



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF

ISSUE NO. 142
RHIFYN 142

SUMMER (JUNE) 2022
HAF (MEHEFIN) 2022

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THE SIGN OF A GREAT PINT



Telephone: 01352 713975

EDITORIAL

(Terry Ireland)

WE CAN AND WE WILL...

All of us must have admired the resolute determination of the Ukrainians to fight for the freedom of their country following the recent Russian invasion. One of the hardest truths to accept is that in life there is no fairness; we cannot predict what will happen, not even the Bank of England. From relative prosperity in Western Europe some three years ago, the Covid-19 pandemic and now this war in Europe has plunged us into a crisis of fuel, food and fertiliser. Ukraine is the land of black earth known as Chernozem, possessing a remarkable fertility and it is a major supplier of wheat and sunflower seed in the world. After years of very low, stable interest rates, inflation in the UK has reached 9%. This means there will be an increase in the price of all goods, foodstuffs and services, affecting the way we live for some years to come. To stay at our present living standard next year, we will need an income increase equivalent to the rate of inflation; unfortunately, this is impossible for most.

Our society has got used to relatively cheap credit and if we want to buy something we do and pay for it later. Cheap foreign holidays, clothes, food and fashion goods have all created what we know as the consumer society. To be successful, firms must work to create dissatisfaction with what we possess and produce a constant craving and competition to achieve and buy more. The result is the sea full of floating polythene and an atmosphere polluted beyond belief resulting in a changing climate typified by violent storms, floods, droughts and heatwaves. To say we are about to undergo a major test of character is an understatement. Like the Ukrainians we will all have to adapt rapidly to these changes – and we will!

The cost of fuel for vehicles has shot up from about £1 per litre a year ago to £1.80 today. However, there are always ways of coping. If you drive at 80 mph on a motorway, your fuel consumption is 25% higher than at the legal limit of 70 mph. Those of you old enough to remember the fuel crisis in the 1970s will recall the UK speed limit of 55 mph on all roads. Inflate tyres correctly and regularly, change old tyres for new, remove roof racks and cargo boxes and mileage per litre will increase. Planning journeys, sharing cars, walking or cycling will all help too. Many people now seem to buy frozen prepared food, order

COVER PICTURE

This photo, taken by Melanie Wallis, shows the wild flowers growing on the verge in Carmel. You can just see the Halfway House in the distance.

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Llangefni, North Wales, LL77 7JA

takeaways or eat out. Basic cooking skills have been neglected but will return to help reduce household costs. People have been amazed that the Queen switches off lights when she leaves a room but of course she was brought up during wartime.

In the past, British streets were almost tribal societies where everyone walked or cycled about, consequently they all knew each other and in times of trouble helped each other. In truth, the pandemic of the past two years has fostered a similar need and desire to help each other. Whatever happens in the UK, we will all need to tighten our belts, help each other, especially the sick, needy, homeless and the elderly. It was amazing to read that 40% of people aged between 20 and 40 years still live with their parents. There is a desperate need to change this in the UK – by providing affordable housing. It is incredible we still build like the ancient Egyptians from clay bricks, when factory-built units with triple glazing, insulation, internal plumbing and electric cabling could do this more cheaply. Local authorities would have to free up land as was done in 1945 and we succeeded in housing millions.

One of the most praiseworthy and constant characteristics of the British people is their willingness to give money to charities. Red Nose Day is a quite remarkable example and as you leave your local supermarket you will notice huge wire baskets full of donated food gifts for the local food banks. In a similar way we support medical and social charities. Today we read some of the world food charities have started work in Britain as people are finding it difficult to feed their families.

In 1939 Britain faced a danger that Ukraine is facing today. We rose to the occasion and in a similar fashion we will face our economic problems. Family budgeting, new ideas, helping each other, even perhaps 'Dig for Victory', 'Is your journey really necessary?' 'Put out that light' will return. New ideas, sharing, working together and real determination will carry us through the present crisis.

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Ysgol Bro Carmel, Carmel, Nr Holywell, CH8 8NU
Druid Inn, Gorsedd, Holywell, CH8 8QZ
Whitford CP School, Whitford, Holywell, CH8 9AN
Strand Walk, Bank Place, Holywell, CH8 7AN
Brynford Primary School, Brynford, Holywell, CH8 8AD
Scott the Jewellers, 46 High Street, Holywell, CH8 7LH
Holywell Golf Club, Brynford, Holywell, CH8 8LQ
Ysgol Treffynnon, Pen y Maes Road, Holywell, CH8 7EN
Old Town Hall, 46 High Street, Holywell, CH8 7LH
Ideal Lighting, 61 High Street, Holywell, CH8 7TF
Pen y Maes Stores, 5-7 Bryn y Gwynt, Pen y Maes, Holywell, CH8 7BX
Tesco, Bank Place, Holywell, CH8 7TJ
Ysgol Gwenfrwdd, Whitford Street, Holywell, CH8 7NJ
Toe 2 Toe Fitness, North Road, Holywell, CH8 7TQ

Please advise editor@5villages.org.uk if there are any we have missed!

YSGOL GWENFFRWD

It was wonderful to see our pupils performing once again in the Urdd Eisteddfod at the end of last term. Despite the fact that Covid regulations still applied with no audiences for the performances, it was great for them to have the opportunity to be adjudicated face to face at last. A huge congratulations to all of our pupils for a fantastic effort. A particular congratulations to Seren Griffiths (Year 5) and Jed Henley (Year 2) for their first prizes in the Art and Craft county competitions. Seren then received second prize over the whole of Wales for her textiles work. Designers in the making!



Year 1 and 2 have been enthralled in their topic all about farms this term learning all about the animals that live there, the food grown by farmers and where the different foods we eat come from. They have been busy designing and describing their own scarecrows and are now practising their story recalling and acting skills learning the story 'Magi'n mynd am dro' using the Pie Corbett method.

As part of Year 3 and 4's theme "Perfect Pizzas", their big question was "Where do pizzas come from?". To answer this question the children have been busy learning and researching about Italy, finding out about the famous landmarks, famous people, the fast cars, and the culture. Here is a holiday brochure that the children have produced to persuade people to visit the country.



As part of a Year 5 and 6 project about 'Our Square Mile' last term, we were delighted to produce a Welsh Podcast with the support of Marc Griffiths from CymruFM to share with parents and the community. As part of the podcast, we were lucky enough to be able to welcome one of Ysgol Gwenffrwd's first pupils, over 70 years ago, Dr Gareth Roberts back to chat to a group of children. We were enthralled to hear about the changes in school experiences and all

sorts of nostalgic memories that Dr Gareth could share with us. Should anyone want to listen to our podcast, you can search for 'Ffrindiau Fflint' on Spotify and Apple Podcasts and clicking on Ysgol Gwenffrwd. Year 5 and 6 pupils are now working hard towards obtaining a John Muir Award this Summer term. To complete the Award the children will be Discovering and Exploring a Wild Place by visiting Greenfield Valley and Greenfield Docks. Also, the children will learn about Conservation of the River Dee Estuary and the Wildlife that relies upon it. We will also be trying to persuade others to be more mindful by making Clean Water Pledges and supporting and spreading the word about the 'Stop the Block Campaign' by educating our fellow pupils, families and local community about what we put down the drain!!

As part of their 'Great Chocoplot' topic this term, they have researched the question 'How ethical is the chocolate industry?' and written a report to help people make informed and ethical decisions when buying their favourite treat. They look forward now to making their own chocolate, designing packaging and creating an advertising campaign to promote their tasty bars!

What are some of the issues with the chocolate industry?

A shocking revelation that has been highlighted is the prominence of child labour in cocoa plantations in West Africa. Some of the biggest countries are the Ivory Coast and Ghana, producing 70% of the world's chocolate. Many children as young as 6 years old are working on these farms and working with dangerous objects like machetes. Many children are being trafficked, being illegally taken to work on these farms.

How fair is 'Fairtrade'?

Fairtrade offers a safety net where farmers are paid a fair price for the cocoa beans. But, it's not perfect. Inspectors only have to visit 10% of the 'Fairtrade' farms so in 90% of them, they can't be sure what's happening. In 2011, Fairtrade changed its rules so the ingredients in a product only has to be 20% Fairtrade, with it previously being 50%. The farmers only get 3-7% of the chocolate bar's profit.

Is there any hope for the chocolate industry?

Here are some of the brands that are trailblazing!

Tony's Chocoloney: has an ethos to fully eradicate child slavery in chocolate production. It is able to trace exactly where its ingredients come from and pay farmers a fair price. When you open the bar you will notice the pieces are uneven. This is to show how the money made from chocolate is unevenly divided.

Seed and Bean: pay above market price for their cocoa and they make sure they don't mix their Fairtrade beans with non Fairtrade beans. They also changed their packaging to be 100% compostable.

Willie's Cocoa: do not label themselves as Fairtrade. They practise using 'direct trade' buying straight from the farmers and paying at least a premium of £400 per tonne, which is about £300 more than Fairtrade prices.

Things to look out for when buying chocolate:

Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance certifications and terms such as 'Direct trade' and 'Bean to bar' which suggests that they work directly with the farmers and the beans are traceable.

Meadow, Charlie, Ffion, Elliw, Seren (Year 6)

P

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5VC FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO ISSUE 142

It all began at a meeting of Whitford Community Council in 1986 when someone suggested that a local newspaper would be a good idea.

A group of people got together, and a public meeting was held in Carmel Village Hall in October 1986. The result was that in February 1987 the first issue of 'THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE' was issued - A local newspaper covering the villages of Carmel, Gorsedd, Lloc, Pantasaph and Whitford.

It consisted of 5 sheets of A4 stapled in the top corner. Among those stalwarts who were at the start of this venture and were responsible for issue 1, are several who are still at the heart of the present day 5Villages Chronicle.

Terry assumed the role of Editor and continued for the first 100 issues, he still writes our Editorial letter. Bob took over the financial reigns in the early days and still keeps the Chronicle on a sound footing. Margaret helped her father assemble the first copies, later using her computer skills to produce the Chronicle and now acts as Secretary keeping the executive committee well organised.

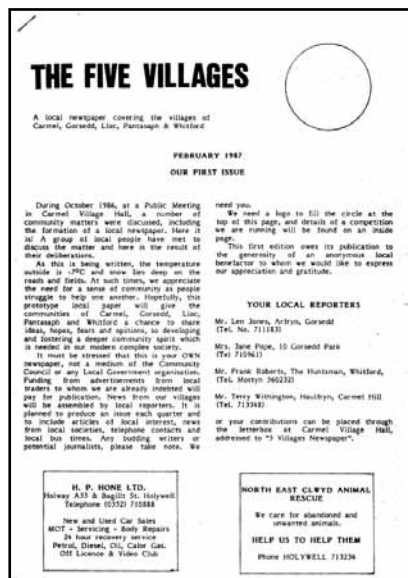
The roles of Advertising and Distribution have passed on to Melanie and Chris while Jonathan works his computer magic in composing each issue. The team is ably supported by Robert as our 'ideas' man, whatever the weather.

This executive committee meet four times a year shortly after publication to review the issue and to plan the next one. During the Covid pandemic the meetings have been held remotely on line, but we hope to resume face to face meetings soon.

The current production team has been unchanged now for many years, and the 5 Villages Chronicle has continued to drop through letter boxes despite all the problems of the covid pandemic. However, with each issue depending on just a few key people, the future is far from certain and we desperately need more people to be involved by joining us on the committee and to bring new ideas which will be essential if the Chronicle is to survive.

Could you help?, could you join us?, are you good at organising?. We urgently need someone who can help and perhaps take on the role of secretary. We meet only four times a year so it would not be too time consuming. If you are interested or would like to know more, please have a chat with the Chairperson by phone (712067) or by email (petererasmus1138@gmail.com)

Another plea to all our readers - the 5VC does not have 'reporters' so we rely on our readers to send in local news and reports of their family events.



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YSGOL BRO CARMEL



Daniel Ventre was so keen to help families in Ukraine that he created his own fundraiser. He decided to raise money by climbing up Snowdon and gave himself a target of £250. He completed his challenge and raised an incredible £670!!

Many congratulations Daniel that is an outstanding achievement and we are all very proud of you!



Sponsored Walk for Ukraine



Many congratulations to all of the children and staff for completing the sponsored walk. They were tasked with walking the equivalent distance from Carmel to Ukraine. Collectively they achieved 1700 miles in four days- an amazing achievement!! In total they raised £2,171.06!

This is an absolutely outstanding total and we are so proud. We cannot thank the children, staff, their families and their sponsors enough for such kindness and generosity.

All of the money will go to UNICEF to help the children and families in Ukraine.

Dreaded Dog Doo-Doo Disaster!

Tuesday 1st March 2022

MANY people in Carmel are overwhelmed with the repulsive amount of dog muck left by irresponsible dog owners in and around the village. The children of Ysgol Bro Carmel are currently working with local residents to discuss ways to help stop this disgusting crime.

Since 2020, residents have been noticing an incredible increase in dog fouling due to Covid 19 and people are purposely being oblivious to this punishable action. One resident who was particularly concerned about this issue is Mr Stowe, from Carmel. He contacted Ysgol Bro Carmel and was invited in to work alongside the children to help stop this and contribute ideas to the cause.

Did you know that 75% of people from Ysgol Bro Carmel have stepped in at least one dog's droppings on their way to or from school? In the past, our previous attempts to clean up Carmel have proven effective, but the lack of awareness always convinces a small number of dog owners to foul their beloved companions.

To avoid the foul muck, children and adults walking along the busy Carmel Road must step into the danger of vehicles as they try to get to school, at around 8.30am. Residents reportedly said, "It is disgusting!" and that "It should be dealt with immediately!"

To stop dog mess from being left, these top tips will prepare you for your companion's bathroom breaks:

- Always carry a plastic bag.
- Bring gloves in case you need to get your hands dirty!
- Use a lead to tell where your dog's going to do it.

The dangers of dog muck are as disgusting as the actual thing! Dog muck can house 23 million types of bacteria such as e-coli, giardia and salmonella. If you fall over and unfortunately manage to get some on your face, it can cause blindness. In addition to this, it can spread diseases for other dogs when they sniff the droppings.

Over the years, dog muck has been a consistent problem in the village. It would be one step closer to an ideal world for everybody to live in if individuals cleaned up their dog's droppings. In addition to this, children would stop having to walk on roads which would prevent potential accidents. To contribute to the argument, simply picking up your dog's droppings will stop residents from stepping into dog muck and being late for whatever they need to do.



