always scientific – always looking for patterns and facts...some of my Eryri friends kept thrashing the surface when the fish were obviously “down” ...it was not always how the lure was presented, but where and at what depth – and what was it supposed to represent! I was sold on Walkers ideas, and my catches improved – well enough for others to seek my opinions – I always credited Dick Walker – as far as Reservoir trout and course fish were concerned... That’s another thing, mighty new reservoir sprung all over Britain and after the Sputnik and Yuri Gagarin – it was ALL CHANGE – new synthetic materials!

Slowly I was catching all the fish not just the big species of Rainbow trout, barbel – carbon rods not split cord etc – but the small fry – gudgeon – millers thumb “spined” sticklebacks...and I was getting tremendous satisfaction, it was not always the fish – but in integration with the ecology! it was the fishing. Side by side of doing, I read wildly...There by hangs a lesson against myself not checking!

I had been quite satisfied to tick the fish list a la ‘Observers book’...without realising that like ‘New York’, science and ichthyology (the study of fish) is never still. As I was approaching the successful

conclusion of my ‘juvenile list’ – I happened to look at a more current work by Maitland and Campbell. Imagine my surprise when I saw the latest British List – just look at the headings of how and where they came to these islands – that is all you need to please together – there had been ‘new’ introductions since my salad days.

Indigenous Species Introduced Species

Via the Sea...via land bridge

From Europe...From N America

Details of the above, Freshwater Fishes P.S. Maitland & R.W. Campbell. Table 3 Page 47.

On each list there were fish I had not caught, and now in my 81st year to heaven – will never do so! But the memory reel is full, the ones that I have caught, the one that got away, the places visited, the experiences, the people – the dawns, the dusks – and I can testify like Simon Peter in Chapter 21 St John, when the disciples were so despondent and downhearted after the goings on in Jerusalem and Golgotha – he said – “I’m going fishing”. I know why! I chose right in the light of that sooty oil lamp!

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Remembering Ceinwen Thomas



Her parents chose a perfect name for her, Ceinwen, meaning a pure and beautiful person. She was certainly beautiful, and of a lovely and pure nature. When people heard of her passing, they all remembered her as a kind and considerate lady. Yes, Ceinwen was a very dear person, and everyone thought the world of her.

The first letter of her name was important throughout her life - C for Ceinwen, and as she was referred to locally, the Christian Aid Lady. She tirelessly collected hundreds of pounds for the movement.

Ceinwen was a farm girl from the Vale of Clwyd - Dilys and Gwilym Jones's eldest daughter, from Corniwh Mawr, Nantglyn. Yes that's C for Corniwh, where she grew up as a sister to Bet, Glen, Glyn and Emyr. She had a busy upbringing on the farm and truly loved the bustle of the close-knit community at Nantglyn. This community had a very warm place in her heart throughout her life.

C for the chapel - Capel y Waun, that meant so much to her.

C for the cariad (love) that she was so willing to share. One person who shared much of this love was Tegwyn. They married in 1957 and moved to Morriston, near Swansea for eight years, and they were both very happy there amidst the friendly people of the Swansea Valley. They then moved to England with Tegwyn's work, to live in a village near Henley on Thames. There they had two sons, Alun and Dewi.

Fortunately for us, after eight years, the opportunity came for them to move back to Wales, and so they moved to Gorsedd near Holywell in 1972.

The love she showed her family, and to everyone close to her was invaluable. She lived for her family, and loved sharing the stories of her childhood with us all. Through these stories we felt that we knew her mum and dad, and Bet, Glen, Glyn and Emyr very well, and she had a lot of fun reminiscing about their adventures, often with a mischievous twinkle in her eyes.

Ceinwen went home every week without fail to help her mum at the farm, and then her brother Emyr, until she became too ill to go - and she certainly loved going.

C for the delicious cakes she baked to take with her to Corniwh.

C for the countless favours she made in secret, often without gratitude, but that didn't bother her at all, as she continued regardless.

C for the cymdeithasu (socialising) where she was in her element. She had a naturally wonderful personality that made her a pleasure to be around. She was a great listener, and responded often with highly entertaining retorts.

C for the cartref (home) where she was extremely happy, with Tegwyn at the centre of everything she did. It was such a happy occasion when they were able to celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary with family and friends in March 2017.

Alun and Dewi were so important to her, and she took pride in everything they did. She thought the world of both of them, and always wanted the best of everything for them. She was absolutely thrilled when her grandchildren Niamh and Mia came into her life, and was so proud of them.

C for her caredigrwydd (kindness), which emanated from her. It would take many many days to list the favours she did for so many people - nothing was too much trouble for her.

Whilst talking about Ceinwen to my son the other day, he responded saying that she was like a mother to us all.

She was so shocked when she received the Salt of the Earth award from Merched y Wawr. The National President at the time, the late Gwyneth Morris Jones, came to present her with the award. Her first response was 'why me? I haven't done anything to deserve this - Ceinwen, she was so humble.

C for canu (singing) - she loved to sing, and had a wonderful soprano voice.

C for the choirs that she was a member of, not forgetting...

C for the choral recitation group, of which she was a valuable member - she never missed a rehearsal, and was always the first to learn her words.

Ceinwen was a happy, gentle, friendly and generous Christian.

Our condolences go to Tegwyn, Alun, Dewi, Natasha, Niamh and Mia, and to all the family. We have lost a very special friend, and we will forever remember the pleasure she gave to so many of us.

'Blessed are the pure in heart,

For they will see God'

Ceinwen died March 10th 2021 aged 90

(written by Nesta Elis)



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OF BATS AND BIRDS IN FLIGHT (Norman Nixon)

I have had pipistrelle bats residing in my attic for well over thirty years. They reappear about mid April every year and each evening at dusk, put on an amazing flying display. They hurtle about in my garden and make incredibly tight turns, passing within four feet of my living room window. The high energy aerobatics usually involves only one bat for about ten minutes before it moves away. Occasionally though, I see two bats in the garden and a game of chase ensues, the bats are two to three feet apart as they race around my conifers apparently just for fun!

