



THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE

CRONICL Y PUM PENTREF

ISSUE NO. 143
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AUTUMN (SEPTEMBER) 2022
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EDITORIAL

(Terry Ireland)

DRESS THEM ALL IN GREEN

If you read history books and consider the role played by men and women in society and politics, it is amazing how little interest or credit has been given to women through the ages. Wander around a big city and look at statues on public display and few if any show figures of women. This year we, or most of us, have been happy to see the England women's football team win the European Cup. Ironically, in 1921 the England Football Association decided that women should be banned from playing professional football despite the popularity and high attendances at women's football matches. It took until 1970 to revoke the ruling.

It is equally surprising that despite many girls achieving excellent A-level grades, few before 1960 were able to attend universities. Today, girls are often achieving higher grades than boys and consequently 50% of university places are granted to women. In medicine too, although formerly many women were admitted to nursing and other medical disciplines such as physiotherapy, few became doctors or surgeons. Now slightly more than 50% of doctors are women. It would appear fortunate that this is so, for research at the highest level by women discovered the Covid-19 vaccines to which many of us owe our lives. It was Professor Dame Sarah Gilbert from the University of Oxford who led the small research team that developed the AstraZeneca vaccine now protecting many people across the world. However, great credit also goes to Dame Kate Bingham, who was appointed chair of the Vaccine Task Force and commanded the incredibly successful vaccine distribution campaign throughout the UK.

By nature, many women are conscientious, caring and well organised readily understandable that as mothers they have evolved systems to look after their children, often extending this care to a lifetime's undertaking. In many European countries today, women and men are allowed to take six months parental leave following the birth of a child. Normally, the woman will take the first six months and then the man the following six months. It is often a well-received privilege by young fathers who are then directly involved in the welfare of their new-born child, sometimes a challenging but rewarding bonding experience. It would be a real step forward for parents and their children if this could be adopted in the UK. At present, British fathers are only granted two weeks.

COVER PICTURE

This photo, taken by Steven Jones, shows part of St. Paul's Church in Gorsedd.

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How strange it is that countries needing to obtain a more balanced age distribution in their population make parenthood, and especially motherhood, so difficult and expensive. As this piece is being written, 193 nurseries are closing because of the challenging future heating costs and the shortage of trained child carers. Many young people today are finding child care more expensive than the cost of buying their home.

During the First and Second World Wars, women in Britain played a crucial role in keeping the national economy working, even being employed in heavy manual work in factories, transport and agriculture. Today it is accepted that women play vital roles in the police, fire service and ambulance services.

Ruefully perhaps male football supporters admitted that the performance of the Lionesses was last equalled by men in 1966. The greatest thing about the success of the Lionesses should be the realization that women can undertake any role if they are encouraged; there must be dozens of young girls who are thinking 'why not me?' Today even a highly conservative organization like the Royal Navy has women captains. It is sad that even well into the millennium that pink and blue thinking is still reflected in babies' clothes. Dress them all in green and admit we can all achieve. All of us must really regret what is happening to the women of Afghanistan where girls are forbidden secondary education.

Hair and nails



By Sam

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

**TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN
WALES – 2022 ELECTIONS:**

Following an uncontested election for the Whitford Community Council, the following candidates have been elected as Whitford Community Councillors:

Tim Barks; Chris Dolphin; Richard Dolphin; Matthew Foster; Billy Glynn; Sharon James; Caradoc W. Jones; Matthew J. Marshall; Paul Urquhart; Emma Warbrick. The following were co-opted to the Council: Gareth Sharp and Melanie Wallis.

At the May Council meeting, Councillor Billy Glynn was elected as Chair of Council, with Councillor Richard Dolphin as Vice Chair.

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 - 1 x Criminal damage / 1 x theft / 11 x Violence

Gorsedd - 1 x Criminal damage / 1 x Public order / 2 x Violence

Lloc – 1 x Anti-social behaviour / 2 x Shop lifting (Junction 31 - A55 Services area) / 1 x Theft

Whitford - 1 x Burglary



*Councillor Billy Glynn (Pantasaph)
Chair of Council – 2022 / 2023*

WHITFORD PLAY AREA:

The Community Council have formally agreed to match fund a project with Flintshire County Council (Aura Leisure) to upgrade the Whitford Children's play area, at a cost of £20,000.00. The Community Council will fund £10,000.00. The project will be completed later this year.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Since the commencement of the pandemic the Community Council have held their meetings virtually. From September face to face meetings will recommence in St. Paul's Church, Gorsedd. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.00pm (No meetings held in August and December). Whilst residents of the Council area are welcome to attend Council



*Councillor Richard Dolphin (Carmel)
Vice Chair of Council – 2022 / 2023*

meetings, there will also be facilities for both residents and press to attend remotely. Details as to this facility can be found on the monthly agenda that can be located on the Council's web site – as below or contact the Clerk direct.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:

The following concerns were reported to Council by a resident: (1) No 30mph signage throughout the 0.7 miles on the B5026 through Lloc, only at the entry points of the 30mph. The signage is old and faded, the tarmac is in similar condition. The signage should be improved along the stretch, with emphasis of the 30mph travelling west at the top of the hill / dip, this would allow people crossing the road at the pedestrian point a safer passage as vehicles do speed up excessively (2) Pedestrian safety. The entire length of the

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'bottom end' of Lloc requires maintenance, the paths are narrow due to overgrowth, the hedge line on Dyserth Road, travelling downhill towards Misty Waters protrudes into the road (County Councillor Chris Dolphin agreed to meet with the resident and discuss the concerns with Flintshire Highways).

BIODIVERSITY:

Flintshire County Council created a wildflower area on the grass bank between Ocean View Estate in Carmel and the A5026 Road in Carmel. Whilst the County are seeking other areas for biodiversity projects, a Records Day has been arranged in the Pen Y Gelli Quarry, Lloc. This event will be facilitated by Cofnod (North Wales Environmental Information Services).

Following a request from a resident in Lloc made through the Community Council, Flintshire have received funding for the restoration of a pond which will enable the area to retain its valuable wildlife. The work will take place during the autumn and winter - as per pond management best practice - and measures will be taken with regards to protected species which may use the site.

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

(1) Monastery Road in Pantasaph. The road surface is breaking up in two areas – between St. Clare's Court and the Red Phone Box (2) Whitford Road – travelling from Holway. The edges of the roadway are crumbling (3) Waen Bends. Grass verges require cutting back (4) Monastery Road, Pantasaph. Pot hole near The Pines (5) Babell Road – brow of Hill near the new footpath – pot hole (6) Carmel Hill – A number of pot holes (could the whole length of this road be inspected) (7) Penfforddilan Road – road surface breaking up (8) General concerns in the Whitford village area. The main road through the village requires sweeping and litter removal (9) Hedge running alongside the Glebe Field in Whitford is growing into the roadway (10) Increased amount of rubbish bearing the names of McDonald's, Greggs and Subway in the area roads surrounding these businesses (11) Overflowing bin at the top entrance to Pen Y Gelli Woods (12) Footpath on Monastery Road, Pantasaph: Requires strimming as nettles protruding onto footway (13) Footpath on Monastery Road, Pantasaph: Hedges protruding into footpath causing difficulty for pedestrians and perambulators (14) Whitford Village: Roadway through the Village requires sweeping further (15) Mertyn Lane, Carmel: Undergrowth entering roadway causing a danger to pedestrians by passing vehicles (16) Whitford Road, travelling from A5026 junction in Carmel: Overgrown

grass verges have reduced the width of the roadway, which causes difficulty for vehicles travelling in opposite directions and also pedestrians.