This innocent dog doesn't want to be held responsible for his mess.

The Keep Carmel Clean campaign will attempt to clean up Carmel and bring it back to its former, beautiful glory. By reading this newspaper article and picking up your dog's mess, you are helping this cause for the better. The children of Carmel school are working together with residents of the village towards a cleaner Carmel. Mr Stowe visited some of the children in Ysgol Bro Carmel and shared his thoughts. He said, "We need to change the mindset and behavior of the dog owners who aren't picking it up." The children have been busy designing posters for the village and are in the process of making a short movie to help advertise the campaign.

Reported by Oliver E.

Ysgol Bro Carmel

KEEPING CARMEL CLEAN



Mr Stowe, who lives in Carmel, contacted the school to see if there was a way in which we could collaborate to increase awareness about the problem with dog-fouling around the village. Mr Stowe came into school in February, so that the children could ask him questions and discuss the problem. As always, the children in Class 6 did a wonderful job and found out lots of useful information. Mr Stowe was very impressed with their range of questions and their level of interest. The children used the discussion as a stimulus to write newspaper articles. We would like to thank Mr Stowe for initiating this interesting project and for raising awareness. We are grateful to Whitford Community Council for providing funding for additional signage which will hopefully help to deter the problem.

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DIAMOND WEDDING

Huge congratulations to June and Dewi Llywarch, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 31st March. Married in 1962 at St James Church, Holywell.

June, originally from Holywell and Dewi, originally from Llanrhaedr-Ym-Mochnant, have lived in the five villages for most of their married life, between a house on Lord Mostyn's Estate, Whitford, to Carmel where they have spent the last 30+ years, raising their 3 boys, Mark, Andrew and Paul. And going on to be fantastic grandparents to Eleri, Maggy, Georgia, Ryan and Mia.

They celebrated their milestone anniversary on 14th May surrounded by 50 members of their family, who travelled far and wide to celebrate their wedding anniversary but also their 80th birthdays. Dewi turned 80 in January and June celebrates her own in June.

The family would like to thank June and Dewi for all the love and laughter over the years and wish them many more years of happiness.

(Eleri Ffion Llywarch)



GOOD COMPANIONS

The hospital tea bar remains closed to the public but is still open to members of staff as a self service facility.

One of our long serving members, Mrs Eileen Holman aged 82 years, sadly passed away on the 12th of April 2022.

Eileen was a member of the Good Companions for 22 years and was a very dedicated, attending all our meetings and functions. At our Summer and Christmas fetes she would always run a stall for which she personally supplied all of the items for sale.

Every Christmas day she would be one of Father Christmas' elves, helping to deliver presents to the patients in the hospital. Quite recently, in lock down she organised a raffle (once again supplying all the prizes) and raised £100.

Eileen also supported the St Kentigern's charity and worked in their shop in Holywell.

She will be sadly missed but never forgotten by her family and many friends.



Pictured Mrs Eileen Holman, Mrs Jean Saunders, Mrs Joan Newman

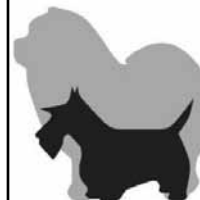


I am so pleased to know that you are celebrating your Diamond Wedding anniversary on 31st March, 2022. I send my congratulations and best wishes to you on such a special occasion.

Elizabeth II

Mr. and Mrs. David Llywarch

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1ST CARMEL RAINBOWS (Eleri Ffion Llywarch and Izzy LaFlamme-Williams)

Hello all, and welcome to our first article!

We thought we'd take this as an opportunity to introduce ourselves, we are Izzy and Eleri and we voluntarily run 1st Carmel Rainbows group. We have run the unit since September 2021, taking over from the previous leader Bethan. Eleri has been a part of Girlguiding in Carmel for over 20 years, having been a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Young Leader, as well as traveling internationally to Our Chalet Girlguiding World Centre in Switzerland. Izzy was 1st Nannerch for both Rainbows and Brownies, Young Leader at Gwernaffield Rainbows then leader at 1st Maesgeirchen Rainbows, Bangor.

We have already had so much fun in our time here, from badge ceremonies, birthdays, learning camp fire songs, new games, even an indoor climbing trip at The Boardroom Climbing Centre in Sandycroft! We've also had excellent visits from the Red Cross charity, along with our local North Wales Police Force, and some special baby chicken guests too! We've planted tomatoes and sunflowers, had a cinema night, made Remembrance Poppies and St David's Daffodils, decorated cupcakes and got to enjoy pancakes on Pancake Day!

We've also sadly had to say goodbye to some of our older Rainbows as they move upwards through the ranks to Brownies, where we know they'll have the best time!

We follow a programme which enables our girls to earn badges and learn new skills whilst making friends and having fun. These consist of UMAs (unit meeting activities) and Skill Builders. Once our Rainbows have taken part in so many of these activities, they receive a Skill Builder badge, and in their own time they can take part in interest badges, once they have one of each, they are awarded a theme badge! We've focused on a lot of themes since we've started, from First Aid, to Getting to Know You, to Healthy Eating.

All of these themes include craft activities and fun games. Our most recent activity creating a coat of arms for each Rainbow, with their favourite hobbies, pets, places and colours to really show us what they're all about! We will keep these for the girls to see how their personalities and likes change throughout their time with us.

We have a special friend at Rainbows, Olivia Doll! She watches the Rainbows each week at meetings and then gets to go home for a whole week with one lucky Rainbow who tells us all about their adventures when we next meet.

We have more recently been part of a planning committee to organise a very special Jubilee Activity Day at our local county Guiding Centre at the end of May.

We're expecting around 70 members across Rainbows, Brownies and Guides to join across our Division of West Flintshire! It will be a nice change to the Covid restrictions we've been used to, and we hope to make this an annual event!

As we approach the summer months, we're hoping to get outdoors more with our Rainbows, enjoying woodland crafts and sports with an exciting trip to Carmel Cricket Club on the cards, along with a possible trip to Loggerheads Country Park. If you'd like to join us as a volunteer (18+) or like to register your daughter to join us (available to register from birth, Rainbows starts at aged 4) visit girlguiding.org.uk and follow the link to "register my daughter" or "volunteer with us"

We hope to see you in the next edition, for now, here's a fun campfire song that is currently our favourite at Rainbows (but you must do the actions!)

Have you ever seen, A penguin go to sea?
Take a look at me, And a penguin you will see!

Penguins attention! (Stand to attention)
Penguins begin! (Flap right arm)

Repeat x4
1st Repeat flap left arm
2nd repeat tap right foot
3rd repeat tap left foot
4th repeat nod head.

EGLWYSI CYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON WELSH CHAPELS IN HOLYWELL

Cynhelir yr holl wasanaethau yng Ngapel Penbryn, Stryd Chwittfordd, Treffynnon am 10 o'r gloch y bore. Croeso cynnes i bawb.

All services will be held at Penbryn Chapel, Whitford Street, Holywell at 10 a.m. A warm welcome to all.

Dyma drefn y gwasanaethau am yr wythnosau nesaf:
Below are the services for the next few weeks:

Mehefin / June

19eg: Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies

26ain: Y Parchedig Marc Morgan

Gorffennaf / July

3ydd: Arwel Roberts

10fed: Shân Morris

17eg: Y Parchedig Marc Morgan

24ain: Y Parchedig Huw Powell Davies

Hyd yn hyn does dim trefniadau ar gyfer mis Awst.

At present no arrangements have been made for August.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

NUCLEAR FANTASY

How would you react to seeing some wind-turbines up on Pen-y-Ball – or tidal lagoons along the estuary and North Wales coast? Or would you perhaps prefer the siting of a nuclear power station somewhere in the neighbourhood?

To my mind “human” and “nuclear” are incompatible. Politicians talk about nuclear power being a necessary “part of the mix” – sounding so reasonable. But it is a deadly, life-threatening technology. It requires infallible human beings to run it safely....

“Nuclear power is a benign source of energy in its rightful place as the Sun, but on Earth it is experienced as an invasive source of energy, contaminating land, air, water, food, people and all living creatures and disrupting the balance of the Earth’s finely-tuned, delicately balanced and interlinking ecosystems – for ever.” Laura Deacon, Information Officer for “Green Christian”.

In an article in Network News (North Wales) Jonathan Porrit writes: *“The Treasury writes a cheque to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of approx. £2.5 billion every year – to deal with the legacy of our earlier nuclear investments in terms of waste management and decommissioning. The price tag just for cleaning up Sellafield has now risen to an astonishing £97 billion! On top of that the anticipated cost of an underground storage facility to house the lethal high-level waste for thousands of years has now risen to as much as £53 billion – according to the Government’s own figures. (Courtesy of the mainstream media’s cosy relationship with the nuclear industry, we hardly ever hear about this.....).”*

That’s the cost of OLD nuclear. Dealing with it will be a nasty future burden on our descendants for generations to come – never mind coping with even more of the frightening stuff from any new nuclear plants.

So why is Keir Starmer focusing his attack on the Government by highlighting its failure to accelerate nuclear power! To quote from Jonathan Porrit again:

“Starmer knows - for sure – that prioritising nuclear power means worsening the burden on those millions living in fuel poverty, as sufficient funds for the clean alternatives will simply not exist. But he also knows that supporting nuclear power is part of the massive cost that has to be paid for the UK to retain its nuclear weapons

capability. Those two industries – civil and military – are joined at the hip. And that’s the price Labour is prepared to pay, election after election, to make itself “electable”.

Until recently most of this Westminster “government” were climate change deniers. Being therefore new to the climate change issue while at the same time died-in-the-wool advocates of nuclear weapons, they were guaranteed to make dubious choices about energy strategy. Hardly surprising therefore that they favour crippling expensive nuclear power over cheap onshore wind.... But this will - perhaps fatally - deplete funds for investing thoroughly in clean, renewable energy, while also addressing the growing cost-of-living crisis.

Maybe some readers are aware of a recent report by the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) Commissioner in partnership with the New Economics Foundation? The report, called “Homes fit for the Future – the Retrofit Challenge” argues that a Marshall Plan scale of investment is needed (which would include a major role for private investors in the form of eg green bonds and green mortgages) and that a £16 billion plan for Wales could eradicate fuel poverty by 2030; create over 26,000 jobs; improve health, and save bill payers £hundreds every year. This could be started immediately – if only the funding was available.....

The truth is we’ll never have energy security in the UK – including decent homes for all - as long as we persist with the belief that our national security, unlike that of the vast majority of countries on Earth, depends on maintaining an independent nuclear deterrent.....

Roberta Owen - Transition Holywell & District

POO BAGS

It’s been lovely seeing all the bluebells in Lloc Woods and all the fairy doors that keep appearing. What hasn’t been so nice is all the dog poo bags thrown all over the place. I contacted our local councillor, Chris Dolphin, and have requested dog poo bins. Hopefully if and when they are installed, they will be used! As they will allow me and Sulby to enjoy our walks more without taking home other people’s rubbish.

Charlotte Evans



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COUNCIL
(Phillip Parry, Clerk)**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY:

Under a number of Local Government Acts the Community Council are able to assist local Committees and Groups, including national charities, by providing financial assistance towards their running costs and capital purchases. The Community Council have adopted a policy to assist with the application process. The policy and financial assistance application form can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council (as below details) or downloaded from the Council web site at: www.whitford-council.wales and can be found under: 'public notices and financial'.

POLICE REPORT TO COUNCIL:

The following crimes have been reported to the North Wales Police over the past three months, that have occurred within the Community Council area:

Carmel - 4 x Anti-Social behaviour / 1 x theft / 14 x Violence

Gorsedd - 2 x Violence / 1 x Criminal damage

Lloc - 2 x Violence

Pantasaph - No reported offences

Whitford - 1 x Violence

**STREET LIGHTING ELECTRICITY
SUPPLY INCREASE:**

Despite the Community Council seeking quotations from a number of energy suppliers, including the UK Government Procurement Department, the supply cost for the Councils 150 street light, will increase from £1,623.00 to approximately £6,358.00 a year. The Council will further review the energy prices in due course.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS BROUGHT
THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS,
AND OTHER MATTERS TO THE
ATTENTION OF FLINTSHIRE
STREET SCENE:**

(1) A5026 Road - Undergrowth and rubbish along pavement in the area of Pen Y Gelli Quarry, Lloc (2) A5026 Road - Lloc area travelling through Celyn bends towards Holway. The branches from the last hedge cut have blown and gathered in the area where the pavement was previously cleared of undergrowth (3) Demolished

Monastery Road sign at the junction with Babell Road that had been previously reported, has still not been replaced (4) Overhanging tree branches - travelling uphill from McDonald's on A5026 Road at Pen Y Gelli woods (5) Metal fence on A5026 Road opposite entrance to McDonald's - and parallel with A55 has again been dislodged. Request for urgent repair as the metal reaches into the highway (6) Concern that during the closure of the A55 Road, traffic is diverted along the A5026, whereby high sided vehicles are a concern (7) One of the new speed activated signs on the Brynford side of Pantasaph Village did not appear to be working correctly.

Note: Item 3 above - whereby the sign has been replaced but not in bilingual format. Request to Street Scene to provide a new bilingual sign.

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, or from the Clerk - as per details below:

(1) Application number: 064118 - for the operation of a dairy vending machine / farm shop and all associated works, at Mynydd Mostyn, Berthengam, Nr. Holywell (2) 064210 - for overhead lines from Holywell Grid Station through Lloc to Point of Ayr, Talacre (3) 064264 - for listed building consent for the installation of a fire suppression system, at Plas Ucha Farm, Tre Mostyn.