Birds also find time to enjoy themselves it seems. Rooks are well known for performing aerobatics and I have observed this activity when wet weather is imminent. The performance entails flipping upside down and diving sharply downwards. They also appear to enjoy the challenge of flying in blustery, windy weather. I have seen them on numerous occasions holding position against the wind and then soaring upwards and diving down repeatedly.

Another example of birds apparently enjoying themselves in flight occurs during very warm and calm weather. Thermals occur especially over roads and built up areas. These narrow columns of warm, rising air enables birds to gain height with very little effort. Rooks, jackdaws and seagulls often gather together to take advantage of these thermals sometimes all together. They begin gliding in rising circles with little wing movement. A column of gliding birds is soon formed, made up of hundreds or more birds rising several hundred feet in the air.

Twice over Carmel I have watched a tower composed of rooks form over several minutes. When the column was complete there was a dramatic finale with the circling birds simultaneously diving downwards before dispersing. I have only seen Rooks do this particular action.

A prevalent bird often seen over Carmel and surrounding areas is the common buzzard which soars effortlessly on its large broad wings in lazy circles, often rising to greater heights. This bird is often mobbed and harassed by groups of crows, rooks, jackdaws, seagulls and even swallows. They usually dive at the buzzard, pestering without making contact. The buzzard generally responds by gracefully gliding away from its tormentors until they give up on their assault. Once I witnessed an aerial battle between an irate raven and a buzzard, the hostile encounter continued for fifteen minutes above the Clwydian Hills, on this occasion the buzzard flipped onto its back in mid flight, threatening the raven with its talons in defence of its territory.

However, the raven has its softer side and in early spring the male and female engage in a courting or bonding ritual which is quite beautiful to watch. They glide together in synchronised flight keeping several feet apart. The whole flight is balletic in its grace and executed with amazing precision, truly stunning to watch.

There's quite a lot going on high above our heads so sometimes it pays to stop, look up and scan the sky. You may be lucky enough to spot some of these behaviours for yourselves.

PANTASAPH NOTES (Emma Warbrick)

Well, it's me.... the one who pops up on the pages every so often, then disappears for a few issues! I hope this issue finds everyone well and enjoying this sunny weather? As usual, I am late, and half term has just started, so I'm glad the sun is shining to brighten up the spirit. Pantasaph is just the same as it was the last time I put finger to touch pad.... but for all those who have moved into the village, or indeed, surrounding villages; welcome.


I had my second jab at the beginning of May, and had no

side affects this time (the first made me poorly for a week!), which I was very pleased about, especially with this Indian variant exploding across the UK... we all had another lockdown birthday which has been the norm for everyone now, and whilst I'm glad some sort of normality is resuming, I worry people will become too complacent. We are not venturing out of the UK this year, but hope to go to Whitby soon, although even in the UK, there are still risks. Hari is glad to be back at the after school clubs (I'm not quite so happy gallivanting round the countryside ;-)), and he's certainly glad to be back amongst his friends. I was beginning to worry about him spending too much time at home with myself and the dog as he was beginning to eat out of his plate on the floor and bark at passer-bys at the fence.....

Monastery Road hasn't changed much over the years, but the verge has. Not only do our pavements look fantastic, thanks to Ian, but on a sadder note, the laburnum has dwindled away to almost nothing due in part to the ivy that has engulfed it. I recently found a photo of the road some twenty years ago.....wow, what a difference. I also happened to go on Google earth and discovered that when you check out my property, dad is standing in the gateway, a nice little keepsake that I've screen shot.

It's great to see the Druid reopened, and we've had some delicious takeaways from there. Again, don't forget to support our local businesses, they've all been through a tough time. On the other hand, I notice that the building trade must be booming as at one point, most of Gorsedd seemed to be being reroofed, and lots of properties have undergone face lifts. I suppose people haven't been on holidays and have decided to upgrade instead.

Anyway, short and sweet this time..... have a safe and happy summer everyone, shop local, work to live , not live to work, and as always make memories....



ROB ROBERTS MP
Member of Parliament for Delyn

Please contact me with any issues you would like to raise

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YSGOL Y LLAN VA PRIMARY SCHOOL, WHITFORD

(Rhian Roberts, Nathan Williams, Catherine Hughes and Headteacher Bryan Griffiths)
CLASS 3



Class 3 have signed up the RSPB Wild Challenge and are working towards their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. So far, the children have built rock piles and log piles around the school field, made Hog Homes in their gardens and made apple bird feeders. The children are really enjoying spending more time outside learning, and will be using these experiences to apply for the Green Blue Peter badge.



Key Stage 2 pupils have been fortunate enough to take part in some online STEM sessions run by Technocamps. The children have learnt about algorithms, programming computers, and computational thinking. Ysgol y Llan have recently invested in more Chromebooks for Key Stage 2 classes and ipads for our Foundation classes that are used daily to develop our pupils' ICT skills.

OUTDOORS

Our Key Stage 2 teachers recently enjoyed 2 days of Outdoor Learning training. We are working alongside some local schools to develop our outside area and create a bank of resources and activities to use with our pupils. At Ysgol y Llan we are very fortunate to have a lovely forest area and large field to use.



We are so fortunate here at Ysgol y Llan with our school grounds but we are always looking for ways to improve our

school environment. We have transformed one of our outdoor spaces into a new Foundation Phase outdoor. We must thank our wonderful parents for supporting us, making shelters, bug hotels, weeding and painting the area so that the children can enjoy the benefits of being outdoors.



Our pupils have been enjoying playing against each other on our newly installed ActiveAll boards! These interactive boards can be used in a variety of ways to encourage them to be physically active, develop their coordination and have fun at break times!