RED PHONE BOX IN PANTASAPH: (CRIMINAL DAMAGE)



Councillors were appalled to be made aware and be shown photographs of several panes of glass that has been broken on the red phone box in Pantasaph. The Phone box has recently been repainted and is awaiting planning permission for change of use, whereafter a defibrillator will be installed. There have been two instances of criminal damage, the first resulted in 6 broken panes and the second with 3.

Councillors request that residents in the area of the phone box could kindly be vigilant and report any suspicious

behaviour to the Police on 101 and also to the Clerk to Council – contact details as below.

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: 064304 – for the erection of new roof allowing additional living accommodation at first floor, extension to front of dwelling, provision of pitched roof to garage and Juliet balcony to the rear, at Kingsway, Gorsedd (2) Application number: 064259 – for the erection of a new standalone building to provide early years and wraparound childcare facility, with additional site improvement works, at Ysgol Y Llan Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School, Whitford (3) Application number: 064471 – for extension to existing double garage to create triple garage, at Moorfield House, Babell Road, Pantasaph (4) Application number: 064333 – for infill extension to rear of property, alterations to exterior hard landscaping to provide level access from parking area to back door and onto rear patio area, at Ael y Bryn, Carmel Road, Carmel (5) Application number: FUL/000064/22 – for demolition of former Halfway House & replacement with two detached dwellings, associated parking & residential amenity, at Halfway House, Allt Y Golch, Carmel (6) Application number: FUL/000021/22 – for the erection of a dormer bungalow, at 1 Mwdwl Eithin Cottages, Carmel (7) Application number: Ful/000106/22 – for proposed demolition of

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existing garages and the building of a new garage/workshop (for personal use only) at 2, Garreg Cottage, Gelli Road, Trelogan (8) Application number: 064471 – for proposed extension to existing double garage to create triple garage, at Moorfield House, Babell Road, Pantasaph (9) Application number: LDC/000110/22 – for static caravan to be used as permanent residential dwelling, at Groesffordd Bach, Gelli Road, Lloc (10) Application number: FUL/000139/22 – for proposed extension at 15 Mertyn Lane, Carmel (11) Application number: FUL/000151/22 – for the siting of 29 steel containers in the existing garage yard, at Pen y Parc Garage, A5026 Road, Lloc (12) Application number: FUL/000177/22 – for retrospective application for siting of 2 static caravans for temporary period of two years, at Groesffordd Bach, Whitford (13) Application number: FUL/000178/22 – for proposed stables extension for private use with hardstanding proposed, at 1, Gelli Fawr, Whitford (14) Application number: FUL/000200/22 – for proposed erection of a single storey storage building, at Carmel & District Cricket Club, Pen Y Gelli, Lloc.

PLANNING DECISIONS:

The following planning decisions have been received from Flintshire County Council:

(1) Application number: 063816 – for demolition of garage and conservatory, proposed front porch / canopy, single storey side and rear extension, new replacement roof with loft conversion & side bathroom dormer – ridge height to match the existing ridge height, at Arnside, Gorsedd. Approved (2) Application number: 063899 – for a 2-storey side extension and first floor extension to existing dwelling house (Revised scheme following approval of permission number: 062679 on 29th April 2021, at Pen Y Gelli Fawr, Lloc. Approved (3) Application number: 063837 – for demolition of conservatory, replaced with two storey extension, at Lloc Mill, Lloc. Approved (4) Application number: 064283 – for proposed single storey side extension to North elevation to contain an additional bedroom and bathroom. Outside dimensions on plan to be 7m long by 5.15m wide with a pitched roof running North – South of ridge height no more than 4m, at The Meadows, Tan Y Lloc Lane, Lloc. Certificate of Conformity – Agreed (5) Application number: 063879 – for the erection of a front entrance porch, extension at rear & associated internal alterations, at Summer Breeze, Gorsedd. Approved (6) Application number: 059715 for proposed change of use of land to campsite for 8 glamping pods, including works to existing buildings to create office, reception, car ark, bicycle storage, guest drop off point and waste storage, at Bryn Cadw Farm, Llwyn Ifor Lane, Whitford. 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: £300.00 - Holywell Market Group (to support a monthly Holywell Market) / £350.00 - Carmel Women's Institute (annual grant).

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

CARMEL SUMMER PLAYSCHEME (Emma Warbrick)

The water slide was a great success!



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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.

Help please

I'm Sharon I live in Carmel and own four Siberian huskies (I have owned the breed for 26yrs). I'm appealing to local landowners, farmers to see if they can help me. I'm looking for a couple of interlinking fields that I could use 2 or 3 times a week to train my two dogs for the upcoming racing season. They will be attached to the quadbike and not loose. It's to get them fit and I need a couple of fields to practice commands.



I race them on a three wheeled rig in competition but want to use a quad for training for fitness. This is usually done early morning or evening when the temperatures are lower. I would need the fields probably from September until March depending on temperatures really as have to check temperatures and humidity before I run them. I want my dogs to be able to do what they enjoy and that is to work, so if anyone could please help me out I would be so grateful my contact number is 07955117910 thank you. I also need to get myself a trailer if anyone knows of one.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Gareth Williams who was ordained as a Deacon in St Asaph Cathedral back in July. Gareth will serve alongside Father Dominic in Holywell and Greenfield for the next three years whilst continuing to live in Pant-y-Wacco, Lloc. He takes up the position on a voluntary basis, giving a few hours a week around work and other commitments.

Contact: garethwilliams@cinw.org.uk

LETTER

Dear Five Villages Chronicle,

Although I have lived in Wrexham for many years, I am originally from Holywell, which will always be for me 'home'.

I first came across the *Five Village Chronicle* some years ago whilst visiting family in Caerwys. Then it was a newsletter of stapled paper with local news and information. I can well remember saying how interesting it was and I hoped it would continue.

On a recent visit to family in Carmel, I was given the latest issue. What a wonderful surprise, it was now a glossy magazine; but still with the same ideals, and still voluntary, and still free. This is sheer dedication, and that rare dedication must be surely recognised. Someone in the 5 villages should nominate the 'Five Villages Chronicle' for those who are responsible for them to be recognised. I wonder if the St David's Day Awards by the Senedd is still going.

I have enclosed a contribution if you wish to use it.

Wishing you every success

Ted McKay
Wrexham

PS – Be wary of contributions from Politicians; it may be self interest and not local interest.



CONGRATULATIONS



Colin and Ceri Fishwick (from Carmel) are pleased to announce the marriage of their youngest daughter Rebekah 'Becky' Fishwick to Mr Martin Finnie (from Bangor) on the 13th October 2021 at Llanrwst. It was a wonderful day. We wish them both every happiness for the future, now living in Manchester for work purposes although they frequently return to say hello!

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to our daughter Georgia May Davies of Ffordd Aelwyd, Carmel, who recently graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University with a First Class Honours degree in Sport Management. We are extremely proud of her achievement and wish her every success with her future career.

Paula & Tim Davies

CONGRATULATIONS



Colin and Ceri Fishwick are pleased to announce the marriage of their middle daughter Rachel Fishwick to Joel Gilbert (from Cosheston, Pembrokeshire) on the 13th April 2022 in Pembroke, Pembrokeshire. It was a treasured day making happy memories! Rachel and Joel currently live and work in Cardiff. We wish them a happy future together!

CARMEL WI NEWS (Jacqui Arstall)

We have all experienced a busy summer, especially our President, Liz Hawthorne. She along with other members enjoyed taking part in local activities and re-connecting with many of our neighbouring WI Groups.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Carmel WI were invited by the Village Hall to provide cakes and refreshments at their Jubilee Coffee Morning celebration.