PLANNING DECISIONS:

The following planning decisions have been received from Flintshire County

Council: (1) Application number: 061703 - for erection of a single storey rear extension, at Stormont, Mertyn Lane, Carmel. Refused (2) 061703 - for Listed Building application and erection of a single storey rear extension, at Stormont, Mertyn Lane, Carmel. Refused (3) 063361 - for retention of Le Mirage, conversion of existing property (The Croft) into 2 no holiday cottages and siting of 5 no lodges, at Le Mirage, Whitford Road, Whitford. Refused (4) 063598 - for side extension with internal alterations and external refurbishment, at 1 Ffordd Gwelfor, Carmel. Approved (5) 063562 - for change of Use of former chapel as a holiday let property, at Pen Llwyn Chapel Penfforddallan, Lloc. Refused (6) 063588 - for erection of Single storey extensions, at The Meadows, Tan Y Lloc Lane, Lloc. Approved (7) 064088 - for approval of details reserved by condition no 6 (foul surface water drainage) attached to planning permission reference 055855, at Land to rear of Bryn Mair & Ciln, Gorsedd. Approved (8) 063645 - for replacement garage for vehicles. Proposed hobby workshop and storage to replace existing garage, at The Pines, Monastery Road, Pantasaph. Refused (9) 063639 - for amended application for construction of annexe, at Glan Llyn, Lloc. Approved (10) 063761 - for listed building application for replacement of modern bathroom window with traditional side hung casement and replacement of broken roof light with similar. Refused.

**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 - Llangollen International Eisteddfod (annual grant) / £250.00 - Five

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Villages Gardening Club (annual grant).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS:

The Community Council welcome applications from within the Council area (Committees, Groups) for financial support. However, the application must be from a bone fide group, or committee, that at least one or more of the Councillors are aware of. (Please see first paragraph of this report in relation to the Financial Assistance Policy and Application Form).

R. Phillip Parry
Clerk & Financial Officer to Whitford Community Council
Tel: 01352 720547
E-mail: clerk@whitford-council.wales
Web site: www.whitford-council.wales

CYMDEITHAS THOMAS PENNANT SOCIETY (Paul Brighton: Secretary/ Ysgrifennydd)

As we see the decline, hopefully, in infections for the Covid virus, we can begin to resume the activities of our societies, including Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant. However, we still have to be careful, and the virus has NOT completely disappeared.

Nevertheless, Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant has resumed activities and on April 9th, we had a fascinating talk from Prof. Neil Winterton, on recent developments in science. Prof. Winterton stressed the issues facing our planet, including climate change and sustainability. All in all, it was an illuminating talk which needs to be relayed to a wider audience!

For the future, we do have thoughts for other talks and activities and on 30th July, Brian Bennett, a distinguished Local Historian and co-ordinator of the Deeside U3A Social Studies and History Group will address us on the topic of Deltiology (Postcards), affecting our locality. However, before then, we hope to arrange a talk on 'Cynefin' (Habitat), based on the recent S4C programme of Cynefin and the Holywell locality. This may well occur in June and we also, hope to link up with the Deeside Wild Life Trust. Further, we do realise that social gatherings are very popular with our members and on September 2nd, we plan a social event in Carmel Cricket Club, as we did successfully, in 2021.

In addition, we have plans for our Annual Pennant Lecture in October, hopefully, again in Holywell Library and apart from our AGM in November, we would like to organise a Christmas Lunch which sadly, had to be cancelled in 2021, due to the Pandemic. Some of our members would like another tour as we successfully organised in the past and we will have to see if this can be arranged.

To date, we have held our talks, etc on a Saturday Afternoon on Penbryn Chapel, Whitford St. Holywell, but we intend to review this, as some of our members get involved in The Six Nations Rugby

competition and other sporting occasions! However, we are always most welcome at Penbryn Chapel, and we thank Geraint Jones, the organiser and administrator and his colleagues for their welcome.

We are delighted to inform readers that one of our members, Dr. Goronwy Wynne, President of Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant, has been made a Fellow of the prestigious 'Learned Society of Wales' FLSW. We are so delighted for Dr. Wynne who has done so much for the Cymdeithas and our community, more generally.

However, we have, also, had sadness in our society and this year apart from the passing of Sylvia Jones Davies in November 2021, one of our much loved and respected members, as well as Marion Thompson, we have also, recently lost, Dilys Wynne, much respected and loved wife of our President, Dr. Goronwy Wynne, Hazel Formby a distinguished Local Historian and Peter Bishop. Peter was an artist of some distinction, living in Ludlow and who painted and commented on Snowdonia and its impact on artists from the time of Thomas Pennant and his illustrator, Moses Griffith. We can ill-afford to lose such wonderful members and our hearts and condolences and sympathies go out to all their families and friends.

Finally, as ever, we will keep in touch and wish ALL readers a pleasant and peaceful Summer.

(Paul Brighton: Secretary/Ysgrifennydd:
e-mail: pauljbrighton@yahoo.com: tel 01352 712588.)

NEWS FROM GORSEDD AND WHITFORD CHURCHES – NEW BEGINNINGS (Rev Kathryn Evans, Vicar of Gorsedd and Whitford)



Greetings everyone and I hope this finds you all safe and well? As I write this, my husband is walking across Scotland from the West coast (Loch Alsh) to Kinnaber links, near Montrose as part of The Great Outdoors challenge. I have never been either fit enough, or inclined to challenge myself in this way, but it struck me how our own journey in life is so like a long-distance challenge. We set off, concerned mainly with the basics of living – how to get fed and changed, and as we grow, we develop. Over the course of time, there will be many challenges along the way,

many mountains to climb and valleys to walk through. I sometimes wonder if that is why Psalm 23 – The Lord is my Shepherd is the nation's favourite, as it has images of green pastures and still waters, but also the dark valley and potential disagreements with 'enemies' or 'foes', depending on the translation, but as Christians, we believe that we do not walk the journey of life alone. Although Bob has physically walked his challenge as a solo walker, there have been many friends who have been thinking of him, praying for him and generally cheering him on from a distance, as well as other people on the challenge who he bumped into occasionally.

All this has got me thinking of new beginnings – each day on the trail, the walkers get up, pack their bags and make a new start on the day's walk. In Gorsedd church, we have our own 'New Beginning'. The re-ordering work on the church is now completed, and our Bishop – The Right Reverend Dr Gregory K Cameron will be leading our service of Thanksgiving and Re-dedication on Sunday 5th June at 3pm – all are welcome to join us (not 19th June as previously thought). This new beginning will hopefully mean the church can continue to be part of the community for generations to come. Do look out for our various Open events and come and see the changes for yourself!

Whitford church has also had anew beginning, albeit far gentler than a major re-ordering project. The church is now open all day for visitors and we have a new 'hospitality corner' where visitors can make a drink and relax in the beautiful church surroundings, and soak in the atmosphere. We are exploring the possibility of an Eco-toilet, as there is no running water, so normal facilities are a bit more of a challenge in this Grade I listed building. Our work to balance increasing the biodiversity in our churchyard also continues and there has been a stunning display of bluebells over the past few weeks. As you can see, we are trying to make the most of the gifts we have, and if you would like to be involved in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. May all your new beginnings be blessed too.



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COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau:

Thank you – Diolch. The County Council elections are completed, and a very good result has been achieved, a real mandate from the people with 78% of the vote. The election started off very badly for us (Dolphins), a very dear friend from school days committed suicide, the death of a patriot, only 11 at the funeral in a small Cotswolds village. Covid for Rosetta and I immediately followed...hence rather fewer people received a knock on the door from me, which I personally regret.

So, onwards. My actual election day was an early start, I opened the voting station in Carmel Village Hall at 06.00hrs, thus enabling Martin and Steve the Electoral Officers in attendance, time to set up. Covid rules also meant Candidates and Tellers were not allowed to be inside any part of the polling station. The people of the Five Villages have an elected County Councillor and twelve Community Councillors. 67 County Councillors serve Flintshire, and all but two were in actual elections. Your votes are all so important, the closest result was locally in Holywell Central where just one (1) vote separated the winner and loser. There was also one Count which had 3 recounts and others with 2 recounts.

Who leads the authority? Results – Labour 31, Independents 30, Liberals 4, Conservatives 2. A coalition is required or at least an Agreement. At present, writing before the Annual General Meeting it appears to be a Labour/Liberal administration, although this is not completely clear. I stand now as an Independent. We the people of Flintshire need the Leadership to be successful, if they are, it will certainly help all of us. A top priority for any administration must be Council tax, the formula must be changed, Welsh Labour Government with their Plaid partners need to bring a new message

and formula to the Council taxpayers of Flintshire and all of Wales.

Once the elections were over, the County Council provided discretionary and mandatory training for all members. Council will have five Scrutiny committees, plus Audit, Planning, Licensing, Pensions, Constitution and perhaps others. The ruling administration will form its Executive/Cabinet, and committee members and Chairs of committees will be selected on a politically balanced formula. Serving on committees of interest to the individual is important, which is why Independents eventually need to have a Group. In the past as a Liberal I have served mainly on the Environment Committee, and at times on Planning and Audit as its Chair. County Councillors also serve on other Panels outside of the Council such as Theatre Clwyd, North Wales Police and Crime Panel and the Arts Council. As you can see, very diverse indeed. County Council minutes are available on the website and for many meetings "live" stream and recordings are also available.

WILDFLOWERS:



The long banks in Carmel adjacent the A5026 are the Gateway to Holywell from the west. The vision for this area has been to have a panoramic vista of colour through planting wildflowers. Lindum Wildflower Turf was laid as wildflower seeds are unpredictable and may not survive. The felt base suppresses the weeds and is ideal for steep banks. The Daffodils, flowered in Spring and provided the significant yellow dashes to the green areas. By mid-May we have seen the usual "weeds" of fantastic daisies and dandelions (wildflowers) Red Clover, and now the pinks and white of Campion, white and yellow dog oxeye daisy, yellow Meadow Buttercups, with blue wildflowers just blooming lower to



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ground. Oh, and yes Wild Carrot was sown too, and were visible along with other wildflower species. This area has been a real success. Where would you like to see more Wildflowers in the Five Villages? How about the green mown grassed area once you enter Parc Gorsedd?

It's also great news that the County Council have secured funding for the pond in Top y Lloc Lane, Lloc to be renovated. This was last completed in 1988 by the then Clwyd County Council. Much thanks must go to a local resident of Top y Lloc who has provided much information and support to the Flintshire Bio Diversity Officer. Enjoy the Summer.

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

Peidiwch byth rhoir ffidil yn to a digalonni!!!

Never, never, ever ever give up!!!

PANTASAPH NOTES (Emma Warbrick)

Well, it's been a while since a contribution, and to be fair, not a lot has happened in that time... the Friary has now been vacated by the Franciscan Friars, and now Father Paul is there from the Vincentian Order. A lot of work is being done to the whole area, and they are gearing up for lots of retreats. Father Paul wants to concentrate on building up the parish again after the last couple of years of covid etc, and will be welcoming all faiths into the church. It was lovely to see it on Good Friday, with all the buses, like it used to be.

It's a fortnight to the Jubilee celebrations and it's lovely to be invited down to St. Clares to enjoy it with them in the safety of the courtyard..... royalist or not, and I admit I am, the Queen is truly amazing and I'd far rather them than a President. We recently, as Friends of Ysgol Bro Carmel, gifted all the children a Jubilee pin badge, which the children were pleased with. They have also completed 1700 miles between them all, walking the distance to the Ukraine, to raise funds for UNICEF. Well done to them, and the teachers, for their determination and hard work. I'm coming to the end of my twelve years as governor of the school, and I've seen many changes, but what a wonderful school it is.

Speaking of terms, I've also just discovered that I'm still on the community

council for my fifteenth year. It's nice to be involved in the community and to have a say in what happens, although we'll never cure the speeding or the litter that gets thrown in our beautiful verges. The bank below Ocean View looks lovely and our community daffodils are still coming out every year. We lost a lot of the laburnum hedge during the strong winds at the beginning of the year, but at least the proposed glamping development was turned down. We await the next application with trepidation, but it does make you wonder where the caravan/lodge empire will end, they seem to be everywhere.

As usual, people have come and left Pantasaph, and the surrounding areas, and we wish them all the very best in their new homes. It will be nice to see Argoed, near me, finally lived in, it's been empty for so long.

Hari was ten this month, going on fifteen going on sixty, and I took him for a driving lesson at Drive Ten in Denbigh. What a great time he had in a Seat manual.... and Tim who organised it was great with him, that good, he wanted to do it every weekend. If you're after a different kind of present, I'd highly recommend.

With everything going on in the world, it makes you realise how lucky we are to live in this beautiful area. Stay safe, stay monkeypox free, and be nice to one another....it doesn't cost anything and a smile can make someone's day.

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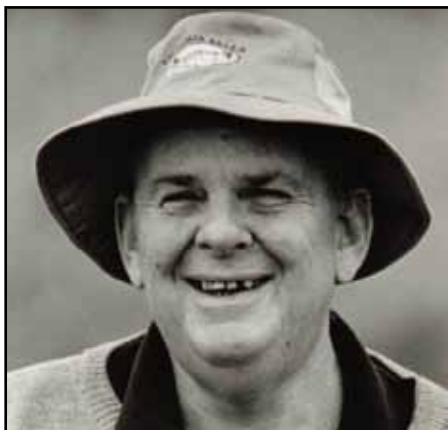
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IS IT A FACT? (Norman Closs-Parry)

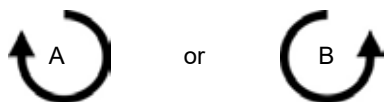
A few thoughts about Les Murray, the best poet NEVER to have won the "Nobel"!



Who says so?
I say so!

I could not make head or tail of Les Murray's poetry when I first accounted it! It was so strange. Then- Eureka – I was shaving one morning – no cuts thank goodness! And I pulled the plug. What happened? You tell me! Which way did the water swirl to go down the plughole?

Clockwise / Anticlockwise



Why do I ask?

Such a basic question? I'll ask another... If I lived in Bunyah, a deep country smallholding in N.S Wales- which one would it be - A or B? It dawned on me there and then- I was reading the late great Australian poet Les Murray with my Northern Hemisphere clutter of knowledge about its natural world whereas he, a polymath poet of Australia- wrote as a Southern Hemisphere observer of life and death- language and meaning!! Of creativity!!

One of our foremost cultural critics in the UK today, without a doubt is John Carey – so at the outset you can see/read that I am biased!

One of his (Emeritus Professor of English Oxford) academic books is 'A little history of Poetry.' What a book!? It cuts out all the trimmings and provides a late starter in his love of English Litt a platform to dive from. In terms of my subject- Les Murray- he has a "warm definition..." The great Australian poet Les Murray (1938-2019) grew up in poverty on his father's dairy farm in Bunyah New South Wales. As a child his job was tending cattle, barefoot even in winter, and he remembers jumping into fresh cowpats to warm his feet. He was obese, blamed and beaten for any faults! At school he was shunned and taunted. But he loved reading... Being fat is not healthy!