With the current Covid restrictions affecting our annual school Sports' day once again, our class teachers organised their own class bubble sports day so

the children didn't have to miss out. The weather stayed dry and sunny, and the children excelled themselves with their behaviour, sportsmanship and competitiveness!

WHOLE SCHOOL SMART TECHNOLOGY!



We have finished upgrading our old Active Promethean Whiteboards to new Smartboards with touch screen technology. This year, we managed to install the final two boards, with Class 1 being the last class to receive theirs recently. Along with these Smartboards, each class has recently received a number of additional devices specifically for their own class in order to improve digital provision throughout the school. An additional 5 iPads per Foundation Phase class and 5 Chromebooks per Key Stage Two class have been gratefully received by the teachers and the children.

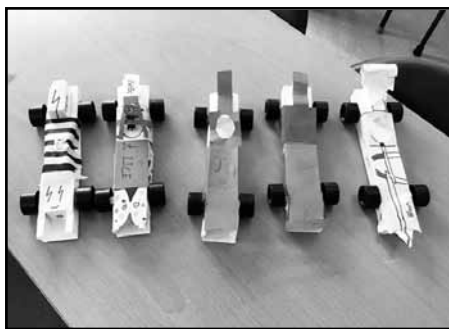
CLASS 4



Back in February we had some fantastic news. As part of a national story writing competition Freya Hall's story 'The diary of a machine' was shortlisted as one of the top 10 in Wales. The competition was organised by The Royal Mint to celebrate 50 years of the decimalisation of currency and was judged by Children's Laureate Wales – Eloise Williams. Eloise said "Wow! What a fascinating collection of stories. (there was) fantastic imagination and creativity on show here, It was so difficult to choose!"

As part of the prize, Freya was presented with a special commemorative coin. Well done, Freya. We are all very proud of you.

As part of a fantastic project, all members of class 4 had the opportunity to design, make and race a small Formula One car as part of the F1 in Schools Speed Challenge. As part of the F1 project, we



have two teams who will be taking part in the main competition. This involves them designing, testing, and making their own F1 cars, creating a design portfolio and delivering a presentation. The learners will have to try and gather sponsorship through writing letters to potential sponsors. It's a very exciting project and learners will develop a number of key skills in a fun and interesting way. We all wish our teams - Blue Dart and Red Lightning all the very best in the event next month!

CLASS 1



Dosbarth 1 have had a lovely few weeks enjoying our topic of Mini-beasts. The children have made bug hotels, researched life cycles of different insects and carried out an investigation into which food the creatures prefer. We have created our own version of The Snail by Matisse, programmed the Beebots and enjoyed using our new Smart Board in lots of different ways. We held snail races, set up our own campsite and planted lots of seeds to grow flowers for our mini beast buddies. We even have our own class caterpillars growing, which we have named and held



a class poll into which type of butterfly we think they will turn into. We can't wait to find out!! We have also enjoyed a live workshop by Dwr Cymru, made Pentecost wind twirls, joined the Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Translation of the Bible into Welsh and held a fantastic Sports Day while the sun was shining.

LEAD CREATIVE SCHOOLS



We are once again participating in the Lead Creative Schools Project for the next two years, after a successful application was submitted. Funded mainly by the Arts Council for Wales with the school paying a small percentage, our Key Stage Two classes will benefit from working alongside two creative agents who were interviewed and employed by a representative group of our school parliament.

Our two creative agents are currently working in Class 4, following all Covid guidelines and participating in the twice weekly lateral flow tests to ensure that they are able to be in school. We're looking forward to what ideas and final pieces of art the class come up with.

WHITFORD PLAYGROUP



Whitford playgroup is a small, friendly group based in Ysgol y Llan the local village primary school.

We care for children aged two and a half plus and open Monday, Tuesday and Fridays 9am-1pm.

We believe that through play children begin to learn and experience social interaction and develop their group skills. We aim to encourage each child's development by providing a wide and varying range of stimulating activities.

Playgroup will be holding an open afternoon. If you would like to come and look around please email WhitfordP5@Hwbcmru.net to register your interest.

We have highly qualified staff with a



proven track record working in childcare.

We look forward to welcoming you and your children.

NURSERY AND RECEPTION



All applications have been received and parents have been notified. We still have the last remaining places in both Nursery and Reception if any families have moved into the area and want to join our lovely school community here in Whitford.

A note from the Headteacher

I started my last newsletter on a positive note and wanted to share that same positivity with the wider community. Feeling thank you, I wrote:

"As I sit here writing this newsletter after reading some of your positive comments about our school communication, the sun is shining through the office window and the birds are singing ... but most of all, I can hear children's voices and laughter coming from the nearby play areas. It is so nice to have all of our children back in school and to see just how resilient they are, bouncing back to normality at a phenomenal rate.

It means the world to me to see them back in their classroom, learning once again, to see them exploring the outdoors, to listen to their conversations around school and to always be greeted pleasantly by them as they pass me in the corridor.

I've always been proud of our school, the children who learn here and the staff who support, care for and teach them ... we have an amazing school here in Whitford.

So, if you're reading this, just let them know, from me personally, that I'm proud of each and every one of them.

Thank you! Mr. G."