Jubilee

This event was a great success and enjoyed by everyone. All monies went to the Carmel Village Hall funds.

Later in the day we held our WI monthly meeting and were happy to welcome Vicky from Vanilla Jewellery. Vicky gave us all an insight into her local handmade jewellery business and the opportunity to try out our creative skills. It was the perfect end to a memorable day.

ANGLESEY TRIP

Two of our members joined Mold WI on a day trip to Plas Newydd, Anglesey. En route the group visited the original WI hut at Llanfair PG, which was where the first WI in Britain was founded in 1915.

A great day was had by all, and it was good to mix again with fellow WI members.



Anglesey

WILLOW CRAFT WORKSHOP

A Willow Craft Workshop at St Deiniol's Church, Hawarden was attended by a couple of our members.

It was an informative and productive course which added to their crafting skills. The end result was a beautifully crafted willow tray.



Willow Craft



Willow Tray

THE 2022 NATIONAL FEDERATION WI ANNUAL MEETING. National Conference

This year the Annual meeting was held in Liverpool, and was attended by Liz and myself. It was my first experience of this event, and I was truly overwhelmed by the warmth, experience and enthusiasm generated by all speakers and attendees.

Ann Jones, NFWI Chair opened the meeting welcoming delegates and members, she spoke about the long history of WI campaigning, resilience, positivity and inclusivity.

Ann went on to welcome the conference speakers, including Sarah Clarke, the first female Black Rod in Parliament's 650-year history, and Kate Garbers, a tireless campaigner against the trafficking and modern slavery of women and girls.

It was an inspirational experience.



JULY 2022 MEMBERS MEETING

At Carmel WI July meeting our speaker was Elena Pasquale the founder of Omeda Crafts, who makes naturally home crafted toiletry products from her home. It was interesting to hear how 'Omeda' was named.... Elena's husband is Italian and referred to her products as 'homemeda'Omeda Crafts was born. We will all look more closely at labels of product content after her informative talk.

AUGUST 1ST 2022 - CARMEL WI FARM OUTING.

We do not have a member meeting in August. Normally we would have decided on a day trip. However due the cost of coach hire we had to think 'out of the box'.

Then, Pat our treasurer very kindly invited us all to experience an evening at her family farm in Afonwen. This was to include a tour of the farm, gardens and of course the animals. The highlight being her granddaughter Anna showing us her beautiful horses and her exceptional riding skills. Sadly, torrential rain forced us in doors where Anna gave us a very interesting and insightful account of the daily hard work needed to care for horses.

It really was a family affair. Jack, Pat's young grandson, cooked a delicious Italian meal from scratch, accompanied by home-made desserts and fruit punch and despite the inclement weather everyone had a wonderful evening.

AUTUMN EVENTS 2022

September 2022 meeting

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Our speaker will be Melanie Lathom from Chutney Cheer, who will demonstrate how to make homemade preserves.

October 2022 meeting

This is our Annual Guest and Birthday Night. We invite representatives from other local WI groups to join us.



This year we are being entertained by Backbeat, a local musical duo.

Carmel WI meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at Carmel Village Hall starting at 7.15pm.

New members are always very welcome.

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COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

Hello everyone, Sut mae pethau:

The Summer Playscheme has been taking place on the playing fields of Ysgol Bro Carmel 10.30hrs – 12.30hrs and at 2pm on the Glebe Field in Whitford during the school summer holidays. The playscheme has been a free facility available for 5- 12 years of aged children for the last 27 years, in conjunction with local Town and Community councils. Last year (2021) 2,779 children registered, and with the national pandemic in mind this playscheme was a chance for children to “play out” in unprecedented times.

PERSONAL GRANTS:

The County Council is the facilitator for many grants from Welsh and UK Governments, including a recent £6.99 million scheme. This grant provided £150 non repayable grant to eligible households in council tax bands A-D. Since April 2022, 43,837 payments of £150 have been paid out.

Now in addition to the £150, a Discretionary Cost of Living Support Scheme, is available to support other households considered to be in need, who were excluded from help before now. 7,759 further households now qualify for a £150 or £125 grant. If the County Council already has your bank details, you will receive payment directly from August 1st. From August 22nd a simple online registration is

available for new applications. Alternatively, if you wish to apply, contact the Revenues and Benefits service at the County Council.

Qualification includes Council tax bands A-D, Care Leavers, those with severe mental impairments and all student households, that were liable for, but exempt from the £150 award.

Bands E-I, Households with one adult and in receipt of Council Tax Single Person Discount (£125). Households in receipt of Council Tax Disabled Banding Reduction (£125).

Bands A-I, Households whose children are in receipt of Free School Meals as at Feb 2022.

UPDATES:

What's happening at Ysgol Bro Carmel? – the building works are for a new standalone building to provide early years and a wraparound facility. About 0.5 acres in size, single storey, 149 square metres with a hard surface play area to the rear. An archaeologist was recommended to be on site, as when the school was first built in 1959 a Roman inscribed lead ingot was found and is now in the National Museum of Wales. It is hoped that the same type of facility will be available at Ysgol y Llan, Whitford which like Carmel, was also successful in a County bid for funding.

The Maen Achwyfan junction to the Berthengam crossroads is to be resurfaced in this financial year. Once again, the bid locally for Carmel Hill and Allt y Golch in

Carmel have failed. I really do appreciate how rough the surface is on these two roads, I have used the twin “pushchair” test, its far bouncier for a baby or two than any vehicle. I have immediately contacted the Council to reaffirm further bids.

The wildflower planting adjacent the A5026 was a spectacular first year success. Work on the banks will start soon with next year's flowering display in mind. I have contributed to next year's list of possible new sites for wildflowers including areas in Carmel and Gorsedd The pond at Top y Lloc, is also to have winter work including tree lopping, removal and a clean-up of the pond itself. With ducks and moorhens visible on the pond it is doubtful newts are present.

The flectsi bus service has proven very popular, it's local, well priced and offers a more personal service. The service does not have a timetable or a strict route so once the driver knows where you are, they will try to come to your immediate location. The service is easy to book and covers the area of Holywell including east to Rhes y Cae and Nannerch and all western Flintshire including Caerwys, and up to Llanasa area. Ideal for booked doctors' appointments, shopping in Holywell, or having lunch out in the different villages, and of course visiting a friend. If you require a leaflet, contact me, or go online, or call 0300 234 0300.

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about the kerfuffle in the Buckley area concerning the implementation of 20mph without exception on all 30 mph roads. WG legislation will also at present change speed limits of 30mph to 20mph in all of Wales during 2023. The local authority (Flintshire) must work within the guidance and legislation provided by WG. Due to complaints by residents, users, and councillors in the Buckley area a review is also taking place. Therefore, it is likely an exceptions rule will be applied for different roads. For example, estate roads such as the Ocean View and the "Parks" in Carmel will become 20mph, however its probable that the main A5026 will remain 30mph. What about Carmel Road? What about Gorsedd? What about Dyserth Road, Lloc? and others. Strangely all our country lanes which are national speed limit of 60mph will remain the same. Letters please to the Editor, Five Villages Chronicle. Details are on the inside back page of this issue.