I too dug into cowpats- but for bugs to

fish with! I too can sympathise with Murray and his analysis of his upbringing in the web of his country's seasons!! That is where the difference and maybe the difficulties lie... North/South! Once I got the northern 'stuff' out of my mind, and I tried to accommodate Bunyah time and 'season' – the Murray poetry spoke and enriched my experience of literature and culture!

I read Murray's books avidly, and built up, on the way a 'biography of this huge Australian wayward talent.' It did not surprise me that such a considerate person would genuinely fall in love once and for all with his partner and his faith. I looked at all the Murray books in my library - 'To The Glory of God' all dedicated in 5 short genuine words...

Did it surprise me that such a sensitive person suffered long depressive bouts? Not really – but he worked his way through them... At this time another eminent poet 'Gwyneth Lewis' – an excellent bilingual Welsh poet wrote a terrific book on the condition – which I read more than once... avidly. It was the Black Dog Days. Beti and I saw that during that time one of the 'great' attractions at the Hay on Wye Literary Festival was an evening of poetry readings by Les Murray in the form of a chat show with Gwyneth Lewis. Beti got tickets, and we made a weekend of Literature since it's a long journey home from Hay to Holywell!

As I remember, the theatre was not packed but pleasantly full- intimately so,

and Gwyneth was deft enough to give opportunities for audience participation... Les Murray was at his bubbling best- no one would associate him with the Black Dog as he called his depressive state... and someone in the audience was daft or innocent enough to ask 'how he felt' when under such a cloud? The marquee went quiet- most people I think knew that both poets were sufferers... Les Murray and Gwyneth Lewis looked at each other – who was to 'field such a question?' Murray took it on- and in and inimitable Australian accent full of poignant poetry (I think) said

'You take a cigarette from this packet at nine o'clock in the morning...

At four o'clock in the afternoon you catch yourself asking- how do I light it ?!'

He then picked up another volume 'dedicated to his Glory of God' ...

"That was a long time ago- now
But the memory lingers on...

NCP

He was a proud poet, proud of his position and past, his Gaelic past, proud of his Welsh connection, but also Australian always going home- 'be coming back here to walk, knee- deep in ferns is essentially the need

"To remember any ancestors, axemen, dairy men, horse breakers.

Now confined in silence, down with their bearers and dreams.

Who, unwilling to rapt, despairing or

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very patient,
made what amounts to a human
breach in the silence."

Other than his 'Collected Poems' of course. 'Taller when Prone' is one of my favourite volumes.

As the blurb says it has at its heart 'Les Murray's' celebrations of working lives in their environment in Australia and elsewhere, a people's history in stories and songs, fragments of conversations, memories and satire.

At the beginning of this essay I referred to Murray walking barefoot warming his toes in just dropped cow pads... To develop this- can I ask the reader "Do you remember the summers of long ago and the tar running through the chippings and bubbling and bursting? We therefore can identify with The Filo Soles

When tar roads came
in the barefoot age.
crossing them was hell
with the sun at full rage,
Kids learned to dip
their feet in the black
and quench with dust,
in the dust, to form
a dark layered crust
and carry quick soles
over the worst
annealing their leather
though many splash scornfully
across, to flawed ground.

I'll quote one verse of 'Midi' too-
reminding readers of this time we have
been sun and cloud artists...

'Muscles and torsos of cloud
Ascended over the mountains,
The fields looked like high speed
So new-mown on the hay,

.....

Wonderful imagery and reflections- not
just Australian but Earth Poet – no longer
with us or able to accept a nomination for
a worthy Nobel!

This too I like...

Cattle- Hoof Hardpan

Trees from modern times don't bear
but the old China pear
still standing in the soil
of 1880 rains fruit.
– naturalist in poet!

In conclusion I can do no better than go
back to Emeritus Professor John Carey's
last paragraph in his book 'A Little History
of Poetry'... when he states...

He wonders whether the natural world
can have any meaning too? He imagines
a cow talking in 'The Cows on Rilling Day'
and a bush talking in 'Cockspur Brush.'
These are dazzling feats of ventriloquism,
but they are make- believe. In reality are
all creatures, except humans, doomed to
exist meaninglessly because they lack
language? Murray seems to deny this is

his poem, 'The Meaning of Existence.' But
does he? Or does the poem's ending show
poetry's power to unsettle beliefs, question
certainties, even its own?

Everything except language
Knows the meaning of existence.
Trees, planets, rivers, time
Know nothing else. They express it
moment by moment, as the universe.

Even this fool a body
lives it in part, and would
have full dignity within it
but for the ignorant freedom
of my talking mind."

And so we go on...

April 29, 2019 the poet died in a Nursing
Home in Bunyah... his "cynefin"

April 2022- Three years on they have
published 'Continuous Creation' Last
Poems.

HOLYWELL COMMUNITY MUSEUM (Andrea Deakin)

As well as all of our usual amazing
exhibits and groups during the whole of
the month of June we are celebrating the
Jubilee with a display of memorabilia,
pictures, magazines commemorative mugs
etc. There will be DVDs running all day of
the coronation and a Buckingham Palace
garden party.

Also by the end of June our chapel
room will be in operation. Furnished with
items from the old Hebron chapel in Mostyn
which is to be demolished and donations
from members of our reminiscence group
and members of the public it will be blessed
by Father Julian and Brother Dominic
and there will be opportunities for anyone
looking for quiet contemplation to just sit or

light a battery tealight for their loved ones.

Our two (free of charge) "What is
Storytelling" sessions will be held at the
beginning of June but if there is demand I
will run two more for those who think they
might want to become a storyteller and
take part in our - soon to be launched -
Storytelling Cafe - which will be a first as
an evening event.

Quiz nights will also be happening
soon. Watch this space !!

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tutor will guide you through the writing
process. This will cost you just £25 for the
whole course - all proceeds to the museum.

The history walks around the high street
which proved so popular last summer will
recommence on Wednesday 8th June and
will be every Wednesday after throughout
the summer months - depending on
demand. £5 for an hour and a half (maybe
a bit longer) walk 10.30 - 12 guided by a
local historian. As the walks are dependent
on numbers booking is essential - just call
in the museum to put your name on the list.

All of this plus bingo every other
Monday afternoon, Reminiscence group
every Tuesday morning and craft/ knit and
natter group on Wednesday mornings.

Check out our facebook pages Holywell
Community Museum and our Memories of
Holywell.

Museum phone number is 01352
217170 but if you want to know more about
the groups, the course or the walks please
email me, andreadakin112@btinternet.com
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NOCTURNAL MISDEMEANOURS (Geraint Roberts)

Whilst looking for something in the shed the other day I came across an old wooden sign which immediately drew a smile across my face and took me back some thirty-five years.

I had started to build a garage on a piece of land opposite a house I once owned. Initially things had gone well; the concrete base was solid and the strength and confidence of youth soon saw the breeze block walls coming along a treat. However, a couple of morning later following a windy night I awoke to find one almost completed wall had blown down!

The lesson? I should have put a buttress half way along!

The jibes from my friends came in thick and fast, references were made to Jericho and several names for the garage all referring to fallen walls were suggested. One friend even went as far as to make a sign – PARADFAIL! Parad being Welsh for wall! Quite clever!



The old sign

It was coming across this old sign which made me think of some of the many Welsh legends that have as their main theme walls collapsing overnight and masonry mysteriously moving.

I thought I would share some of them with you.

The most famous was King Vortigern's (Gwrtheyrn) attempts to raise a castle on Dinas Emrys near Beddgelert in the fifth century. Having raised several hornet's nests in the south of England, which included betraying his fellow Britons, and losing the county of Kent to the Saxons and



Dinas Emrys

he had to flee to North Wales.

Dinas Emrys is a dramatic looking hill with steep walls on all sides.

Each morning when he and his builders arrived to continue working on the castle the walls were found to have fallen during the night. This went on for several days before he consulted his wise men. They told him he should find a fatherless, fair-haired boy who should be sacrificed and his blood spilt on the walls' foundations.

Such a boy was eventually found and preparations for the grisly ritual were made. When the boy asked the reason for his death and was told, he replied that the wise men were wrong. Beneath the hill there was a cave and in the cave a lake where two dragons lived, one red and one white. Each night they awoke to fight and it was the tremors caused by these nightly fights which caused the walls to fall.

That evening Gwrtheyrn sought the cave and saw the wisdom of the boy's words. It was also that very evening that the red dragon managed to overcome the white one and subsequently Gwrtheyrn was able to build his castle, the ruins of which can still be seen. Over centuries of telling the red dragon evolved to represent the ancient Britons and the white one the Saxons.

The wise men were duly executed and buried in a field nearby still called the 'Field of the magician's graves'. The young boy? Well, he was called Merlin and grew to




St. Hilary's chapel, Denbigh


significantly contribute himself to folklore, especially of the Arthurian genre.

Although Denbigh has its own dragon legend it cannot be blamed for the unfortunate events which befell a new church whose foundations were laid on St. David's day 1579 under the auspicious direction of the Bishop of Winchester. It was the Earl of Leicester's project (Elizabeth I's favourite) and was intended to replace the Cathedral in St. Asaph. Each morning when the masons arrived to continue building, a significant portion of the walls had fallen, and several stones removed. Work slowly ground to a halt and eventually the intended church which was to be consecrated in St. David's name became the far more modest St. Hilary's chapel. It is thought that the money intended for its full and grand completion was used for a military adventure in Ireland. Folklore, however, has a far more colourful explanation for its unattained potential. It would seem that a particularly active group of spirits did not wish the church to be built, and it was they who caused chaos during the hours of darkness.

At one period it was used as a common barn and was even a cock fighting pit. Today only the tower remains and a flat piece of land where the once intended cathedral and one time cock fighting arena once stood.

At one time there were two churches






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Talwyd costau'r cyhoeddiad hwn gan Gomisiwn y Senedd, o gronfeydd cyhoeddus
The costs of this publication have been met by the Senedd Commission from public funds

in Abergwesyn, a little village on the old drovers' road over the mountain between Tregaron and Llandoverly. It was a strange arrangement to have two so close together on either side of the river Irfon which marked the parish boundary, but the explanation is even stranger. The original church in Abergwesyn was Llanddewi but it was felt another church was needed for the neighbouring parish and a site was chosen for the new church of St. Michael four miles away.

Plans were drawn and work commenced. However, on the second morning when the workmen arrived the stones they had so painstakingly laid were missing! Word soon arrived that they had been found just across the river from Llanddewi church four miles away! When this happened for several days it was taken as a sign that St. Michael himself was choosing the site; and that explains how Abergwesyn had at one time two churches.

One of Wales' famous Ministers and author Theophilus Evans had care of both churches in 1738 when he had the living of Llangammarch. Another notable Welshman, William Williams, Pantycelyn of hymn writing fame was curate of both churches in 1740.

Both churches eventually fell to disrepair and by the time Llanfihangel church was extensively re-built in 1871 sponsored by Miss Clara Thomas of Llwynmadoc, Llanddewi was being used as an agricultural building.

Both churches were officially united in 1885. The new church however had to be demolished in 1964 because it had been built using poor quality sandstone; perhaps Abergwesyn was never meant to have a church?



Henllan church and tower

There are only three churches in Wales (if I discount Llanblodwel in the Tanat valley just over the border despite its Welsh name) whose towers were built separately to the main building. St. David's cathedral, Llangyfelach, which is just north of Swansea and Henllan church just outside Denbigh. The furthest reaches of the parish once reached fifteen miles away and St. Sadwrn's church tower was built on a rocky hillock above and some forty feet away from the church so the bells calling the faithful could be heard.

But once again we have stories of the

building material being moved mysteriously in the night to a spot much closer to the main church; uneasy spirits perhaps or locals emboldened with spirits from the 'Llindir' who didn't want a separate tower?

Today, many farms in holiday areas have diversified to become caravan sites, a sad indictment perhaps that more money can be made this way than through farming.

Centuries ago, on the north coast of the Gower, there existed a small village called Llanelen which had a church dedicated to Helena the roman wife of Maximus who was the emperor of the western province around 388 AD.

We know the village existed in 1319 because a document shows one Sir Robert De Penres paying a silver penny to rent seven acres of land belonging to the Norman Baron William De Breos. De Breos was famously hanged by Llywelyn the Great for his infidelity with Joan, Llywelyn's wife in 1230.

One day a ship became grounded on the shore below the village and it soon became apparent that all was not well. When the sailors staggered ashore it



Remains of St. Meren's church

became apparent they carried the plague. As a result, many of the villagers died and the survivors moved away, effectively abandoning the settlement for good. The little church too was left over the centuries to fall to the ground and the encroaching growth of grass, nettles and brambles.

During a survey made in 1886 by J.D.Davies a local historian all that remained were the ground level stones of the church, a small patch which was the cemetery and an Yew tree.

Years later the farmer of Wern Halog which is situated where the village used to be decided to remove one of the old



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church's dressed stones for an intended purpose on the farm. That night he was kept awake by the noise of the stone being dragged across the farmyard. This went on for several nights before he decided to return the stone back to the ruined church.

Several people have seen the apparition of a white lady in the vicinity of the old church; keeping an eye on the stones perhaps?

In a similar vein the remains of another small church lie covered in growth four miles to the north of Aberdaron on the Llyn peninsula. It was abandoned following the Reformation instigated by Henry VIII. Many years later the local farmer removed some of the stones and began work levelling the ground. He promptly fell ill and very shortly afterwards died. The little church which is nothing more than a raised shape in the field has been left alone ever since.

Yet another church (what is it about these churches?) has a similar legend although this one takes things a step further. When the village of Cynwyd near Corwen decided to build a church overlooking the Dee not only were the building materials moved in the night, but they went missing, never to be found. When this had happened a few times a wise man in the area came up with the solution that a white deer should be found and hunted and wherever its blood was spilt that should be the site of the new church.

This was duly done, and the church was built on a raised spot about halfway between Corwen and Cynwyd.

The old church has served this rural community for many years standing about a mile downriver from the village. Ironically in 1856 it was felt a new church was needed nearer the village; this was subsequently built and this time without any building materials vanishing.

Today Llangar church has been in the safe hands of CADW since 1974 and a



Llangar church

visit to see this well-kept, white-washed old building with its ancient stone graves is recommended.