The same applies today, despite the dark clouds and torrential rain, I'm still feeling thankful that we have the children safely back in school and I am proud to be Headteacher of such an amazing school with the most dedicated and hardworking staff. You can read the rest of that very same newsletter here: http://www.ysgollyllan.co.uk/uploads/6/0/9/8/60987703/friday_30th_april.pdf

NEWS FROM YSGOL GWENFFRWD (Alys Williams)

How wonderful it was to welcome all of our pupils back to Ysgol Gwenffrwd at the beginning of the term – Summer Term 2021. Our COVID 19 Risk Assessment requires that we continue to follow the same rules as before Easter – washing hands, social distancing and sufficient ventilation, and adults with responsibility over the pupils to wear face masks and visors. It's a strange world!! BUT we believe in adhering to every rule - for the safety of everyone. Saying this, as staff, we continue to plan enthusiastically towards the new CREATIVE Curriculum, and towards the Additional Learning Needs Act – with a focus on the welfare of the individual and 'Pupil Centred' learning. As part of our 'creative' planning this term, we chose to follow a whole school topic for the first time – 'Tremendous Trees'. The Staff received online training under the title 'Coed Cyfareddol a Choedwigoedd Chwedlonol' ('Sensational Trees and Legendary Trees') from the Natural Resources Wales team. As you can imagine, this topic provides a wealth of opportunities/ lines of enquiries, with the children leading with their contagious enthusiasm. It also gives us the opportunity to consider and pay greater attention to the natural world around us, identifying trees/ leaves and recognising them as habitats for others as well as their vital role in the Oxygen / Carbon Dioxide cycle. The older children have been researching the effects of deforestation across the world and considering the messages and warnings given by young people such as Greta Thunberg.

Within the Foundation Phase here in Gwenffrwd, the Under 5s have been wrapping their little arms around various sizes of tree stumps (measuring/ feeling/ observing).



This picture shows two Year 3 and 4 Pupils – Iwan and Joseph busy weeding, digging and caring for the runner beans and rhubarb while studying the trees on the school site. Flintshire have recently commissioned a Tree Inspection in the grounds of every school by the company Green Spaces (who conduct inspections in North Wales.) The Governing Body shared the report with Ysgol Gwenffrwd's students and it was fantastic to hear discussions

surrounding a few unfamiliar names as well as studying the map that came as part of this interesting Tree Inspection Report.

On our school field is a circle of tree stumps where the children can sit. Here the older children are heard reading and discussing a story with its roots steeped in Welsh legends - 'Rhys a Meinir.' There was also an 'Emotions/ Wellbeing/ Growth Mindset' session, beginning with key vocabulary associated with expressing an opinion/personal views and words associated with trees such as 'Sheltering, friend, strong, sanctuary, majestic, protective, frightening' – stimulating creative literacy and art work and relaxation opportunities.

We thank Mrs Sheena Evans for her leadership supporting students with



Mr J Purchase helping us to create our orchard.

planting and caring for 8 large planters (of various shapes) where fruits, vegetables and herbs are grown – and for assisting Ysgol Gwenffrwd's Eco Committee, the Headteacher and Miss Dawn Owen (Assistant Headteacher) as we add to the trees being planted here annually. This March, 2021, as part of our Platinum ECO



Miss Margaret Williams with a basket of flowers that she received from Clwb Gwenffrwd's children.

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plan, 15 fruit trees – (a mixture of apples, cherry, pear and plum) were planted to create an orchard towards the bottom of the school field. Our thanks go to Mr John Purchase, from Flintshire's Bio-Diversity Department for his support with this project.

CLWB GWENFFRWD: HAPPY RETIREMENT – to Miss Margaret Williams, Calcoed, Brynford, (who retired at Easter time) after working as an after-school club assistant in CLWB GWENFFRWD for 22 years. Our sincerest thanks go to Margaret for her care and kindness over the years. We had an opportunity to farewell with Margaret, sitting 2 metres apart and with the hall doors open in the Big Hall, recalling fond memories over the years. No, nothing compares with a chat face to face does it? We wish you every happiness in your retirement Margaret – and be sure to keep in touch!

Below are just a few examples of the work our KS2 children have been busy doing this term.

Writing a 100 word Saga under the title 'Wander in the Woods':

A wander through the woods

Beneath the branches was the gloomy, murky, forest. I stood in silence, the suffocating flames from the campfire stung my eyes. I continued along the long, crooked path. Tumbling and tripping over the branches and the twigs, I finally reached the end. I was caught by surprise, I had the unnerving feeling I was being watched. "Hello, is anyone there?" I saw a dashing movement in the corner of my eye. I could feel warm breath on the back of my neck. I slowly turned around in fear. Suddenly a shadow was covering me and everything went dark.

Leila Harrison – Year 6

Writing a descriptive paragraph about the wonderful forest depicted at the end of the story 'The Tin Forest':

Hello creatures of the Earth, today is a new day. My forest, now big and beautiful, the sound of the buzzing bees and the exotic animals roar through the jungle with strength and power. The weather is gorgeous out here and it's not raining - YES! I love all nature and all plants too. There's tigers and monkeys the wild life goes on and on! The parrots have lovely colors on their stretched out wings and the frogs are as green as a gorgeous leaf. The tigers are black and orange like a bee. I feel happy, in fact I feel amazing! I love my home it smells lovely, a big change from my 'Tin Forest'. Time to go to bed and say good night to all the animals.

Mia Robinson – Year 3

EGLWYSI CYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON WELSH CHAPELS HOLYWELL

(Alun Evans)

Da ni'n gobeithio fod y sefyllfa'n gwella erbyn hyn, yn arbennig gan fod nifer ohonom wedi derbyn yr ail frechiad. Rydym wedi colli un o'n haelodau ffyddlonaf ym marwolaeth Ceinwen Thomas, Brenig, Parc Gorsedd. Gweler coffad gan Nesta Ellis. Mae ein cydymdeimlad gyda Tegwyn, ynghyd ac Alun a Dewi a'r teulu.

Da deall fod Gruff Edwards a Norman Closs Parry yn gwella ar ôl bod yn yr Ysbyty. Mae eraill o'n haelodau yn yr Ysbyty neu mewn cartrefi gofal. Rwy'n cyfeirio at Beryl Parry, Heulwen Williams a Gron Ellis. Rydym yn meddwl amdanynt i gyd.