COUNCIL TAX:

It's only Summer and already, as normal, next year's county budget is of major concern. The funding formula used by Welsh Government (WG) is rooted way back in the 1980's and 1990's, long before devolution. The current approach has been in place since 2001/02. The formula should deliver an equitable, appropriate, and accurate distribution of revenue settlement funding to all local authorities in Wales, reflecting relative need. Various mechanisms are used to finalise the eventual settlement figure from WG, this in turn provides the gap for the council tax settlement. Just check your current council tax bill based on your band level to see your individual figures. Lobbying has been taken to a new level during the last 3 years, and we are assured WG are seriously reviewing the process and formula. The residents not just of Flintshire, but also some other local authorities cannot sustain year on year council tax rises of 3%, 4%, 5% plus. The work towards next year's council tax figure is indeed problematical, and the problem for Flintshire is still "rooted" in an out of date, non-progressive formula. We are always going to be in the bottom 4, along with Monmouthshire, Vale of Glamorgan and the big city, Cardiff.

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, e-bost 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!!!

GORSEDD CHURCH LADIES GUILD (Wendy Erasmus)

The Guild has continued to 'wake up' after the Covid restrictions. In May we enjoyed a visit to the Glasfryn Art Gallery in Caerwys with afternoon tea at 'On The Corner'. In June, to mark the opening of the newly re-ordered St Paul's Church, Rev Kathryn Evans gave a talk on her experiences in the Ministry. In July the Guild met for afternoon tea in the garden of Bryneithin, the home of Wendy and Peter. The weather was not quite as hot as last year's 'scorcher' but the gazebos were none the less welcome. Refreshments were much enjoyed and were provided by Margaret's Quality Catering of Gorsedd.

The Guild programme for the Autumn is:
Sept 7th, Wednesday at 2.30pm - Amusing Poetry Readings by Steve Blakely, Rhesycae

Oct 4th, Tuesday at 2.30pm - Flower Arranging by Jackie Williams, Mostyn

Nov 2nd, Wednesday at 2.30pm - Life of an Actress by Jenny Goldsmith, Caerwys

Dec 7th Wednesday - Christmas Lunch



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SENIOR TEAMS

Carmel's First XI has enjoyed a successful and competitive season in North Wales League Division 2. The team is currently in fifth place in the league table and looks set for a top five finish. Under the leadership of captain Ben Sim, the team has played some exciting cricket this season and has taken part in a number of close and enthralling games.



Ieuan Jones bowling for Carmel First XI

There have been some notable individual performances, including half centuries for Dan Sim and Ieuan Jones in the victory over Gresford Second XI at the end of July, and the first wicket partnership of 82 between Gwion Dafydd (72 runs) and Danny Owens (43 runs) in the win against Mold Second XI. The game against Bersham First XI at Pen-y-Gelli was probably the most exciting of the season, as Carmel chased down a runs total of 189 and managed to win the game in the final over. Carmel bowler

Derick Johnson took five wickets for 13 runs in this memorable game, edging him to closer to the landmark of 500 wickets for the club. Carmel's victory against previously unbeaten Bethesda on 13th August was also another of the season's highlights, with Amer Jamil taking four wickets and Connor Hughes taking three as the visitors were dismissed for 92 runs.

Carmel Seconds and Carmel Thirds have faced difficulties this season due to a lack of player availability, and both teams have been forced to concede fixtures on several occasions, thus losing points in the process. Despite this, both teams have enjoyed a number of excellent victories, including Carmel Seconds' away win at Marchwiel and Wrexham Second XI on 13th August where Stephen Skates took 3 wickets for 38 runs, and Carmel Thirds' away win at Conwy Thirds where Ieuan Jones scored his maiden century for the club, becoming the youngest player in the club's history to achieve this feat.

Carmel Women's and Girls' team has enjoyed another exciting season competing in the North Wales Women's Cricket League. The team secured its first ever league victory on 15th June away at Northop, and under the guidance of captain Andrea Jones the team is continuing to develop well and establish itself.



Carmel Women and Girls in action against Dolgellau Women

Carmel Cricket Club is always looking for new senior players of all abilities to play for its men's teams and women's team. Please e-mail carmelcricket@hotmail.co.uk

if you are interested in playing for the club next season.

JUNIOR SECTION

We are pleased to say that the club fielded teams at four different age groups in 2022 - under 9s, 11s, 13s and 15s. We ran two under 11 teams this year and made history for the club and for the North Wales Cricket League by playing an all-girls team, which, we understand, hasn't happened in the history of the league. This was a proud moment for the club and especially for the girls involved. Those with long enough memories will know that at one time girls just didn't play a 'boys sport'. How times have changed for the better.

The club participated in the national junior cricket initiatives, All Stars (children aged 5 to 8), and Dynamos (aged 9 to 11) for the fourth time. The main aim of these excellent initiatives is to encourage more children to take part in the sport. Since the introduction of All Stars and Dynamos in 2017, over 100,000 children have taken part throughout Wales and England. This year over 70 children signed up at Carmel for the eight weekly sessions, which included various activities designed to introduce different skills but mostly to provide over an hour of fun whilst taking part in sport. These busy weekly sessions were very enjoyable for the children and for everyone who helped. All Stars and Dynamos will be back again in 2023, once all the coaches have recovered!

If anybody wishes to know more about what we do and how we do it, please contact Alun Davies on either 07889 095 712 or adifa@hotmail.com.

MOSTYN HALL VISIT

Carmel and District Cricket Club arranged a guided tour of Mostyn Hall and Estate on Sunday 18th September. Mostyn Hall is open to the public on a limited number of occasions each year, and the club was delighted to be offered this opportunity to visit the estate and raise funds for the club and for the Welsh Air Ambulance service.

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(Sally Brighton)

LONG HOT SUMMER AND ON.....!

How sorry I was to miss our Annual outing in July, which, as mentioned in the last issue, was to the RNLI station in Rhyl. Those who were able to go were delighted to meet up again with Peter Robinson, one time Coxswain, who had interested us all so much at one of our recent events... this time, together with his son, who is an RNLI engineer. They were all surprised when shown the 'kit room' at how warm it was... and not just warmed by the summer sun. All kit is always kept warmly ready for donning and discarding, before and after encountering possibly long stretches spent at sea, and in the sea. Countering the inevitable and often freezing cold, at all times of the year is essential, so the kit room is kept heated and at the ready for 'come what may'. Many pictures lined the station walls, and our group was regaled with the stories attached to many, before being allowed to board the lifeboat itself which boasts a capacity for 60 people!

The Mess room then provided our party with a cup of tea, and from there they had a splendid all-round view of the surrounding waters... a 100% lookout post for troubles, even when at rest. Fortunately for our party, there were no emergencies which, they had prior warning, would have necessitated their immediate departure. By all accounts it was a singularly great trip enjoyed by all.

Our Autumn / Spring programme now leaps into action for all who are interested. Past, present and future members are welcome at Penbryn Chapel, Holywell on the following dates at 2.00 pm:-

September 3rd 2022:- Celia Drew will give a talk on The Gladstones of Hawarden.

February 4th 2023:- David Parry will talk on Henry Robertson and the North Wales Mineral Railway.

April 15th 2023:- Peter Robinson will speak on either 'The Royal Charter' or 'The Sinking of the Thetis'.

Everyone attending the above will be charged £2 for entry, with tea and biscuits included in that price.

*In addition, on January 14th, our annual 'Winter Warmer', a hot lunchtime meal and social will be enjoyed.



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REMEMBERING SERGEANT STANLEY COATES (Ross Owens)



Stanley Coates was born on December 10th, 1919, the son of Lawrence and Lilian in Pudsey, West Yorkshire. Stanley grew up in Prospect Avenue and in 1933 was joined by Ronnie and Irene Muir, who moved to Yorkshire after the death of their mother.