This theme of sacrifice and blood pouring which is similar to the Dinas Emrys legend may be a mixture of pagan folk memory and old building practice. It is well documented for example that Thomas Telford used blood from several hundred oxen as a constituent in the mortar used to build Ffroncsyllte aquaduct as recently as 1805.

Leaving the actual building work aside for a moment there is an ancient unused church on Anglesey which has a curious singular stone. The ruins of the old church are today on private property and the owners have addressed the issue of access prevention most enthusiastically with high walls and an electric gate. However, I was able to visit a few decades ago and was smitten by the four ancient arches rising out of a carpet of wild garlic in May sunshine.

There were two things of interest I was keen to see. The first came in the form of a small stoup built into the porch wall about four foot off the ground. No matter what the weather this little bowl is always full of fresh water and has neither a tap or pipe anywhere near it. It is thought some form of capillary action raises the water through the wall which is probably built over a spring; most curious.



Llanidan old church

The second thing I wanted to see which has direct relevance to this article was a large stone, shaped like a man's thigh called 'Maen Morwydd'. Legend has it that the stone cannot be removed from the church.

When Hugh Lupus the Earl of Chester invaded Anglesey in his campaign against Gruffudd ap Cynan in the twelfth century he had his men drag the stone with chains and threw it into the Menai Strait. Apparently by the following night the 'Maen Morwydd' was back in the church, still wet and with fronds of seaweed clinging to it!

Finally, one of the highest lakes above sea level in Wales is a little pool called 'Ffynnon Llyffant' high on the second highest peak in Snowdonia, Carnedd Llywelyn. The little cwm surrounding the lake is a jumble of glacial boulders.

It was said that one night in 1542 two of these boulders 'walked' the length of a bow shot away from the lake. It is also claimed that Henry VIII himself sent an envoy to discover the veracity of the tale and was assured the event had indeed happened!

These are just a handful of similar stories clinging to the theme of nocturnal moving rocks. I'm sure every district throughout Wales will have its own version of similar events, and I would be grateful if any reader does indeed have one he/she would be willing to share with me.

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The Simple Mirror Will – Should it be that Simple?

By Emily Littlehailes of Celtic Law Ltd

This is my first article in the Five Villages Magazine, so thank you for having me!

I will begin by mentioning Wills. I could easily write an essay, but I will try to keep this short and sweet!

Wills are very personal and one size will not fit all, hence why it is important to get it right. When I meet with my clients to discuss their Wills, I ask, 'What do you want to happen?'

Most will respond with 'we want everything to go to one another, and then to our children when we both die'.

This is the classic Simple Mirror Will. Though popular, it may surprise you that I don't do many Simple Wills.

Clients frequently express concern about the following:

- What would happen if one of us go into care?
- What about children from a previous relationship? How can I guarantee their inheritance?
- What if the survivor remarries? Will they inherit from me too?

If, like many of my clients, you are concerned with any of the above, a Simple Will may not be the best option. Making a Will is the starting point of protecting your lifetime wealth in the right way – for the right people, this is what a Will Trust can do...

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HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL NEWS (Collette Lowry)

Hello all from us here at Holywell Town Council.

Since restrictions have eased, we have been busy tackling old and new projects, planning events and welcoming new councillors onboard.

CIVIC:

Following the recent elections, we can confirm the following councillors have now all signed their declarations of acceptance. Central: Pat Corbett, Ted Palmer & Daniel Thomas

Holywell East: Linda Corbett & Ian Hodge

Holywell West: Chris Argent, Lynda Corbett, Paul Johnson & Jenny Jones

Greenfield: Rosetta Dolphin, Mike Lewis-Jones, Siobhan Rush, Barry Scragg & Matt Sprake

Contact details can be found on our website.



Cllr Ian Hodge



Cllr Lynda Carter

The AGM was held at the Stamford Gate this year – the first one held in person for 3 years. Councillor Ian Hodge was welcomed as new Mayor for 2022/23 and Lynda Carter was elected Deputy Mayor.

We were unable to hold a Mayor's ball

this year but outgoing Mayor, Councillor Ted Palmer still managed to donate £546.50 to each of his charities, The Daniel Inskip Memorial Fund, and Holywell Swimming Club.



Holywell Swimming Club



The Daniel Inskip Memorial Fund

ECO & ENVIRONMENTAL:

The Eco Uniform Pop up is still going strong, usually held every half term and end of term. Now that we have new councillors on board, they will resume management of that. We have recently launched a new Facebook group called Eco Holywell where we will be sharing all local environmental news such as litter pick events, gardening clubs and updates on our Wales in Bloom entries.

The Deputy Clerk has been teaming up with the Greenfield Valley and volunteers on a woodland project using lottery grant funding. Those volunteers who have previously been involved in putting up bird and bat boxes etc also recently attended a scythe cutting training course to help with future management of the site with further opportunities for volunteers available.

Dog waste bag dispensers have now been ordered for the town centre as part of the Town Enhancement Grant. Additional CCTV cameras were also installed in a bid to counteract recent spells of anti-social behaviour. Lighting was also installed by the post office alleyway.

A new play area has recently been installed at Groesffordd in Greenfield which was match funded with Flintshire County Council.

Our hanging baskets will be going up shortly and we are looking forward to seeing town in its full vibrant splendour! The judge visits all areas of Holywell and Greenfield and looks out for litter on his travels. Fortunately, local estate agents, Reid & Roberts have kindly volunteered to organise a litter pick very shortly to help the community. They will also be planting

a tree for jubilee.

EVENTS & TOURISM:

Our Easter Event proved extremely successful this year, with lots of entertainment, free face painting, activities, crafting and games with many of the children thrilled to receive Easter eggs as prizes. We had a tourism boost with many holiday makers visiting us from the local holiday camps as Flintshire County Council very kindly helped us out with funding for the buses. Menter Iaith also very kindly assisted with partially funding the cost of the entertainment.



Cambria Band leading the Easter parade

We were very grateful to have received help from the community for this event with volunteers assisting us with the set up and manning of the activities. If anyone wishes to assist with future events, please get in touch.

We have now received a few more applications for our limited events grants. These are to assist community led events so keep an eye out for more events happening within Holywell and Greenfield this year!

By the time of going to press, we will have held our Jubilee event in town with an artisan market, fairground, entertainers, games and free lunches for the local care home residents and school aged children. We are really pleased that Holywell Town Band and Holywell Debonaires can join us at our event as groups have been struggling to re-start after lockdown. Again, we have partnered with Presthaven Sands holiday camp and will be bringing tourists to the town.

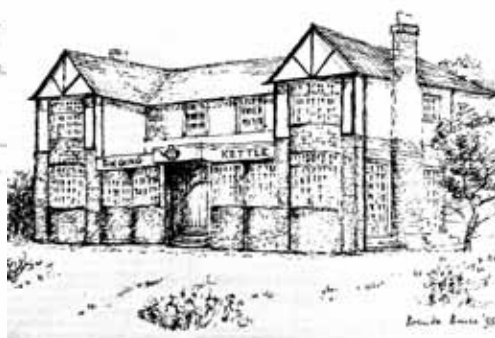
To mark the jubilee, Holywell Town Council ordered water bottles for all primary aged pupils in Holywell & Greenfield and mugs for every pupil in the high school. If you live in the 4 wards of Holywell and Greenfield and your child is home schooled or attends different schools, please get in touch to receive their gift.

A Holywell leaflet design has now been completed and is due to go to press shortly ready for distribution.

FFLECSI BUS:

The Fflecsi bus is still running and has proven so successful, it is actually expanding its services. You can download the app to book your seat. More information can be found here: <https://www.fflecsi.wales/locations/flintshire/>

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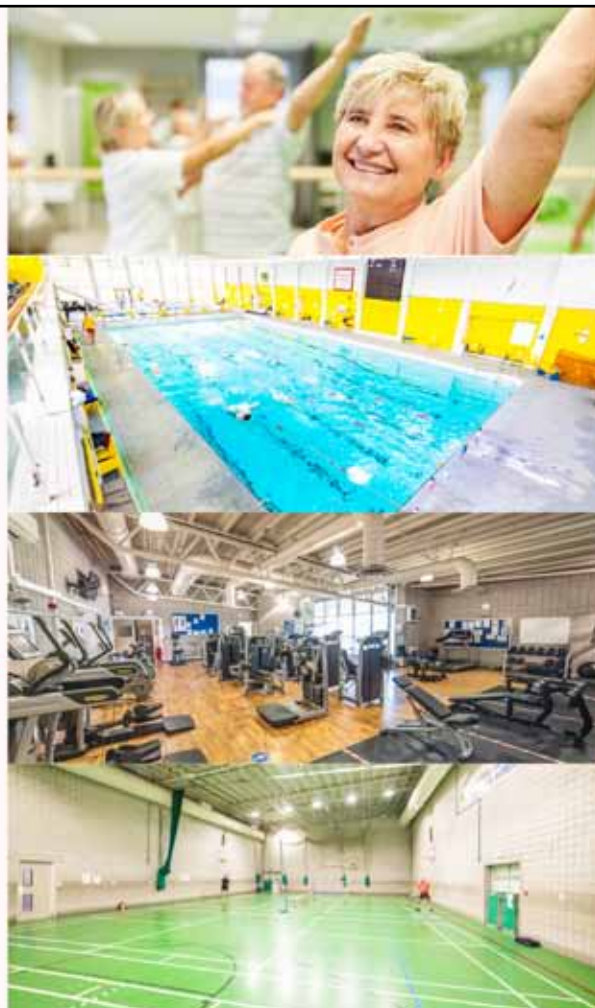
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REWILDING, HURRAH!

(Jan Miller)

Well, isn't it funny that, if you live long enough, everything comes full circle? I remember telling my mother when I was about 11 years old, after a school wildflower collecting competition, that when I grew up, I wanted a garden full of wildflowers. Of course, I was laughed at then, back in 1964.

Fast-forward 60 years and Well I Never! The garden that won the best in show award at Chelsea this year was the Rewilding Britain garden! It has taken a long time and unflinching work by so many people, including me, to get to this point since the first wildlife garden was accepted at Chelsea in 1985. That was designed by Chris Baines and the organisers so little understood what it was about that the award they gave him had 'Wildfire Garden' written on it!

Strangely enough I actually lived at the Chelsea show new sponsors' Hotel, that they now call 'The Newt' in Somerset (Hadspen House) when I was a pupil boarding at Bruton School for Girls in the 1960s, and the designers of this garden are based in Bruton. On top of that I sent a whole load of wildflower plants to Nicholson's nursery in Oxford for a Chelsea Show Garden this year because they couldn't get them from anyone else. These went into the "Connected by EXANTE" garden built by Nicholson's Nurseries and was awarded a Silver Gilt Medal; there were so many gardens with this wild theme this year.

The nursery wanted from me a number of native grasses like Cock's Foot, Foxtail and Yorkshire Fog which have beautiful flowerheads, but not quite in April in North Wales when they needed them delivered! But this is important because I actually have these growing in an old-fashioned wet meadow which is one of the last remaining 2% of these meadows in the whole country and has thus been left to the North Wales Wildlife trust in my will. These native grasses are the only essential larval foodplants for the butterflies Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Ringlet, Skipper, Gatekeeper and many moths. Using these instead of the horticultural foreign species of grass used in gardens in recent years mean we are feeding the caterpillars that produce the adults of our native butterflies; the horticultural grasses do not.

And this is why the Re-wilding movement is so important; but it does mean a lot of different things to different people. It does NOT mean that wolves, bears and lynx are going to be introduced to areas of high human population! But it refers to letting the natural habitats revive themselves.

And this is what a small group of us local naturalists have been noticing happening naturally up on Halkyn Mountain in the last 5 or 6 years. It seems to be mainly because of the reduction of grazing by sheep because that is no longer economically viable. We are trying to show local people that it is a very special place to be cherished rather than a wasteland, to protect certain areas from over-grazing, from dogs and horses trampling areas where rare nesting birds and animals like the Sky Lark and Brown hare nest on the surface of the ground, from dog poo and rubbish dumping and from trail biking in unsuitable areas. Two of our members, Mavis and Colin, are excellent amateur botanists and have spent the pandemic roaming over the area, taking photos and keeping records of the numerous scarce wildflowers. Flintshire County Council helped us print a bi-lingual booklet of them which we had an event to launch on the 21st of May at Halkyn Parish Hall. It was a lovely afternoon with displays of fossils and rocks and quarrying history, wildflowers, moths and butterflies and tea and cakes! There were also painting activities for children, and renowned local botanist, Dr Goronwy Wynne gave a very interesting talk about his 'life on his knees' studying the wild plants of the area. Then there was a guided walk. Find Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation Group on Facebook to find out more about future events. You can pick up a free copy of the wildflower booklet at Holywell, Mold and Halkyn libraries.

© Jan Miller 2022



Kids with fossil



Kids with Colin - geology



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Looking forward to seeing you around the constituency!

Promoted by Rob Roberts MP of 8 Chester St, Mold, CH7 1EG.

MARK ISHERWOOD MS



Deaf people are at twice the risk of mental health problems compared to hearing people. They regularly experience isolation, discrimination and stress, which contributes to experiences of anxiety and depression.

However, the report 'Deaf People Wales: Hidden Inequality', which was launched in the Senedd/Welsh Parliament earlier this month, reveals that Deaf people in Wales are experiencing significant mental health inequalities because there is a lack of accessible services, no specialist Deaf mental health service in Wales and limited training about Deaf issues for health and care workers.

South Wales has no specialised Deaf mental health network, and the service in North Wales has now dissolved. Mostly Deaf patients requiring in-patient care are referred to England, at great distance from their families and social networks, and at significant financial cost to the Health Service.

Compiled by the All Wales Deaf Mental Health and Wellbeing Group, a group of Deaf and hearing professionals, the 'Deaf People Wales: Hidden Inequality' report highlights the challenges faced by Deaf people in Wales who experience mental health problems and calls on the Welsh Government to make significant changes.

It found:

Limited implementation of the All Wales Accessible Information Standards meaning that Deaf people still don't get information in ways they can understand and engage with;

A need for an advice and signposting service for individuals, families, and workers;

A knowledge gap because lots of health professionals do not know about Deaf counselling services for Deaf people that are provided by Deaf people:

Deaf people have to be admitted to Birmingham, London or Manchester specialist mental health wards for full

access to communication in British Sign Language (BSL) for assessment and/or treatment.