Byddwn fel pwyllgor yn cyfarfod yn yr wythnosau nesaf i drafod pryd y byddwn yn ail agor i gynnal gwasanaethau ac fe fyddwn wedyn yn cysylltu gyda'r holl aelodau. Tan hynny byddwch ofalus a chadwch yn ddiogel.

We hope that the pandemic situation is improving and many of us have now received our second vaccination. Sadly we have lost one of our faithful members, Ceinwen Thomas, Brenig, Parc Gorsedd. Please read Nesta Ellis's tribute (p31). We sympathise with Tegwyn, Alun, Dewi and family.

We are glad to hear that Gruff Edwards and Norman Closs Parry are recovering after their short stay in hospital. Our thoughts are with other members who are in hospital or in care homes, Beryl Parry, Heulwen Williams and Gron Ellis.

We will, as a committee, meet in the next few weeks to discuss when to resume services and then will contact all members. Until then take care and stay safe.



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If you have a more specific problem that has not been listed here, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We will be more than happy to hear from you.



THE HOLYWELL & DISTRICT SOCIETY

(Sally Brighton)

The committee of our Society has continued to meet regularly via Zoom, during the past months.

During that time, we were deeply saddened to learn of the death of one of our number, our Membership Secretary, Marion Thompson. She has done such sterling work for us over the years, collecting monies, keeping membership lists up to date, and chasing up unpaid subscriptions with tact and determination, whilst presiding with great personality and good cheer, at the 'table' by the door. These essential jobs require an unswervingly organised mind, swathes of concentration and a confident and unruffled approach to people. She will be so very much missed and a member who is hard to replace.

The Committee and the many members of our society send her family our heartfelt condolences.

TIMES PAST

Sometimes we like to look back at what was featured here some time ago. The images here are from twenty years ago and I am prompted to ask, 'Should we feature a page for the very young now and again?'



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NATURE COLUMN

(Jan Miller)

One of the benefits of lockdown for me has been exploring some local country lanes on walks that I have never been down before in 35 years of living near Whitford. There are some lovely wildflowers and rocks to find there in the banks.

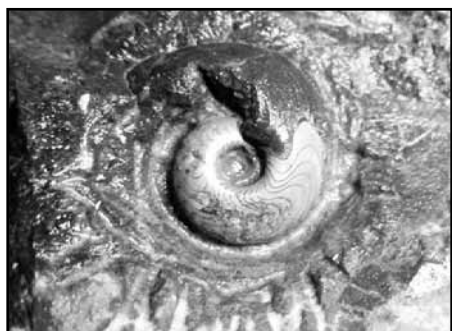
We walked down past the Pennant Park golf course and the riding school one day (part of the Pennant Walks you can get from the Pennant Society website) and



met 2 men repairing the wall outside their houses which they told us were made of Holywell shale. I right away realised that we had just walked past the same rock naturally occurring in the banks, and that had probably suggested to the first settlers that they could make walls out of it. Shale is quite soft and cleaves into layers, much like its related slate, but shale has more sand in it and has not been subjected to so much heat and pressure as slate.



Pyritised Goniatile fossils have been found in the Holywell shales, but I could not find any pictures of them. However, I do have a small pyritized Ammonite that I found on Watchet beach in Somerset



when a student that would be very similar. It is very beautiful when turned in the light – the oxidized iron sulphide (Pyrite) has replaced the original shell when the muddy and sandy rocks were being

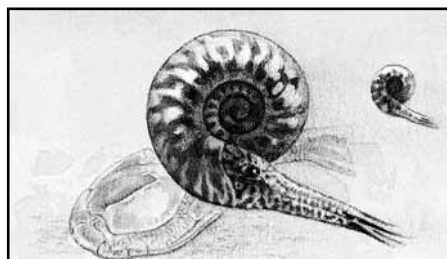
compressed after being laid down in a delta environment. The goniaticites were primitive ammonites (extinct cephalopod molluscs) that flourished during the Devonian, Carboniferous and Permian periods (dating from 400 to 251 million years ago). They were a free-swimming animal, possessing a head with two well developed eyes and grasping tentacles. They swam by squirting water out of the body cavity

Along with these there were many other creatures living in the sea whose bodies fell to the bottom when they died and decayed to form the oil we use as fuel today.

You can see how the natural rock cracks into slabs which early farmers would have used to make walls.



Here is a wall of the same rock (Holywell Shale) being repaired just a few steps down the same lane. This is an artist's impression of how Goniaticites looked in life, and below is a pyritised Goniatile shell in American shale.



Goniaticites were marine molluscs with a spiral shell. Most were less than 20 centimeters across, so keep your eyes peeled for them when you see these rocks! As the Holywell Shale is part of the Carboniferous Bowland Shale Formation,



close to the Talacre coal measures, it will be about 300 million years old, and identified as the main potential shale gas system in the UK. But I don't think there will be any fracking round here! I think we are all moving away from fossil fuels now,



thank goodness. Personally, we are just changing our heating system now from traditional oil fuel to re-used vegetable oil. And we get all our electricity from the wind farms. We still have a chance to avert another major extinction!

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COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

Hello Everyone, Sut mae pethau: Covid easing is continuing; today pubs reopen indoors, so long live your "local". What does the council need to do in our 5 Villages? Fencing renewal on Ocean View, potholes ongoing as always, drain clearing, keeping play areas tidy and fit for use, fixing the county streetlights, making sure our schools and other educational facilities are doing well, social care for all including foster parents and carers. Much more including –

Grass Cutting: It's that time of year, I am letting my own grass grow a little longer this year, just my bit to help nature along. Now the Grass Cutting Schedule for the Council includes: Rural Verges (outside 30mph) are 1 cut per year in July (subject to weather conditions). 1 swathe width on all principal, non-principal and unclassified roads. Visibility splays at junctions have 4 cuts per year in April, June, August, and later. Full width cutting for weed and self-sown sapling control on all rural roads is once every 4 years in the Autumn. Urban verges within 30 mph zone are 4 cuts per year.