As Stan grew into his teen years, he found that he had a gift for constructing working models in Meccano. At fourteen years old, he built a working power loom, similar to that of one in his uncles' textile mill and with it, would later win a first prize at the Manchester Meccano exhibition.

By the time of the outbreak of World War II in 1939, Stan was employed as a mechanical engineer and his reserved occupation status meant that he could not be called up. This did not sit well with Stan as he had always longed to fly. At this time, Ronnie had already joined the RAF and would look very smart in his flight sergeant's uniform. Stan requested an operational position within the RAF and his request was duly granted.

In 1940, Stan was enlisted with the 57th operations training unit (OTU) at RAF Hawarden to learn to fly single seat fighter planes. Sadly, in July 1941, Stan was devastated to learn that Ronnie had been killed when the B-17 bomber he was on board suffered a mid-air explosion, killing all seven crew. Ronnie's body was returned to Pudsey and

buried at Pudsey cemetery on August 5th. Standing at Ronnie's grave, Stan remarked that if anything should happen to him, he was to be buried here, next to his friend.

On August 15th, 1942, Stan was flying a spitfire, carrying out a 'machinegun' exercise and attacking another plane which was acting as target. Unfortunately, Stan's spitfire's engine suffered failure mid-air and he was forced to execute an emergency landing and in doing so, struck a tree in a field near Carmel village. A boy who was pumping water in the adjoining field saw the crash and ran to Stanley's aid, only to find that Stan had been thrown out of the plane but still held by his straps. The boy began to cut at the straps to free Stan and by this time, a man had arrived at the scene to help, but sadly Stan had been killed instantly upon impact.

Shortly after, an RAF ambulance would arrive to take Stan's body away

back to Pudsey and he would be buried as he wished, next to Ronnie. Stanley Coates was only 22 years old, fighting the war which has afforded us the freedoms which we enjoy today. August 15th was eighty years since this brave young man lost his life in our village and in a simple ceremony on that Monday evening, I laid flowers at the exact spot where Stan died and thanked him for his courage and sacrifice.

I've been researching this somewhat lost history of Carmel village for over a year and have been fortunate enough to have traced Stan's great niece Kirsty, who has been instrumental in bringing her great uncle's life back to living memory, here in our village. I'd like to extend my thanks to the landowner of the crash site and to my friend Jaime for his support and assistance throughout the course of this research. *(This article is also published in the Pudsey Squeaker)*



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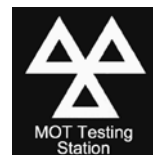
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CYMDEITHAS THOMAS PENNANT

A REPORT TO MEMBERS AND FIVE VILLAGES RESIDENTS:

Dear Colleagues/Annwyl Gyfeillion & Residents (Five Villages), this report is being circulated, not only to Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant Members, but also to Residents in the 'Five Villages' Area.

1. We are sorry that we could not hold Brian Bennett's talk on 30th July/ Gorffennaf, due to a clash with the National Eisteddfod. But Brian's talk on Deltiology (postcards), will now take place on Saturday/Sadwrn 29th October/Hydref at 2.00pm on Penbryn Chapel/Capel Penbryn, Holywell/Treffynnon, Whitford St/ Stryd Chwittfordd. All are most welcome to attend.

2. Social, Friday/Gwener 2nd September/Medi: 5.00pm-7.00pm, Carmel Cricket Club/Clwb Criced Carmel. The club is situated on the A5026, between Lloc and the MacDonalds complex. The A5026 is a fast road, so take great care when turning into the Club entrance. Respectfully, a charge of £5.00 per person will be requested to cover a buffet reception, to be provided by 'On the Corner' café of Caerwys, and club hire. A raffle will be held and a bric a brac stall will be operated. Potential participants are requested to contact me by Friday/Gwener, 19th August (01352 712588: e-mail: pauljbrighton@yahoo.com) (Residents, hopefully, will hear of this event via the media, etc.)

3. Nothop History Day: Saturday/ Sadwrn 1st October: Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant have been invited to participate in this event during the day and all are most welcome. Further information will be provided later.

4. Pennant Lecture: Thursday/Iau 20th October: 7.30pm on Holywell/Treffynnon Library/Llyfrgell:

Unfortunately, Prof Elin Haf Jones is now not able to give the lecture, though she hopes to do so in 2023, but, we are pleased to announce that Dr. Rhys Kaminski-Jones will now give the lecture, with the title: 'Plays, Poetry and Thomas Pennant'. We are also delighted that Prof Mary-Ann Constantine of the Advanced centre for Welsh & Celtic Studies, Aberystwyth will be present to talk about the exciting extension to the 'Curious Travellers' project. Tickets will be available for those attending at Holywell/Treffynnon Library/Llyfrgell in due course. We are so grateful to Aura Leisure & Libraries, for continuing to sponsor this event.

Finally, Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant hope to hold their AGM on Friday/Gwener 18th November/Tachwedd at 2.00pm and a Christmas/Nadolig Lunch on Friday/Gwener 16th December/Rhagfyr.

Both these events will be held in Penbryn Chapel/Capel Penbryn, Holywell/Treffynnon.

We will keep in touch and wish all our members and residents a peaceful and pleasant late Summer and for the approach of Autumn and shorter days!

Sincerely, Hwyl (Paul Brighton: Secretary/Ysgrifennydd Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant).

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RECIPES FOR AUTUMN (Isabel Burnage)

This is an ideal high tea or supper dish and easy to make

Ingredients:

2 hard-boiled eggs, cut into small wedges
1 lb/450g smoked haddock, flaked
8oz/225g boiled rice
Nutmeg, lemon juice, chopped parsley
Seasoning
2oz/50g soft butter
5 fl oz/150ml single cream

Method:

1. Butter a deep ovenproof dish
2. Mix the flaked fish, boiled rice and egg wedges together. Season with nutmeg, lemon juice, salt and pepper
3. Stir in cream gently
4. Spoon into buttered dish
5. Dot with butter
6. Cover with foil and bake on Mark 4, 350F, 180C for approx 30 minutes
7. Garnish with chopped parsley

The following recipe makes a lovely moist cake which is suitable as a Christmas cake. It keeps well in a tin.

Sticky Date Cake

Ingredients:

9oz/250g butter
260ml water
397g tin condensed milk
1 medium egg
8oz/225g chopped dates
14oz/400g dried mixed fruit
5oz/150g wholemeal flour
5oz/150g S R flour
2 tablespoons chunky marmalade
+ glaze cherries and blanched almonds to decorate

Method:

1. Grease and line a 20-22 cm square tin
2. Melt butter, condensed milk and water in large pan and simmer 3-4 minutes
3. Allow to cool and add dates, fruit and egg. Mix
4. Add flours and marmalade and mix again.
5. Put in prepared tin. Place a dish of water on top shelf to create moisture whilst cooking
6. Bake on low shelf Mark 3, 325F, 170C for 1 and a half hours until firm to the touch.
7. After cooking decorate with cherries and almonds and glaze with honey

HOLYWELL MUSEUM (Andrea Dakin)

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

Soon 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 local clergymen. There will be opportunities for you to see the exhibits and information on places of worship in the area. This information and these wonderful objects

will be there for you to see and if anyone is looking for quiet contemplation you can just sit or light a battery tealight in memory of your loved ones.

There is bingo every other Monday from 12 noon, and as well as the regular - free of charge reminiscence group on Tuesdays - 11 until whenever you want to leave and our free of charge craft / knit and natter group on Wednesdays 10 until you wish to leave. We have also started up our prize quizzes on Thursdays in the cafe at 1 pm - charge £2 per head.