Speaking at the launch of the report, which I sponsored, I expressed concern that Wales is the only UK Country to have no Deaf mental health service and called for improved Deaf awareness for health and care staff, for increased staff BSL skills and for improved access to mental health services for Deaf people in Wales.

The report was previously discussed at the 21st October meeting of the Senedd's Cross Party Group on Deaf Issues, which I Chair, when one of the Report's Authors, Dr Julia Terry, Associate Professor of mental

health and nursing at Swansea University, stated: "the mental health of Deaf people in Wales has been a neglected issue for decades. Deaf people are already at twice the risk of mental health problems and find it extremely difficult to get help as services rarely provide accessible information or culturally relevant services".

At the launch, I referred to my motion 15 months earlier calling on the Senedd to note 'a proposal for a Bill that would make provision to encourage the use of British Sign Language (BSL) in Wales, and improve access to education and services in BSL', which was passed. Members of all Parties voted in favour of the motion,



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North Wales MS Mark Isherwood at the All-Wales Deaf Mental Health and Well-Being Group's launch of the 'Deaf People Wales: Hidden Inequalities' Report, which he sponsored

demonstrating a clear appetite for such BSL legislation across the Senedd Chamber.

My motion noted that my proposed Bill would 'ensure that the Deaf community and people with hearing loss have a voice in the design and delivery of services to ensure they meet the needs of service users'. Scores of Deaf people and Deaf-led groups across Wales contacted me in support of this, telling me that, although the Welsh Government was developing a new BSL Charter for Wales, my planned Bill was an enormous step forward. Only one person wrote in opposition.

Although I have continued to submit bids for a Private Member's Bill in this Senedd accordingly - and will continue to do so - I have not yet been successful and have therefore called on the Welsh Government to indicate its support for such a Bill during this Senedd term.

Speaking at the launch, I also referred to the Statement of Opinion I tabled in the Senedd on behalf of National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) to coincide with Deaf Awareness Week (2 to 8 May 2022), which highlighted the challenges many young people face due to a lack of deaf awareness and called for teachers across Wales to be encouraged to undertake deaf awareness training.

As a Deaf 16-year-old said: "Some teachers know exactly what to do to help me but there are some that don't and are completely clueless about my struggles".

Despite years of calls for action to address the attainment gap, Deaf school children are still being left behind. This needs to change. I was pleased that 26 MSs, almost 60% of those eligible to sign, added their names to the Statement of Opinion I tabled.

I really hope that the 'Deaf People Wales: Hidden Inequality' report will be the start of a constructive dialogue which will lead to the development of short- and long-term solutions to improve services in Wales for Deaf people experiencing poor mental health. As Dr Julia Terry states, "If nothing changes, the mental health of Deaf people in Wales will continue to be at risk".

THE HOLYWELL & DISTRICT SOCIETY (Sally Brighton)

Normality restored as spring passes into summer?

It seems almost too much to ask doesn't it, that as summer approaches, our H&D society, so thriving before Covid, should, after long months of tentative speculation as to whether we could survive a pandemic in any recognisable form, at last have begun to recover? But it seems it has.

Thanks for this, to our Chair, Gwladys Harrison, who has remained our driving force by keeping regular committee meetings continuing through these long months, as well as filling in for officers no longer able to continue in their posts. Thanks also to Ray Bailey who, with his endless enthusiasm has kept up morale, continuing to inject life into our research group while Linda Jones, our archivist has carried on evolving our archives into a more accessible efficient and workable resource...a hard and time-consuming task indeed. Pam Thomas has kept our finances in professional order and Christine Hamer, ever on hand, has instigated our first event of the 2022 season.

In April, at our usual venue of Penbryn Chapel Holywell, Peter Robinson, a one-time Coxswain of the R.N.L.I., gave us a most informed, illustrated talk on the nature of his one-time work by vividly

outlining many of its pitfalls as well as the 'highs' of this vital job, all in the wider context of the RNLI as a whole, where he now works as a coordinator. Our audience reacted enthusiastically, asking many questions and it is hardly surprising that a suggested visit to Rhyl Lifeboat station as our customary 'outside visit' in June/July, should meet with a very positive response.

Already an autumn programme of speakers for autumn 2022 and spring 2023 has been drafted... with our 'Winter Warmer' lunchtime meal in The Penryn Chapel, Holywell scheduled for January 14th, 2023.

And to cap it all, our pleas for a Secretary on a more permanent basis have at last, miraculously born fruit. At our first live meeting, described above, our prayers were answered., when Charles Taberner, with the help of his wife, Alison, from Denbigh volunteered to take on the role.

So, until our AGM next April, 'we are sorted' and ready to welcome all our present members back and any of you who would like to sample what we offer for the price of £2.00 a time including tea. Of course, our fingers are tightly crossed..... but along with the rest of the world, we fervently wish that all will be well, and our newly established 'normality' can last us through the winter!

For any enquiries from prospective members, please ring our Chair on 01352 712748



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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.



CARMEL VILLAGE HALL (Richard Dolphin)



The Hall continues to be the epicentre and community meeting place of Carmel for all residents within the 5 Villages and beyond. The Hall is home to 16 regular groups offering a wide range of activities for children, young people and adults. Additionally the Hall holds monthly fundraising events, the perfect opportunity to see friends or meet new ones.

Future events include:

Sunday, 26th June - Mid-Summer Bingo
Doors Open 1:30pm, eyes down at 2:30pm
Thurs, 14th July – Tea & Coffee Morning
10am – 12 noon

Thurs, 11th August – Tea & Coffee Morning
10am – 12 noon

Thurs, 25th August – Afternoon Tea – 3pm
Thurs, 8th September – Tea & Coffee
Morning 10am – 12 noon

In the last article, we proudly advertised the forthcoming 'Wall Project'. With huge thanks to Lawton & Vinny, the old crumbling wall has been dismantled and a new Welsh stonewall has been erected.



The pictures show the dramatic transformation, but to see it in person shows the true beauty and preservation of the Halls history. The Trustees must also be thanked for this once in a lifetime project that supports the longevity of the Hall and its grounds. Wholesome modernisation and renovations have taken place over many years, securing its status as the 'Old Loved Hall'.



For regular updates about groups, hall availability and upcoming events then check out the Carmel Village Hall Facebook Page – www.facebook.com/carmelvillagehall or contact Chris Dolphin, Secretary on 01352 713415 or chris_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk

DIOLCHGARWCH AM CAPEL CARMEL 1900-2022....

The Official Closing Service of Carmel Chapel (COM) 10 am Sunday May 15th 2022 with Rev. Huw Powell-Davies officiating

Because of ageing population (members) and 'Close Down' structured effects- the deacons (trustees) decided to cease worshiping procedures at Carmel, and seek to form a new Welsh area Chapel with Capel Penbryn based at the old Rehoboth site EGLWYS GYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON.

It was very fulfilling that Gareth Sharp (Chair of Neuadd Bentref Carmel) also supported by Billy Glyn (Vice Chair of Whitford Community Council) unveiled the old commemorative stone from chapel into the Village Hall in memory of the late Councillor Llewelyn Edwards a great community benefactor and Christian. Maybe the story of the stone can be recorded in the 5 Villages Chronicle another time (it is an important part of Carmel history 1952-2022!!). Heulwen Closs-Sharp and Huw Powell-Davies had designed the service – which included appropriate scriptural readings and a special hymn written for the occasion by Norman Closs-Parry who had been involved with the two institutions since 1965! It was also fitting that after a very poignant address by the Rev. Huw Powell-Davies, Tom Pierce Williams, Tre Eden Owain and a deacon who had been 'brought up' in the chapel - read the last hymn.

Another long standing member- Mrs Olwen Davies of New Celyn Farm Celyn Newydd- was responsible for coordinating the light refreshments aided by colleagues.

There are so many fitting quotes by famous thinkers writers and poets that can be used at such events, but W.H Auden wrote a poem in November 1937

I quote:

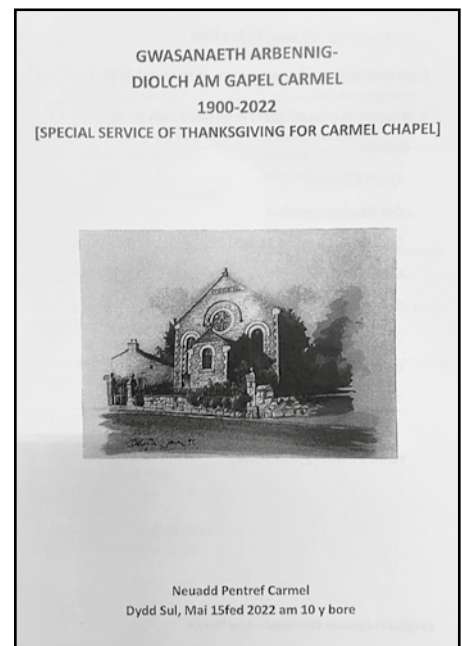
"As I walked out one evening"

O look, look in the mirror,
O look in your distress,
Life remains a blessing
Although you cannot bless.

O stand, stand at the window
As the tears scaled and start,
You shall love your crooked neighbour
With your crooked heart.

It was late late in the evening,
The lovers they, were gone,
The clocks had ceased their chiming
And the deep river ran on

(Norman Closs-Parry)



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ANNOUNCEMENT



Proud parents Richard and Caroline alongside big sister Beatrix Dolphin, resident in Carmel, welcomed Florence Rosabel to the world on 15/04/2022 at 8:47. Happy and healthy at 9lb 5oz.

CARMEL WI NEWS (Jacqui Arstall)

First I would like to apologise for an error in the last edition. Carmel WI meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Carmel Village Hall, starting at 7.15pm.

Since the last edition we have welcomed some new members and enjoyed excellent presentations from our speakers.

Our programme for the next three meetings is:

Thursday 9th June 2022 - presentation from Vanilla- Unique Jewellery.

Thursday 14th July 2022 - presentation from Goats Milk Toiletries.

Thursday 11th August 2022- Annual Outing to be arranged.

We are looking forward to the Queens Jubilee Celebrations at Carmel Village Hall, coffee morning on 9th June 2022.

A NEW BEGINNING (Peter Erasmus)

The re-ordering of St Paul's Church in Gorsedd is close to completion. Like most building projects it has been delayed somewhat by supply issues but will be ready for use soon and will be re-dedicated by the bishop of St Asaph, Bishop Gregory at a service of re-dedication on Sunday 5th June at 3.00 pm. All will be welcome at the start of a new era for St Paul's.

Note the clothes hooks are re-cycled organ stops!



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RECIPES FOR SUMMER (Isabel Burnage)

STRAWBERRY CREAM

This is a delicious, easy recipe which is sure to please family and friends.

Ingredients:

- 1 large punnet of strawberries-reserve a few for decoration
- 1 small tin of evaporated milk
- 1 strawberry jelly
- Whipped cream to serve
- Grated dark chocolate

Method:

1. Hull the strawberries and rinse
2. Make up jelly to 8 fl. oz. (240ml) and allow to cool
3. Liquidise the strawberries (a few kept to one side for decoration)
4. Add cooled jelly and evaporated milk to strawberries
5. Set the mixture in a large bowl or individual dishes
6. Decorate with reserved strawberries and grated chocolate
7. Serve with whipped cream

BACON AND PARMESAN MASH

Potatoes are undoubtedly the most versatile of all vegetables and can be used in many savoury dishes and even in some sweet dishes. The following recipe is a family favourite and easy to make.

Ingredients:

- 4 good sized potatoes (2 lbs/1 Kg)
- Milk and butter for mashing
- 1 oz (25g) grated Parmesan cheese
- Small bunch of finely chopped chives
- 1 small can of sweetcorn giblets – drained
- 4 rashers of bacon – crisply fried or grilled

Method:

1. Peel and cut potatoes into even sized chunks
2. Boil then mash with milk and butter
3. Add grated cheese, chives and niblets and mix
4. Place in oven proof dish or tin and grill for 2-3 minutes until brown on top.
5. Serve with the bacon.



THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY CLWYD GROUP

We are a friendly gardening group.
We enjoy talks and garden visits.

Meetings are now held at the Stamford Gate Hotel, Holywell (opposite the Shell Garage), on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7.30pm start of talk. Doors open from 7pm for plant sales and raffle tickets. Meetings start again in September as we have private garden visits over the summer.

If you would like to join our HPS Clwyd Group until the end of December 2022 we are offering a discounted rate of £5 per person for new members. Free admission to meetings for members, £3 for visitors.

Information: 01352 781458 (please leave a message)
email: clwydgroup@hardy-plant.org.uk
www.facebook.com/HPSClwyd
www.hardy-plant.org.uk/clwyd

HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



As we pass the one-year mark from last year's Senedd election, the Welsh Government is already putting key pledges into practice, including funding one hundred more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) across the country to help keep our communities safe and plug the gap left by cuts to police services over the years by the UK Government. From April this year our care workers who go above and beyond to support our nearest and dearest, will begin to be paid the Real Living Wage – a first step to better recognising and rewarding a profession that has had such a spotlight shone on it during the coronavirus pandemic.

OUT AND ABOUT ACROSS THE CONSTITUENCY

As we transition from the pandemic, it's been great to be able to get out and about more to see various groups and organisations across the constituency, whether that be a local womens' institute, engaging with pupils and teachers about their experiences over the last two years or hearing from local businesses and individuals.

At the end of May, I had the pleasure of attending the Flowers of Halkyn Mountain event at Halkyn Village Hall. Organised by Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation Group, the group launched their new book on Wild Flowers of Halkyn Mountain alongside fabulous displays of wild flowers, moths, rocks and fossils found on the mountain. The book is available for individuals to take away for a small donation, but the group are also very kindly giving a set of books free to local schools.

As always if there is something you would like me to come along to and support then please don't hesitate to get in touch. I'm looking forward to a summer of events bringing people together again.

CONTINUING TO CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

If you are aware of someone who has or is going above and beyond to help their communities then you can still nominate them as part of my Community Champions Scheme which aims to recognise these individuals and groups. Starting during the coronavirus pandemic, I'm keen to continue

to play my own small part in paying tribute to those often-hidden heroes in our home towns and villages. Information can be found on my website www.hannahblythyn.cymru/community-champion-nomination

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Thanks to the deregulation of the bus sector during the 1980s, all too often bus companies today tend to serve their own profit margins rather than prioritise people and connecting communities. From the work I have carried out across the constituency, through last year's Transport Survey and the conversations I have time and time again, it's clear that more people would take the bus if bus services were better – better in terms of cost, frequency and local connections.