Amenity areas get 13 cuts per year as required and flexible depending on weather conditions. The removal of grass cuttings is only in exceptional circumstance such as first cut. Public footpaths get 4 cuts per year as required.

The majority of highway hedges are the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. Highway hedges owned by the council will be cut once a year after the nesting season. Recreation and sports grounds have 16 cuts March – October. This is subject to separate procurement arrangements and direct liaison with schools.

Cemeteries have a flexible start, generally in late winter, and cuts are based on every 2 weeks April - June then every 3 weeks July - October. Council tenants who request and qualify for assisted gardening services have a maximum of 13 cuts per year.

Town Centre Regeneration: For many years towns across the UK have faced challenging economic circumstances, plus of course Covid19. Challenges include: customer behaviour; units owned by speculative owners who have limited interest in the actual location; smaller marginal shopping centres struggling with property values and attracting tenants; vacant space above outlets, plus longer-term vacant properties which blight an area.

Flintshire does not have many major national chains in its town centres. The last major national closure of significance was Woolworths. The loss of high street banks has been more significant in Flintshire towns.

The Welsh Government (WG) tasked local authorities to respond to the pandemic and the needs of town centres. There is

an increased focus on empty town centre properties and a lean towards a loans programme delivered by local authorities. How to regenerate – refresh evidence based on vibrancy and vitality; respond proactively to interest and actively seek to encourage investment; support front line services and sustain footfall; approve Local Development Plan policies for town centres that enable land use change; take advantage of potential investment in transport infrastructure: support town centre stakeholder groups; help businesses to adapt to changing economies. There are other actions not included here, and the Council has established a new governance structure for economic recovery in the county with a strong focus on town centres.

New opportunities for investment in Flintshire have emerged including, from May 2021, £4m WG capital funding for a wide range of projects including property investments, environmental improvements and digital infrastructure. Another £4m for capital investment for major projects in towns already identified. Town centre

loans; the council holds £840,000. Empty property enforcement costs are available now. The UK Government Levelling Up Front now has its bidding process open. £800m is available up to 2024/25. The council also works collaboratively with all other North Wales authorities, Wales Economic Ambition Board and Mersey Dee Alliance.

So, a massive herculean challenge to help town centres regenerate.

Contact: If you need to contact your 5 Villages Whitford Ward County Councillor Chris Dolphin call 01352 713415 or e-mail chris_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk or write to me at 11 Ffordd Aelwyd, Carmel, CH8 8SH.

Cyngor Cynghorydd: Er gwybodaeth rhif cyswllt cynghorydd sir ardal Chwittfordd a'r pum pentref yw Chris Dolphin, 01352 713415, ebost chris_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk neu pe dymunwch ysgrifennu llythyr fy nghyfeiriad yw, 11 Ffordd Aelwyd, Carmel, CH8 8SH

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NEWS FROM GORSEDD AND WHITFORD CHURCHES

(Kathryn Evans, Vicar of Bagillt, Gorsedd, Mostyn and Whitford)



Yesterday I was visiting a local parishioner and, partly because the weather was glorious (did you blink and miss that day?), and partly because I had decided not to drive, I was walking down the neighbouring lanes. The sun was warm, the wind light and I enjoyed

a very pleasant walk with the birds singing, the odd butterfly flitting around and the stunning scenery. It has been one of the greatest blessings of living in this beautiful part of the world, especially as my first year or so has been so very different to anything we could have imagined.

As I walked, I was very thankful for the little things in creation we take for granted and I pondered, as I'm sure many of you do, what's each of our responsibility for caring for our world. For Christians, this is an important part of our discipleship but of course, caring for the planet isn't just a Christian issue. My husband, who doesn't share my faith is passionate about caring for nature. He surveys moths and counts butterflies, plants insect and bee-friendly flowers, he is involved with several wildlife charities and does whatever he can to support the natural world. Our lawn is looking a bit wilder than normal as its "No-Mow May" – giving the creatures that call our grasslands home a chance to thrive.

Sunday 23rd May is Whit Sunday, or Pentecost as it is now called in the church. It is the day that Christians remember and thank God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Bible passage speaks of a rushing wind and tongues of fire, but I often feel that the Spirit speaks to me in much more subtle ways. So, for instance, a couple of months ago, I met up with Mr Williams, the Deputy Headteacher at Ysgol Y Llan and we spoke of the school and Whitford church working together on Eco-friendly projects, one of which is us partnering and working towards Eco-Church status. This was warmly welcomed in our recent church meeting and yesterday I had a fabulous conversation with a friend about the possibility of Whitford becoming a Bee-friendly village. If you consider that a few years ago, there was a biodiversity study of Whitford churchyard, you can probably guess that I am now thinking that all these 'little' things may well be God-incidences and the Holy Spirit 'blowing' these ideas into many local people's thoughts and this is an area worth pursuing together.

Over the coming months, we will be exploring what it means for our churches to be 'Eco-Churches', so if you see a patch of the churchyard with longer than normal grass, or wildflowers growing – please bear with us – we are trying to "Care for God's Acre". If you have ideas, or want to get involved too, please do not hesitate to contact me. Our corner of the world is a beautiful place – I'd love to work together to keep it that way!

Our churches are also gradually returning to some semblance of normality, you are very welcome to join us on a Sunday – Gorsedd services are at 9:30am and Whitford's services are normally on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11am. The first Sunday of the month is a Family service with communion – everyone is welcome.

With my continued thoughts and prayers – have a blessed and beautiful summer. 01745 799200.

At present, services in Gorsedd are at 9.30 am every Sunday, and at Whitford they are at 11.00 am every first and third Sunday.