A course which runs whenever we recruit six people or more is "Writing Your Story for your loved ones" - a six week course - two and a half hours per session. An experienced, professional tutor will guide you through the writing process. Write all of the things about yourself which

you wish you could ask your grandparents. This course 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 run on Wednesdays throughout the summer months - depending on demand. £5 for an hour and a half (maybe a bit longer) walk 10.30 - 12.00 guided by a local historian.

As the walks are dependent on numbers, booking is essential - just call in to the museum to put your name on the list.

All of this plus our wonderful displays and rooms and our Point of Ayr room with John our ex-miner who is a wealth of knowledge and stories and items which he has collected and displayed.

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

The 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 or phone me 01352 711240.

Come and join us or just pop in for one of our delicious coffees at the cafe - you'll be glad you did as you will always find a welcome from our friendly volunteers.

Perhaps you would like to become a volunteer yourself - there is so much to offer at your local museum.

Thank you.

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AUTUMN IN AURA LIBRARIES! (Paula Jones)

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Why not join our fantastic new 'Sporting

Memories' the first group will be on Monday 10th October at Holywell Library meeting at 2.30pm. 'Sporting Memories' sessions are aimed at people over 50 and are designed to get conversation flowing, help re-live positive memories and provide fun, a quiz and social interaction. At Sporting Memories Clubs, everyone finds fun, friendship and increased well-being. Why not join us and find out what it's all about! The sessions will run weekly and are suitable for people living with Dementia and their carers. We would love for you to join us! Refreshments will be provided. Contact Holywell Library for further information 01352 703850.

Come along this Autumn to Holywell Library.

These sessions take place weekly and are FREE of charge:

- Monday 10.00 – 11.30am
Lego Club for 0-4 year olds
- Tuesday 10.00 – 10.30am
Rhymetime
- Wednesday 2.00 – 2.30pm
Babies and Books
- Thursday 1.30pm – 3.00pm
Job Club drop in session
- Saturday 10.30 – 12.00 noon
Lego Club

For further information contact Holywell Library 01352 703850

MARI THE WITCH (Geraint Roberts)

One dictionary definition of a witch is "a woman who has dealings with evil spirits and practises the black art of sorcery". Another alludes to women who are "fascinating and bewitching" whilst yet another subscribes to the fairy tale image of "old and ugly hags". Most fairy tales have evil witches who fly on besoms with black cats, have an intimate knowledge of potions made of plants with toads and snakes somehow being part of the process. Literature rarely concedes the existence of good witches.

Society, intolerant as it is, has always found ways to persecute anyone who is different, and in 1736 an act was passed which legitimized such actions. Many innocent women were blamed for dying cattle and sickening children and died cruel deaths at the hands of authorities and their neighbours. Thankfully, ducking



Llanbadarn church

stools and other pro-active punishments for women whom society couldn't understand gradually waned towards the end of the nineteenth century and eventually the act was repealed in 1951. This wasn't to say of course that witches ceased to exist!

I have in my possession a collection of magazines going back many years containing articles on a variety of topics related to Wales and the Borders. One, written many decades ago tells of Mari, a real-life witch who was buried in Llanbadarn Trefeglwys churchyard near the village of Pennant, Cardiganshire in 1896.

There are of course several books with tales of Welsh witches but the one element in this particular story which caught my imagination was that despite attempts to photograph Berllan Biter, her now ruined cottage; the photos just did not come out! There were also incidents cited when dogs refused to enter, or children became distressed for no apparent reason; and all these when Mari had been dead for over eighty years.

So, predictably I planned a day down there to look for this ruined cottage which lay somewhere in a wooded valley south of Aberystwyth; and of course, to take a photo!

But first things first; I had to get at least a rough idea of the location as modern OS maps tend not to mark small ruined cottages. Perhaps after 38 years the ruin might not even be there. Having trawled through my personal library I had whittled the probable site as being somewhere

on the banks of the river Arth; venturing on to Google reinforced my conviction. I had almost accepted the search would be a combination of a speculative knock on a farm door or following a river valley with all the bogs, brambles and barbed wire it might entail! And then I had a break! Whilst searching through some old tithe maps I found it; Berllan, complete with its own paddock and reassuringly almost exactly where I suspected it would be, if I'd had a tail, it would have wagged! A few days later I set off.



Remains of the paddock

It was a crisp and clear January day and the trip down through Rhuthun, Bala and Machynlleth was a treat. I stopped for a coffee in the little community café in Tre'r-Ddol and half an hour after negotiating Aberystwyth's one way system I was parking the car beside Llanbadarn church; it was twelve o'clock.

I had already decided to think myself into a witch seeking mode-mood and

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be suitably tuned in to any 'vibes' which might have been still humming around the old cottage. Adopting this temporary role of a benign witchhunter general had the side effect of making me acutely aware of other factors which may influence my mission; for example, would my presence be welcome in this lonely wooded valley? So, being the proverbial stranger in a strange land and therefore not privy to any contentious trespass issues or touchy landowners I'd chosen a route which, although longer, kept me on public rights of way, certainly until I got under the cover of the trees.

The walking was pleasant, initially along a country lane with grass in the middle and tree roots exposed at the sides, I didn't encounter any cars. A kite dancing on the thermals in the sky above was looking for its lunch, or was it a reincarnated Mari still watching over her cottage?



The Kite I saw

I found the farm track I needed to follow and left the tarmac. Eventually I picked up a footpath whose signage lacked enthusiasm at best and headed across a wet open field past a bungalow, I felt very exposed. The field was pockmarked with cattle hoofs, a thousand squelching cereal bowls of water just waiting for me to stumble as I picked a route towards the trees four hundred yards away.

Unhindered by any challenging shouts, rampaging bullocks or shotgun pellets,

I reached a stile and was soon safely swallowed in an attractive deciduous woodland which almost immediately began dropping to the valley floor and the river Arth 400 yards away and some 300 feet lower.



Lane down to the cottage

As I descended the old overgrown track it occurred to me that Mari and her contemporaries would have walked that way many times, some no doubt approaching her cottage with dread.

Soon I reached a bend in the old track and with a tingle of anticipation began looking down to my right hoping there would be something left to see. I needn't have fretted; the gable end of Mari's cottage appeared quite suddenly, smothered in a chaotic jumble of fallen trees. Berllan Biter was perched on a natural shelf barely wider than the cottage itself overlooking the slope which continued for another thirty feet down to the river.



One gable end

It was but a shell, a huge sycamore grew in one corner and a couple of ash trees had sprouted from both chimneys. Two signs outside warned against trespass but I hadn't driven for two and a half hours to heed those. In front and on the valley floor an ancient paddock was now a thicket of hazel and willow groves. It must only have been two rooms with possibly a crog loft. I'll swerve a detailed description of the old ruin and let the photographs show what is left. Yes, it seemed the old dear's powers had either worn off after 121 years or her spells didn't stretch to digital cameras! I sat down and reached for my thermos to reflect on all I'd read about Mari the witch.



Tree growing out of the chimney

She was born in 1817 here in Berllan Biter where she lived with her parents John and Mary Davies, John is recorded as having worked as a gardener for nearby Mynachdy. When they died, she stayed on and lived here all her life only moving to the village of Aberarth to be nursed for the last year of her old age.

Another version claims she was born in 1824 and originally came from Llangurig, an area renowned for its witchcraft. It is hinted she may even have had a daughter there.