As someone who has grown up, lives and works here, I know that a bus system that serves and supports our communities, particularly in rural areas would be the most viable public transport alternative, alongside a network that links bus and train services.

I'll be following up last summer's survey in communities this summer, alongside sharing key findings. I've already written to both Flintshire County Council and the Welsh Government to raise key and common points that constituents shared with me and I am really pleased to see the Welsh Government launch a new consultation that sets out proposals for 'buses as a public service for Wales'. The consultation sets out proposals for public transport bus services to better plan and grow the bus network, making sure it meets public needs and maximises the value we get for investment in bus services. Further details can be found here and I would encourage as many people as possible to respond:

<https://gov.wales/one-network-one-timetable-one-ticket-planning-buses-public-service-wales> The consultation will close on 24th June 2022.

I will continue to keep constituents updated on my work as your member of the Senedd through my regular columns and social media. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me on 01352 762102 or by email Hannah.blythyn@senedd.wales

CARMEL BOOK CLUB (Sally Brighton)

The most recent books discussed by our group, though greatly contrasting, are both prize winners, and set against backcloths that are both historical and clearly depicted. Both are 'debut novels' for the writers.

'The Familiars' by Stacey Halls is set in times when witchcraft was both feared and revered and features the Pendle witch trials at its core. It drew a mixed reaction from our group. Kath Williams, one of our number reports that she quite enjoyed the book and found the period in history, fascinating, if cruel and gruesome. Fleetwood, the 'Lady

of the Hall' and the central character, she found forthright, brave and wilful, unusual for her times. The plot of the story is built around Fleetwood's desire to provide an heir for her husband following a series of miscarriages, and tells of Fleetwood's close bond with professed midwife, Alice, who although considered not of Fleetwood's breeding, is able to form a relationship of mutual trust and give her the confidence to approach her next pregnancy. A mysterious letter has made Fleetwood believe that she is not destined to survive another birth. This book was featured as a Sunday Times best seller, as well as a Richard and Judy 'Pick'.

Our April debut novel, 'Shuggie Bain' by Douglas Stuart, won the honour of 'The Booker Prize' in 2020. Some of the book critics of the time were somewhat surprised at its choice as such, and, indeed, from our group it won very mixed reactions. Set in Glasgow at the time when Margaret Thatcher had closed down the mines, it centres around a family trying to survive without their father, Shug, who has walked out, their mother Agnes, a rampant alcoholic, and Catherine, Leek and Shuggie, the three children who try to keep the family together, against all odds. A grim scene indeed but written realistically and well including elements of Glaswegian dialect, some of our group found it so depressing that they 'fell at the first fence' in quest of something lighter. Those of us who persevered however, felt it was both well written and moving, and the character of Shuggie, the last of the children who remains 'in post', guarding his mother against her own ills, despite being dubbed by all as 'no right', comes out heartrendingly strongly and to some, even hauntingly.

CLWB CERDDED WALKING CLUB



Ffurfiwyd y Clwb CerdDED er mwyn i ni gael cyfle i sgwrsio yn Gymraeg wrth gyd-gerdded. Mae croeso i ddysgwyr ond gofynnir iddynt fod yn eitha' rhugl er mwyn iddynt fedru mwynhau sgwrsio a'u cyd-gerddwyr a deall hanes y daith ar y ffordd.

The Clwb CerdDED was founded about two years ago and set up to provide an opportunity for Welsh speakers and learners to enjoy a walk whilst chatting in Welsh. We meet on the first Friday of the month and usually the walks are fairly local in Flintshire and are less than 5 miles in duration. A different leader is in charge of organising and leading the walk each month. If you would like more details then please contact Enys Evans on 01352 720 975.

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YSGOL Y LLAN VA PRIMARY SCHOOL, WHITFORD

Headteacher, Mr Bryan Griffiths – It has been so busy in school lately and the days are flying by. As always, it's a pleasure to walk around our lovely school and find out what everyone is getting up to. With the weather turning for the better, it has been wonderful to see the outdoors being utilised even more than usual.

I can't thank the staff enough for the wonderful opportunities that they provide our children with and I'm extremely proud of how hardworking and respectful the children are. We soon have a whole school trip to Chester Zoo to look forward to and this is simply going to be a treat for everyone, for all of the hard work that everyone puts in – it's a real team effort here in Whitford. Even the secretary and I are going to join in for this trip!

This term, it has been wonderful to come back together as a whole school. We have enjoyed whole school assemblies in the hall and we have even gone back to our weekly Church service. We take so many things for granted in life and only now are we realising how much we had going before the pandemic. The hymn singing certainly lifts our spirits and brightens up the dullest of days.



Below are a few things that our classes have been up to lately:

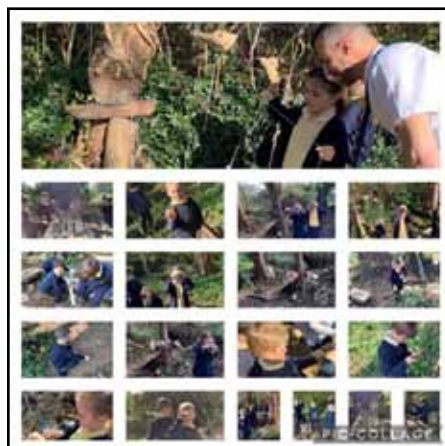
Dosbarth 1 – Mrs Hughes



Over the last couple of weeks, Dosbarth 1 have been enjoying spending a lot more time outdoors. They have been making smoothies to cool themselves down, made a minibus to take them to the zoo, painted their new outdoor frame and even had chance to have a paddle 'ar lan y mor'!

Dosbarth 2 – Miss Randall

This term Class 2 have been using



Welsh in the outdoors. They have created natural creatures and used 'Manylion Personol' to describe their creations!



As part of their Pirate topic this term, Dosbarth 2 are training to be pirates. Mor ladron Bendigedig!



Dosbarth 3 – Miss Roberts

Class 3 have been exploring animal in art. They used their favourite animal print as inspiration when designing their own animal print. These were printed onto bandanas that they are going to wear during their school trip to the zoo!

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Following on from work they have done about climate change and the importance of looking after our World, they linked up with our partnership school in India - The Little Kingdom, via zoom to share ways in which we can do our bit to help.

Class 3 are all looking forward to visiting the Urdd Eisteddfod during the half term break. They have researched the history of the Eisteddfod, created their own mini Eisteddfod tents and have taken part in the Urdd message of peace and goodwill.

Will from Technocamps came in to school to lead a workshop all about 'Extreme Earth'. The children worked collaboratively to build structures using small sticks and jelly sweets! These were put through the test of an earthquake machine! Luckily all of the structures were strong enough to withhold any earthquake damage!

Dosbarth 4 – Mr Thomas

Class 4 have done lots of exciting things recently. In the past couple of weeks, they have had various workshops. Techniquet came into school and delivered sessions on computational thinking and Edison robots which were very engaging. The class thoroughly enjoyed learning about various aspects of computational thinking and then had a go at programming the Edison robots.

HSBC have also visited and delivered a session about financial education. The



class also had Health & Wellbeing sessions delivered by the Urdd and Aura. The Urdd carried out some outdoor learning sessions focusing on team building, problem solving whilst developing the learner's spoken Welsh. Aura came in and did a tennis skill festival with both Dosbarth 3 & 4.



In addition to this, half of the class attended a football tournament at Ysgol Treffynnon. The team lost two games, won one and drew one. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and the learners who attended were a credit to the school.

In class, the children have been learning about modern day conflict in Europe for our topic. As part of the new curriculum for Wales, one of the four purposes is to develop ethically, informed citizens. I wanted the class to develop their knowledge about World War II, what happened afterwards during the Cold War and how it is relevant to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The learners have developed

an understanding of the different political ideologies which contributed towards the Cold War and how the collapse of the USSR occurred. They have looked at the devastating effects of the war in Ukraine and how the impacts are affecting countries globally. The learners have applied their knowledge in a non-chronological report. They have demonstrated that they are ambitious, capable learners who are ethically informed citizens.

After half term, our wonderful Year 6 learners will enter their final term at Ysgol y Llan before departing for High school. Hopefully we will give them the send-off that they deserve.

Staff training day



All staff enjoying a fabulous training day in the outdoor environment. Some of the day was spent clearing our Goedwig / Forest Area and ensuring that it was fit for use whilst the remaining part of the day was spent with Polly from North Wales Outdoor Learning. Staff took part in many outdoor activities, had valuable training on the environment around them and picked up many ideas in order to effectively use the outdoors.



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SIAWNS AM SGWRS – 'CHANCE FOR A CHAT' (Enys Evans)

During lockdown, I founded Siawns am Sgwrs – 'Chance for a Chat', a friendly and informal space for Welsh learners to practice using their Welsh with other like-minded people. I have always had the greatest respect for anyone who takes the time and effort to learn our language, and it is so heart-warming to know that others find worth in it as part of Wales's culture and heritage. Living in a county, so close to the border with England, it is no surprise that it is very difficult to find the opportunity for Welsh learners to practice speaking Welsh. We don't teach Welsh, so ask that any new members are relatively comfortable holding a conversation. At the moment we meet in Capel Bethel Caerwys, on the first and third Sundays of the month, where we enjoy some relaxed and lively conversations.

If you would like to know more about our group then please contact me Enys Evans, on 07778 288 156.

For those interested in learning Welsh please see some handy links below.

<https://www.saysomethingin.com/welsh>
<https://www.duolingo.com/course/cy/en/Learn-Welsh>
<https://www.popethcymraeg.cymru/index.php/en/>

Cofion,
Enys Evans

COMMENTS

I started learning Welsh when I came back to live locally as I hadn't learned any at school. For me it was like going through the wardrobe into Narnia, because it was as if there was a different world existing alongside the world I knew and that it had been there all the time, but I just hadn't realised. (Fiona Jelley)

Mary dw i, symudes i i Gymru yn 2011 achos ges Steve swydd newydd ym Mwcle.

Ro'n i'n meddwl taswn i'n byw mewn gwlad gwhanol baswn i'n dysgu yr iaith ond

ro'n i'n brysur efo gweithio, y teulu a'r ty. Ymddeoles i yn 2017 a ro'n i'n dal yn brysur. Ond yn 2018 syrthies i ar y rhew a torres fy mraich. Fedrwn i ddim gwneud llawer ond fedrwn i defnyddio'r cyfriador efo un llaw felly dechrecas i ddysgu cymraeg! Mwynheues i ddysgu'r iaith ac yn fuan ro'n i'n dysgu am y diwilliant a'r hanes cymru. Wedyn ro'n i'n isio dysgu mwy. Ond dach chi'n dysgu iaith i ddefnyddio'r iaith felly mae hi'n bysig iawn i gael y cyfle i siarad yr iaith, dan ni'n lwcus iawn iawn i gael y gwrp sgwrs yn yr ardal ble dan ni'n siarad a dysgwyr eraill a siaradwyr iaith cyntaf. Diolch yn fawr i'r bobl sy'n dod i gyfnogi ni ddefnyddio ein cymraeg. Mae pawb yn gyfeillgar iawn, dan ni'n cael hwyl siarad am bethau gwahanol a does dim ots os dach chi'n gwneud camgymeriadau. Os dach chi isio siarad cymraeg medrech chi ymuno ni! (Mary Atthews)

Roedd yn amser maith yn ôl pan ddechreuais i ddysgu "iaith y nefoeddi!"

Roedden ni'n byw yng Nghaerwys ar y pryd ac roedd ein merch hynaf Bethan wedi dechrau mynychu Ysgol Gwenffrwd. Ro'n i adre tryw'r dydd efo'r plant iau (Carys ac Elen) ac yn barod i fabwysiadu hobi newydd. Cefais gyfle i ymuno â dosbarth nos yn Ysgol Gwenffrwd, felly es i amdani 'n frwdfryddig, yn gwrando ar radio Cymru tra roeddwn yn coginio, yn gwylio Pobl y Cwm tra roeddwn yn smwthio ayyb! I ddechrau ro'n i'n hapus i ddeall gair neu ddau yma ac acw, ond dipyn o ddipyn dechreuodd y geiriau ffitio efo'u gilydd i ffurfio brawddegau, ac mewn amser (ac ar ôl cryn dipyn o waed, chwys a dagrau!) ro'n i'n barod i "groesi'r bont".

Syrthiais mewn cariad â'r iaith a mwynheais y profiad o ddysgu siarad Cymraeg yn fawr, er mae rhaid i mi gyfaddu - wnes i ffeindio'r flwyddyn gyntaf yn eithaf anodd!

Cafodd y dosbarthiadau nos yn Ysgol Gwenffrwd (a wedyn yn Yr Wyddgrug) dylanwad enfawr arna i, a dw i mor

ddiolchgar am amynedd di-ddiwedd fy athrawon cyntaf (Gron a Nesta Elis, Moi Parry, Nia Royles a Glenys Garland i enwau rhai ohono nhw).

Bu ffrindiau a thrigolion Caerwys hefyd yn andros o help yn y dyddiau cynnar hynny, yn fodlon siarad i mi'n ara' deg ac yn esbonio pethau newydd - mae mor pwysig defnyddio'r iaith tu allan o'r gwrs wythnosol!

Hedfanodd y blynyddoedd heibio, tyfodd y plant, ac yn sydyn, mewn chwinciad llygad, ro'n i wedi ymddeol. Efo mwy o amser i'w sbario, (seibiant i chwerthin - does 'na ddim llawer o amser sbar efo tri o wyrion i warchod!) ro'n i wrth fy modd i ddarganfod grwp newydd yn cyfarfod yng Nghaerwys - Siawns am Sgwrs.