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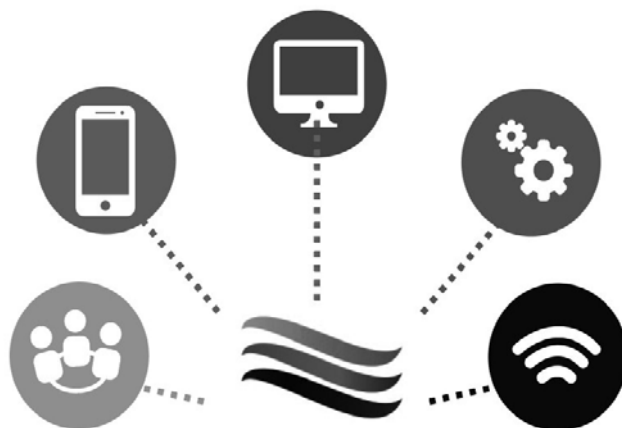
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HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



I want to start by saying the readers of the Five Villages what an absolute honour it is to have been re-elected as our Member of the Senedd. It has been a privilege to serve the people of Delyn since 2016 and I will continue to work day in, day out. I am, and always have been, committed to being a champion for our corner of the country and will do all I can to support all of our communities

LOOKING AHEAD

Having spoken to 1000s of residents during the campaign and on the back of supporting 1000s of constituents throughout the last Senedd term, I know first hand the work to be done to ensure both support and opportunities for people, communities and workplaces here.

Whether that is campaigning for more sustainable transport options, including a new station in Greenfield, or working with the health board for improved health services, I will do all I can to work with others to improve our communities as much as possible.

I have already written to a number of organisations, including the Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council, to raise these concerns and ensure that progress is made.

GETTING OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY

With measures as they currently are, I want to make the most of safely visiting businesses and projects across the constituency. Now more than ever we need to support and enjoy all the fantastic things on our doorstep – from our local businesses to our cultural assets and natural beauty.

I recently called into Theatr Clwyd for a socially distanced visit to see their COVID measures and get an update on plans for the redevelopment, which is being backed by the Welsh Government. I have also been busy getting out and about to support local businesses and organisations and receiving updates on major investments in the constituency, including plans for a tidal power project at Mostyn docks.

If there are any community groups, projects or local businesses which would like to tell me more about the way they are

working with our community, then please get in touch and I am sure we can arrange something.

RESPONDING TO CORONAVIRUS

Whilst I write this piece for the Five Villages, we are fortunate here in Wales to see circumstances improving, with the vaccination programme continuing to reach more and more people, and levels of infections falling. A few weeks ago, I joined the millions across Wales who have received their first vaccination, thanks to the fantastic staff at the Deeside Mass Vaccination Centre. Wales is currently the top nation in the world in terms of the percentage of the population who have received their first dose of the vaccine, and almost 40% of the population have now received their second vaccine. Again, this is down to the efforts the small army of NHS staff, volunteers, and army personnel, who have delivered our great vaccination programme.

For things to continue to improve, we cannot be complacent. We must continue to play our part in following the measures in place and guard ourselves from new variants of the virus. In Wales we are encouraging people to only travel when essential and to instead look to the beauty on our doorstep in Wales, and the UK, and choose “staycations”. Not only does this keep us safer, but it also supports our fantastic tourism industry.

I will continue to share factual and up to date information with residents as the Welsh Government makes announcements relating to the coronavirus situation, through my Facebook page – Hannah Blythyn MS – and my regular columns here and in the Flintshire Leader.

REMAINING ON HAND

If there are any issues you would like

to raise with me, or you would appreciate hearing my views on a certain topic, then please email me at Hannah.Blythyn@senedd.wales or call 01352 762102.

Finally, I would again like to reiterate my thanks to everyone who is playing their bit to prevent the spread of coronavirus as much as possible.

Thank you. Diolch.

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NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be published on 18th September 2021 and the submission deadline for that edition will therefore be 20th August 2021.

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We have a new Facebook page that you can use to submit comments, feedback, short articles and any other snippets of information. Visit www.facebook.com/5villageschronicle/ or search '5Villages Chronicle'.

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THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE ASSOCIATION

Established in 1986, the Five Villages Chronicle Association publishes the *Five Villages Chronicle*, a quarterly community magazine which is delivered to most households in the Flintshire villages of Carmel, Gorsedd, Lloc, Pantasaph and Whitford, with 1,300 copies of each edition currently being printed and distributed by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Chairman - Peter Erasmus (01352 712067); Secretary - Margaret Williams; Treasurer - Bob Brown (01352 710967);

Advertisements - Melanie Wallis (01352 712369); Distribution - Chris Dolphin (01352 713415); Jonathan Duggan-Keen, Terry Ireland, Robert Moore. At present there is an editorial committee.

We do have a simple web page at www.5villages.org.uk

Published with the support of Whitford Community Council, commercial enterprises and residents. The Five Villages Chronicle Association does not accept responsibility for, nor necessarily agree with, any of the views expressed, statements or claims made in articles or advertisements herein.

Please send any articles, photographs, comments, snippets of information or local humour, details of births, marriages, deaths, graduations, emigrations and other events and achievements to editor@5villages.org.uk or post: FVC, Bodlondob, Chapel Street, Caerwys, Flintshire, CH7 5AE (01352 720477).