Of slight build she never grew taller than four feet, carried a stick and was always seen wearing a shawl over her shoulders along with an old hat, which, because most people were taller, always seemed to hide

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her face. She fitted the stereotype of a witch, a strange woman living alone, deep in the woods and no doubt deliberately contributed to this reputation herself. It was even claimed she could change into a hare! Mari could be cantankerous and strong willed at times and several tales are told to illustrate why falling out with her was to be avoided!

One story tells how her cousin John Pwll-glas left some corn for her at the edge of the woods late one evening rather than make Bess, his tired old mare negotiate the steep path down to her cottage. The next morning Bess couldn't get up in the stable. Suspecting Mari was somehow responsible she was sent for; she denied being the cause but after she whispered a few words in Bess's ear the old mare suddenly got up on her feet. On another occasion she suspected three men who were working in the field nearby of killing one of her hens by forcing a snail down its throat. They denied it and laughed when confronted but over the next few days each one lost one of his cattle.



Another view of the ruin

Thomas Gruffydd, the miller in Pennant, was about to start grinding the last load of the day when Mari turned up demanding that her barley needed doing that day. He explained he would do it first thing in the morning, but she wasn't satisfied and stormed off. No sooner had she gone that the flour refused to come down the hopper and the wheels of the mill started turning the wrong way! He had to chase after her and promise to do her grinding there and then. When they returned to the mill everything was back to normal!

Another time when she was refused a little butter in Ynys-Hir farm she retorted that any attempt to churn butter that afternoon would fail, and she was right! Mari had her good points too; she was apparently very good with animals and on more than one occasion could persuade a horse which had hitherto lay down and refused to drag its load to get up and continue. It was always Mari that Lluest Pennant farm called for when milk refused to churn, she would give the barrel a slight tap, mutter a few words and all would be well.

Tales are told of how she kept snakes in dry leaves in her cottage and she once apparently divulged how she made her spells using a ball of wool with pins which floated in a basin of water. She kept special verses in her Bible for such purposes!

Although a regular attendee at Pennant chapel her presence was always met with a degree of reservation. She had her own pew which no-one would share, and children would avoid it at all cost. It must have been a strange, lonely life to live on the periphery of such a rural Victorian society, relying, I would suggest on the enigma of her reputation to survive as a woman living alone in so remote a spot.

Mari died in late July 1896 and was buried in Llanbadarn churchyard in a white deal coffin on the 12th of August. She was carried in a trap for her final journey drawn ironically by Bess her cousin's mare.

I drained the last of my coffee, took a moment to listen as the birds of Berllan woods sang to the accompaniment of the musical flow of the river tinkling over the smooth stones as if they were piano keys and reflected what a wonderful place to have a cottage and to live a life. I wondered too whether Mari would have enjoyed the same sights, the same smells and appreciated the same tranquility that I was blessed with right then. Despite being 'open' to any lingering echoes of Mari's presence, the serenity of the spot was the closest I got to Mari Berllan Biter. I was almost disappointed to have captured a digital image of her old cottage, a statement perhaps that her influence had finally gone.

My way back was across the river over a delightful little footbridge and up the opposite slope past an ancient fort.

I briefly examined its undulating ruins and wondered about the stories it could tell if only earthen parapets could talk.

My way continued using a little navigation along footpaths not used very often, before I emerged at the little village of Pennant. I passed Mari's chapel and Thomas Gruffydd's mill (now a private house) and forty minutes after leaving Mari's cottage I was back at the car.



Pennant chapel

I did have a quick look around the cemetery but knew I would find no grave for Mari. She was buried at the time when headstones were for those who could afford them and Mari Davies of Berllan Biter would not have been one of those privileged few.

And then, just before I got in the car I spotted what might have been a kite in the distance hovering on the thermals over Berllan woods!

All I had to do now was get home without losing the camera or dropping it in water!



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A TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER; MARGARET TRUMPER (NÉE PATTEN) GORSEDD



In June 1983, I formally commenced my registered nurse training (RGN) in the suburbs of London, leaving four years later to travel north to Doncaster, to train as an operating theatre nurse, throughout all the various surgical specialties. By 1989 I commenced my Midwifery training in H.M. Stanley hospital St. Asaph and in 1993 the Maternity Unit transferred over to Ysbyty Glan Clwyd. Over the years I was fortunate to have gained the experience of working throughout many areas of the NHS to include several roles within Flintshire Local Health Board.

Many dusty years passed until I formally retired in April of last year to spend valuable time with my family and mother-in-law, retaining a small contract within the NHS.

As a mark of my retirement, I reflect that my mother has always been my inspiration throughout my Nursing and Midwifery careers and for this reason I wish to write



a small tribute to her.

My mother was born in Cathays, Cardiff and by the tender age of five, the Second World War had started, and she lost friends to the bombings. The wooden seats in the classroom were scorched as the incendiary bombs fell into the school roof and the soot from the burnt roof contaminated the school. My (maternal) grandfather was an electrician and part of the Home guard; he also put fires out as a result of the bombings and searched for unexploded bombs. From the age of sixteen my mother was employed in an office although wished to train as a Doctor however there was never



enough money to pay for the fees.

In March 1953 aged nineteen, some twelve years after the blitz in London, my mother moved from Cardiff to live in the 'East end' Shoreditch; much of London

had been bombed, was smog filled and blackened from the pollution.

My mother retold that as luggage was not pulled along on wheels in those days, the bulk of her luggage went via rail in a trunk tied up by a rope to ensure the locks held and in advance of her.


She trained as a registered nurse in the 'Mildmay Mission hospital' Bethnal Green, affiliated to 'The London Hospital', Whitechapel. During her time at Mildmay my mother also spent some time on the children's ward caring for seriously unwell children, some suffering terminal cancer and to this day she remembers the names of those children. Mildmay was a much-disciplined hospital, and she worked extremely long hard shifts, up to fourteen hours per day.


By April '58 my mother was a trained Midwife having returned to Cardiff and was practicing Midwifery within the maternity hospital Glossop Terrace and within the community. She also undertook her District nurse training and had a sister's post in Cardiff.

It was during the late '50s in Cardiff that my mother met a handsome, trendy, artistic and well-spoken gentleman with beautiful soft brown eyes, whom she married in June 1961 at Heath church, Whitchurch Road.

Our parents went on to have four children, although sadly, our father lived a life of ill health being confined to a wheelchair for half of his life, who always appreciated the wonderful care and attention he received from his loving wife Margaret. I have viewed my mother's empathy and hard work over a lifetime and acknowledge her support to others as being invaluable as did my father in a preface of one of the many books he wrote over the years. I dedicate any success I may have had to both my loving parents and thank God for the blessing of such parents.

Ceri Fishwick (Carmel)





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KAREN HALL (NEE TATTUM)

20.12.1970 to 02.05.2022



Karen was born on 20 December 1970 and made up the Tattum trio, with her brothers Peter and Paul. Ours was a very busy and happy household.

Missing her brothers when they started at Carmel C.P. School, she became a regular at Playgroup in the village hall until she joined them in Carmel and then Holywell high, where she will be remembered for her sunny smile and success as a high jumper - she held the record for many years.

Aged between 14/15 years she started going with Paul to Brookhouse Mill where she trained as a waitress – who knew then what that would lead to!

In between studies and work, she entered and won local and regional heats in the Clothes Show ending in the final in Bournemouth with an excited following of family and friends.

This led to a contract with the Elite Modelling Agency in London and a jet-set lifestyle that took her to Paris, Milan, Rome, and Amsterdam.

She retired from modelling in 1992 to continue her education in Leeds University and graduated in 1996 with a degree in Business Studies and Finance. She then worked in Kwik Save's Head offices in Prestatyn, where she had also spent her gap year. She also worked evenings and weekends in Brookhouse Mill.