Dw i mor ddiolchgar i bawb sydd yn cyfranu i'n grwp bach newydd - mae'r cyfarfodydd wastad yn hwylus a chyfeillgar. Os dach chi eisiau ymarfer eich Cymraeg mae croeso cynnes i chi i gyd! (Kath Royles)

I have lived in Wales for seventeen years. My grandmother came from this area but left with her family when she was a child as her father went to England to find work, so I felt some sort of connection with North Wales but knew very little about the language and culture. Very quickly after moving here I decided to learn Welsh. I remember someone telling me when I first started that there was no need to learn Welsh. "Everyone speaks English. I don't know why you are even trying. And no English person ever really learns to speak well enough to use it." I took no notice. It seemed to me that I would not dream of living in any country with a language of its own without learning at least some of that language. So I started and so many years on, I am still learning! I really cannot imagine living here without having at least some Welsh. I would miss so much in terms of understanding the history and culture of the place. One problem I have had though

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as I have learnt has been having the chance to practice. My neighbour was right in one way. Everyone does speak English and when you are a learner it feels almost embarrassing to make a Welsh speaker wade through a conversation with you in your basic error strewn Welsh when it would be easier for both of you to speak English! This is where the "Sgwrs" or conversation group set up by Enys Evans is so brilliant. There are always two Welsh speakers along with three or four learners, or more. The whole aim of the group is to chat in Welsh. It is not a class (and after so many years of learning I am still going to a class!) it is just chat. Because the Welsh speakers change from session to session you get to hear different accents and to discover that, for example, the local accent is easier for me to understand than the accents of those who come from further west! I never knew that! The group is friendly and easy going. If you want to throw in an English word to keep the conversation going no one bats an eyelid. It is just a really enjoyable hour or so. I have made new friends, both other Welsh learners and from the Welsh speakers who help. Most important of all, the group makes me appreciate that I am a Welsh speaker. I may still be a learner and I suspect there will always be more to learn but I am, right now, a Welsh speaker and that feels really good. Thank you to all who give their time to this. It really is great! (Elizabeth Musgrave)

CRAFT CLASS (Mrs. Pauline Gibson)



Introducing Mrs. Averil Woodfine, a valued member of our Tuesday afternoon craft classes held in Carmel Village Hall. Averil has knitted and sewn the clothes for this magnificent teddy. We welcome new members who would like to knit, sew, crochet or just join us for tea, coffee or chat every Tuesday afternoon, 2-4 pm.

FIVE VILLAGES GARDENING CLUB (Isabel Burnage)

Our 2022 programme started in February with Gardeners' Question Time with Carole Madden in the Chair. There was a variety of questions asked on such topics as compost, azaleas, hydrangeas, snowdrops and when to cut back clematis. All were answered fully and created lively discussions. The competition, which was a table arrangement, was won by Janet Tattum.

On 3rd March, starting at 2pm, there was a change of speaker and we welcomed David Hollis who gave an interesting, illustrated talk on the Wild Orchids of the UK. He judged our competition, three hellebores from member's garden and Terry Jones was the winner. On 7th April, starting at 2pm, we welcomed Jan Miller-Klein who gave a thoughtful talk on Gardening for Wildlife. She gave information on the concerns to insects and bees, particularly bees that their habitats are under threat. Our gardens can become wildlife havens and Jan gave us ideas on the plants that attract insects and bees. She also brought along plants for sale from her own garden that attract wildlife. In judging the competition Veronica Turner won with her Vase of Spring Flowers which were judged to be ideal for insects and bees.

In May a Plant Sale was held in Ann Brown's garden as Carmel Village Hall was

being used for the Election. The weather was warm and sunny so all enjoyed sitting in the garden for refreshments after members had bought plants. £55.00 was raised for club funds. Thank you to Ann for making us most welcome.

On 2nd June, to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee there is to be a barbecue in Christine and Roy's garden.

On Thursday 7th July a coach trip is being arranged to visit RHS Bridgewater, Salford. The cost for this is £18.50 for non members of RHS and £10 for members of RHS. The coach will leave Carmel Village Hall at 9.45am. Journey time around 1 hour 20 minutes. If you are interested in joining us please contact David Hughes on 01352 712243 for further details.

Programme for the rest of the year 2022:

4th August, our Annual Mini Show
1st September, a visit to Pottles Nursery in Gorsedd followed by afternoon tea
6th October when Malc Mollart will give an illustrated talk on 'Designing an Atmosphere'.

3rd November is our AGM

Club meetings are normally held the first Thursday of the month in Carmel Village Hall at 2pm. In August the meeting starts at 7.30pm as this is when we have our annual Mini Show.

New members are always welcome. For further information please contact the Secretary on 01352 716273.

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SPRING IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

| Weather in the Five Villages Spring 2022 (2021 figures in brackets) | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| | Temperatures °C | | | Total rainfall mm |
| | Average | Maximum | Minimum | |
| March | 8.8 (8.1) | 19.5 (19.1) | -3.0 (-1.3) | 29.7 (30.0) |
| April | 11.4 (10.0) | 22 (20.5) | -0.9 (-1.5) | 26.7 (9.9) |
| May | 14.9 (12.7) | 21.6 (24.0) | 5.3 (-0.5) | 22.1 (131.1) |

| Spring averages 2001 - 2020 and 2022 | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------|
| | Average 2001 - 2020 | 2022 |
| Air Temperature 1800 UTC | 10.4 | 11.7 |
| Maximum Temperature | 20.3 | 21.0 |
| Minimum Temperature | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| Days air frost | 2 | 3 |
| Days ground frost | 9 | 6 |

the second week of April that they picked up again. May was warmer with 1800 UTC temperatures in the mid-teens, with five days in the middle of the month with maximum temperatures above 20 degrees. At the of the month temperatures fell just below 10 degrees, with a wind chill making it feel slightly colder. Spring seemed a very dry season and many of us were out with garden hoses. In fact, the rainfall was above the local 20-year average. The rainfall was fairly evenly distributed between the three months of Spring. April began with heavy rain from the 4th to the 7th. In fact, most of April's rain fell before the end of the second week of the month, so April *felt* very dry. On the afternoon of 16th May we had some thunder passing north from St Asaph to Hoylake. We might expect more thunder in the future because recent research has suggested that northern Europe can expect increased rainfall - while the countries around the Mediterranean become increasingly dry.

As we would expect, the ground warmed throughout Spring from around 6 degrees at the beginning of March to 13 degrees at the of May. The latter part of May was also notable for blue skies and, from time to time, very good visibility. On the evening of the 31st Blackpool Tower was clearly visible as were a line of magnificent cumulus clouds over south-west Lancashire, stretching out over the Irish Sea.

There is no satellite picture for this quarter. I lost signal early in the season and the engineer has struggled to restore the service, but so far without success.

In mid-May I attended a lecture on Reginald Sutcliffe, given by his biographer, who described Sutcliffe as the inventor of modern weather systems science*. Sutcliffe was born in Wrexham, studied at Leeds and Bangor universities, he was the recipient of many awards and became a Fellow of the Royal Society. Sutcliffe's early interests were not in weather but mathematics. He solved a series of complex mathematic problems in atmospheric dynamics and his work became and remains a major element in modern weather forecasting systems. In the war Sutcliffe served in the RAF as a meteorologist, his 1939 book *Meteorology for aviators* published by HMSO was the first such handbook, published just in time for wartime pilots and used later by civilian pilots. *Meteorology for aviators* remained in print until the early 1950s. Sutcliffe is buried, with this wife Evelyn, in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Halkyn. Evelyn was the daughter of a local Calvinistic Methodist Minister.

Weather observing has been somewhat curtailed by the lack of satellite imagery, but I hope readers will be interested in this local story of a major figure in meteorology.

Before the next issue I hope summaries of the weather in Carmel for the Whole period 2001 to 2020 will be available in Holywell library and the county archives.

*Jonathan E. Martin: *Reginald Sutcliffe and the invention of modern weather systems science* (Purdue University Press 2021). You can view the lecture at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buclG1oL7ao>

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).

On the whole it has been a quiet Spring. The second half of March was very warm, almost summery, but the temperatures measured at 1800 UTC daily dropped quite sharply from around 12 or 13 degrees to 5 or 6 degrees at the end of the month. It was only in



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SUMMER FUN AT AURA LIBRARIES!

(Paula Jones)

SPORTING MEMORIES

Do you, or someone you know, love talking about or sharing memories of sporting moments, greatest sporting champions and events or sporting disasters! Join us at Holywell Library and Flint Library for this free session meet new friends and share your sporting memories. Please contact Holywell Library 01352 703850 or Flint Library 01352 70373 for further information.

JOB CLUBS

Would you like support to search for employment, help to get back into work, opportunities to learn new skills and career advice? We have the place for you! Aura Libraries in partnership with Communities for Work are providing support through job clubs at:

Deeside Library Monday 1.30pm to 3.00pm

Holywell Library Thursday 1.30pm to 3.00pm

Email cfwtriage@flintshire.gov.uk or contact the Deeside library 01352 703770 or Holywell Library 01352 703850 for further information.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Discover your family history, trace your ancestry and build a family tree with the support of Aura Libraries. As a library customer you have free access to Ancestry UK and Find My Past and family history sessions are available at Deeside library every Thursday 2.30pm -3.30pm and Mold Library on 2nd Tuesday of every month for further information contact your local library or email libraries@aura.wales

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2022

We are excited to reveal the theme for the Summer Reading Challenge for 2022 will be Gadgeteers!

Get ready to join up at your local library this Summer and experience the Science all around you! Aura Libraries are teaming up with Mad Science and will be holding 'Mad Science' workshops over the Summer in your local library

Monday 22nd August Flint Library - CH6 5AP (10am)
and then Holywell Library- CH8 7UZ (2pm)

Keep a look out for more activities and events taking place across Aura libraries this Summer, if you would like to attend the 'Mad Science' workshop please contact your local library or email libraries@aura.wales

AURA LIBRARIES - DIGITAL LOAN SCHEME

Aura Leisure and Libraries customers without online access can benefit from our new Digital Loan Scheme. Funded by Flintshire County Council through Welsh Government's Community Transformation fund, the scheme will allow you to borrow a device FREE OF CHARGE to enable you to discover and understand the positive changes that can be made to your life through being online.

As part of this scheme we can loan you a Samsung Galaxy Tab 7 tablet and accessories including:

Charger

Case

4G Wifi (If you do not have internet access at home)

These can be used to:

Access our online services, including free eBooks and eAudiobooks

Access resources to promote health and wellbeing including online activities/services (e.g. consultations with health professionals, NHS 111 Symptom checker, Public Health Wales 'How are you doing' wellbeing resources, DEWIS Cymru wellbeing information and advice)

Build digital skills and confidence to access goods and services online (e.g. shopping, banking, council services)

Keep in touch with friends and family (e.g. video calling)

ACCESS TRAINING

Try before you buy (devices will be available to purchase at the end of the loan). We also provide free training for customers who are not very confident about using the tablet, including either:

Group sessions - six-week free digital training course which

covers basic use to navigating the internet. This is also great opportunity to meet new friends.

In Branch: Our staff will be able to give basic guidance to help you use the device in your local library.

Home tuition – Our Home Library Service customers can be given basic guidance to use the device.

Online – If you prefer to learn at home on your own you can access training via the Learn My Way training programme.

Coleg Cambria - Signposting to Coleg Cambria Digital tablet 10-week community course.

The tablets are free to loan, however participants must agree to the Terms and Conditions of the loan and complete a questionnaire at the beginning and end of the loan period (3 months).

If you are interested in borrowing one of these devices please call into your local Aura Library

Email: libraries@aura.wales Call: Paula Jones 01352 704400

AGE AND DEMENTIA FRIENDLY HOLYWELL COMMUNITY GROUP

(Paula Jones)

Come and join us at the following groups:-

Bagillt Community Café – 4th Friday of each month 12.15 – 2.30pm
The Boot and Ship, Bagillt.

A friendly and welcoming group where everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

Holywell Sing along – 2nd Friday of each month 10.00 – 12.00 noon
St. Peter's Church, Rose Hill, Holywell.

Sing along, chat and make friends.

£3.00 entrance free to include refreshments.

Age and Dementia Friendly Holywell are looking for new members to join the group to work towards Holywell Community being dementia friendly, we meet once a month and would welcome more members. For further information please contact Paula Jones 01352 704400.



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USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS WAITING FOR KNEE OR HIP SURGERY (Helen Rogers)

NHS waiting lists are getting longer for patients awaiting knee or hip replacement surgery. There are over 500,000 patients currently requiring orthopaedic surgery alone. Waiting times for trauma and orthopaedic surgery (including hip and knee replacements) were already rising before the pandemic. COVID-19 has accelerated this trend. While some hospital authorities have been actively supporting patients waiting for surgery, sadly, this is not the case everywhere, leading to concern and frustration at a lack of information. When people want to be proactive in taking charge of their health, they are disappointed by long waiting times and the associated uncertainty exacerbates emotional distress, particularly if they feel they have been forgotten or not supported.

KEEPING ACTIVE AND WELL



It is important for the patient to stay both physically and mentally healthy while they wait for their surgery as this will help them get the best results from their treatment in the long term. There are many online tools and resources available to help them keep active and to support their mental health. Some specific treatments that might help patients include:

PAIN MEDICATION AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORIES

Painkillers and anti-inflammatories can help significantly in terms of allowing people to cope with their daily activities, remain mobile and getting a good night's sleep. Use of any pain relief medication should be carefully controlled. Steroid injections can help to ease the pain of osteoarthritis, but the likelihood of a steroid injection working can be highly variable depending on the damage to the knee or hip. Steroids also mask a patient's symptoms but without addressing the actual underlying cause of the symptoms, thus fooling the patient into thinking that their knee or hip is better, when it is not resulting in further damage occurring to the joint.

Physical therapy such as physiotherapy

or chiropractic are recommended by NICE as part of the treatment pathway for knee and hip arthritis. Appropriate treatment prior to surgery can improve a patient's mobility and build strength and fitness levels and increasing the likelihood of a successful outcome from the replacement joint surgery.

Non-impact cardio fitness exercise: Exercise programmes can be helpful providing the patient with specific exercises and hands-on supervised guidance. Cardio fitness exercise is something the patient can do for themselves. The best exercises for patients with arthritis are those that are light and gentle on the joints such as walking, cycling and swimming. Performing regular cardio exercise causes the body to produce endorphins helping to raise the patient's natural pain threshold.

IN SUMMARY

With NHS waiting lists for knee and hip replacement surgery getting longer, there will be a greater need for patients to consider alternative treatment options in order to delay the need for surgery, to help them cope while waiting for surgery and to ensure that they are in the best possible shape when they undergo their operation.

USEFUL LINKS

www.whileyouwait.org Provides additional information, support and resources to help patients while they are waiting for hospital care.

www.escape-pain.org Provides a group rehabilitation programme for people with chronic joint pain that integrates educational self-management and coping strategies with an individualized exercise regimen.

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

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