Please send original prints, not photocopies; all pictures and photographs will be returned. Though contributors can choose to remain anonymous in the publication, we will not publish material without knowing the name and contact details of contributors. Previous editions of the Five Villages are available to view at the Flintshire Record Office, Hawarden and at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

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SPRING IN THE FIVE VILLAGES

(Robert Moore)

Weather in the Five Villages Spring 2021 (2020 figures in brackets)				
	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
March	8.1 (7.4)	19.1 (19.2)	-1.3 (-1.3)	30.0 (46.2)
April	10.0 (12.9)	20.5 (23.7)	-1.5 (0.3)	9.9 (22.6)
May	12.7 (15.7)	24.0 (29.5)	-0.5 (1.5)	131.1 (4.9)

A strange Spring. March was much the same as last year, with a slightly higher average temperature but the maximum and minimum temperatures similar. It was bit drier than last year; however, I do not regard the March rainfall data as reliable – the digital counter on the gauge was out of action and I had to rely on a graduated funnel device. As March ended, I found a broken wire, which once replaced enabled normal operation of the rain gauge. We all expect 'April showers' but the first showers of April 2021 were of hail and sleet! But then we had no rain recorded from the 12th to the 28th. By contrast in May there were only six days without rain.

April was a cold month; the Met Office reported the lowest average minimum temperatures since 1922 and third lowest since 1884. North Wales was reported to have had a mean minimum temperature more than 2.5 degrees below the 1981-2010 average. Yet it was one of the sunniest Aprils on record with our part of north Wales having around 20 percent extra April sunshine. Very sunny, yet very cold, how is this? The cloudless skies that gave us sunshine by day also gave us frost at night, because without the blanket of cloud around us the warmth of the air radiates away, and the ground surface loses heat rapidly. Four days of air frost were recorded at the weather station during April compared with a total of one over the five previous years. There were sixteen days of ground frost, our average ground frost temperature was minus 1.3 degrees, with a minimum of minus 3.5 degrees. Ground frosts were in single figures for the past four years, but there were 16 in 2016. The ground temperature (300 mm below the surface) was 5 degrees on March 1st and 13 at the end of May.

On the 10th May from 1830 to about 1845 (BST) we had a magnificent rainbow against an almost black eastern sky. All the colours from red to violet could be distinguished and there was a secondary rainbow outside the main bow. Alexander's Dark Band (not to be confused with Alexander's ragtime band) was very clear between the two bows. I hope many Five Villages residents saw this truly brilliant weather feature; it was one of the best rainbows I have seen.

You will know from previous reports that what made May so wet and windy was that we were more or less under the jet-stream all month, bringing us a whole succession of depressions with their associated frontal systems. This quarter's satellite image (see top of next page) shows one such depression completely blotting out the UK on 3rd May, although you can just see a little bit of the southern Irish coast.

May ended in a blaze of sunshine. Before the last weekend, the month's average temperature was 12.0 and the maximum 22.3 degrees. You can see from the table what a difference two hot days can make to the average temperature over 31 days.

There was an unexpected but thankfully not disastrous surprise at the weather station; there is an electronic station as a backup for any loss of conventional data (or adjusting if data are collected a little late). The station stopped transmitting data in late April. After some two weeks of investigations, it turned out that someone has set up another station on the same channel as mine – they were near enough to block me out without (apparently) having any problems themselves. It was lucky this happened when people were staying at home in response to Covid-19 and only having meetings online. This meant it was possible personally to read all the traditional instruments at 1800 UTC throughout the electronic hiatus. I have changed channels to avoid interference from the newcomer.

The weather station may be viewed at <http://www.robertsmoore.co.uk/>. You can set your barometer from this site. If you would like weather information for any particular day or a longer period, please contact me at rsmoore@liv.ac.uk (email only). Students or teachers who would like weather data or satellite images for projects or teaching please contact me in the same way – note that unless requested otherwise I only keep satellite imagery for one week. So don't delay if there's something you want. Satellite images are available strictly for educational purposes only.

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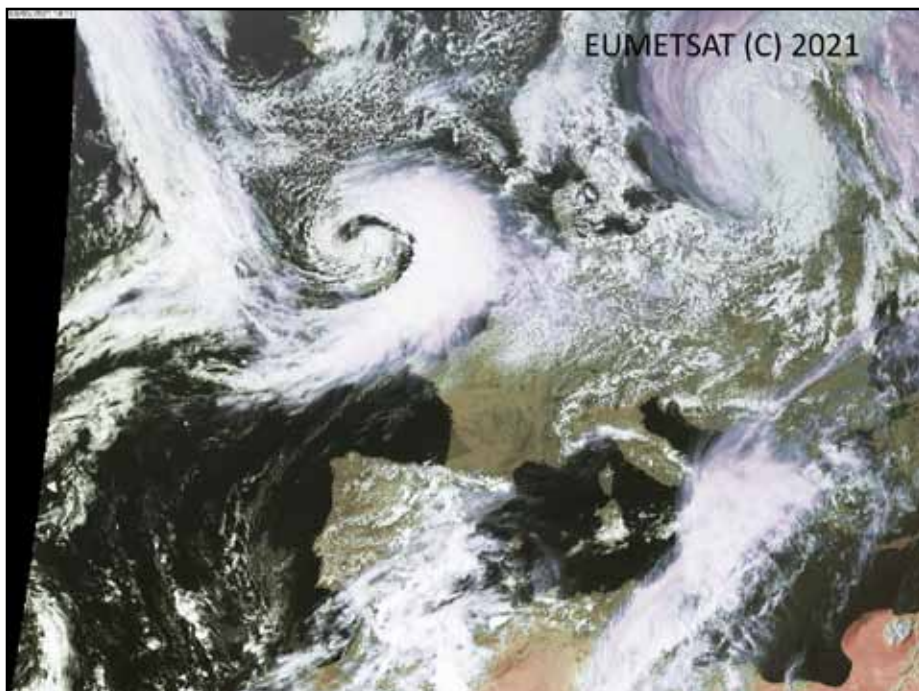
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See Spring in the Five Villages (left) for description

Congratulations to Terry and Birgitta Ireland on their Diamond Wedding anniversary. This photo was taken on the day 3rd April 2021



This one was taken on the day itself, 3rd April 1961, at St.Görans Kyrka, Stockholm.



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