Karen made lifelong friends in Leeds which was very evident at her funeral, and they continue to keep in touch and support us all. She became Karen Hall in 1998, when she and John married. Their marquee wedding being the first of many, many more to come. Over the years she became Karen Brookhouse, due mainly to the amazingly organised weddings she and John did. They are remembered locally for doing both more children's weddings from several households – they were a dream team!

Their son Joshua was born in 2002 and their daughter Emily in 2005 and as the children grew, they moved to a small holding – Bryn Bychan – in Babel and set about turning it into a spacious family home.

Sheep were the next project and turkeys followed at Christmas. Life was always busy, but they always made time for a skiing holiday in the lull after Christmas and a week in October before it all started again – life was never dull!

Having beaten breast cancer once in 2014, Karen joined the fund-raising committee at the Cancer Unit and Y.G.C. and helped raised thousands of pounds with the ladies' lunches held at Brookhouse Mill. The legacy continued by her family, who in memory of John raised almost £30k for the same cause.

Life dealt Karen a bitter blow in 2020, when John became ill and devastated us all when he sadly died in March 2021. Karen was obviously heart broken by this, but it soon became evident that she also was very ill and, despite wonderful treatment we lost her on 2 May this year.

It was never more evident how she was loved and respected by so many people than by the number of messages, cards and flowers that poured into Bryn Bychan. The tributes on Facebook said it all. Karen had touched the lives of so many people and helped make lifelong memories with their families. Karen, however, didn't do morbid, her own wake was a celebration – her last Brookhouse Party – and it's far better to remember the love and laughter that surrounded her and that she used to make anything possible.

So, although Karen only had 51 years, she lived and loved a varied and often hectic life, full of memories and special moments, she brightened more lives than most of us manage in a life far longer. Her memory and legacy will live on.

Karen's family wish to thank everyone for the continued kindness and support they have been shown over the past years, it's been wonderful to see and very much appreciated.

FIVE VILLAGES GARDENING CLUB (Isabel Burnage)

The trip to RHS Bridgewater, Salford on Thursday 7th July was a great success. There were plenty of different areas to see, colourful everywhere and for those who brought picnics plenty of places to sit around the gardens. There was a choice of places to get food and drinks plus a

shop and plant sale area. The weather was perfect and the gardens well worth the visit. There is still a lot of development work going on so further visits would be worthwhile in a few years. However, ideas are now being gathered for a trip in our 2023 programme.

Our annual mini show held on 4th August was well attended with lots of exhibits across the 12 categories. Mrs.

Carol Madden was our judge and she gave a few tips on how to prepare the exhibits for the show. She also said the standard of entrees was very high. Mrs. Wendy Erasmus won the Shield for the most points and Mrs. Ann Brown was awarded the Cup for Best Fuchsia in the Show.

On 1st September members are looking forward to our visit to Pottles Nursery, Gorsedd to see what is going on there at this time of the year. We meet at 2pm, followed by afternoon tea at the Druid, Gorsedd.

We welcome back Jude and Malc Mollart on 6th October to give an illustrated talk entitled 'Designing an Atmosphere'. The meeting starts at 2pm with tea and biscuits afterwards. All are welcome.

The programme for the year continues with the AGM on Thursday 3rd November at 2PM and our Annual Christmas lunch on 1st December.

It is with great sadness that the Club has recently lost four members: Derrick and Lila Edwards and Pauline and David Bentley. They were valued members of the Club giving so much time over the years and they will be very much missed.

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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NEWS FROM GORSEDD AND WHITFORD CHURCHES (Rev Kathryn Evans)



THE SEASONS ROLL ON - HARVEST

Well the summer has almost gone, or certainly will be by the time you read this. I hope you all enjoyed the extra heat, although I must confess that it was all a bit too hot for me, especially on those days when I needed to wear all the Vicar regalia!

Time is really flying by and as I write this, many of the crops are being harvested, and the hay cut for the animals over the winter. It probably hasn't escaped anyone's notice that the strange weather patterns have had an impact on the yields for the staple crops we rely on, which together with the war in Ukraine is having a significant effect on both availability and price of food we have previously taken for granted. Hearing the words 'Climate change' has become an almost daily occurrence and we are all urged to do all we can to minimise our own carbon footprint. Christians believe that God created the world and all that is in it and created an abundance of all we need. However, over the generations we haven't been the best stewards we could be and have imagined that an ever-increasing demand will always be able to be matched with an endless supply, unfortunately this is not the case. When I was growing up, as I'm sure was the case for many others, we ate food in season, and raspberries (one of my favourite soft fruits) weren't available in shops for much of the year! I'm sure you will each have your own examples, but now is the time for all of us to ponder and re-visit the many small ways we can contribute to a secure future for the generations that follow us.

Harvest in the Church Year is always a time to give thanks for the many blessings we have received, to gather in the stores ready for the winter and to share that which we have extra of. One of my favourite roles at this time of year is to share in Harvest assemblies in schools – and see the generosity of families to others in need. I suspect we will have a very tough winter as the increase in all costs continues, and there are various agencies the local churches work in partnership with, do get in touch if we can support you in any way.

Our own Harvest festivals are being held

as follows – Gorsedd – 25th September at 9:30am, and Whitford on 2nd October at 11am. In addition, Whitford church will be open for a Gift Day on Saturday 1st October with refreshments available – do watch out for details soon. St Paul's, Gorsedd is now fully open, and we are holding Coffee mornings on the Third Saturdays of the month from 10:00am til 12 noon – (17th September, 15th October, 19th November and 17th December) do pop in and see our beautifully re-ordered church. Until we meet again, every blessing. Kathryn.



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LEANING ON THE GATE (Norman Closs – Parry)

I'm writing my column on the anniversary of my father's death...it was the drought year '76...everywhere was arid. Up to the last couple of days of his life he had developed a habit in retirement of first thing in the morning, and last thing at night he would go and close the squeaking gate to our cottage. If the weather was fine, he'd spend some time leaning on the old iron gate – looking up and down the hamlet, talking to anyone who would be passing, or just recording the passing days to months to seasons...he enjoyed his ten years retirement from the quarry... he enjoyed his dahlias and lobelias... he knew the ways of the bird life in the area. He used to alert me to the presence of a pair of perigrines above the cottage – spit firing between Y Bigil [high hill] and Chwarel y Glyn over Llyn Padarn – with a heavy heart he told me that the night jar was not to be heard at dusk anymore... yes and because he enjoyed leaning and gleaning off the gate! The comforting thing is that the gate leaning practice has been passed on to me – unbeknowning, and I shuddered when I realised I was "just like Dad!"

When one leans on the gate, especially in fair weather, there is no knowing what will be revealed! The body is at peace, but the mind is happy accepting sensations that "life full of care" has been too busy to enjoy it. A few months ago now, I got up, put the kettle on and went up to the gate. It was May-fresh, it was morning still and it was hamlet peace...it was a chip of heaven!

Cuck-oo Cuck-oo Cuck-oo

I jumped – it is a very very rare bird call in the 5 Villages. In my 60 years plus here I have or used to see/hear the murderous music herald of spring – but not any more, although I saw a mature chick 'fly-past' my house a few autumns ago – it is so easy to mistake them for a bird of prey – like a female sparrow hawk for instance! But to Fach Wen and the eight o'clock call from the direction of Ty'n Giat – about 100 metres away, slowly, so slowly I walked down the lane – a few steps and a few stops – wonderful morning walk for an octogenarian! THEN I SAW HIM – unmistakable posture – blue grey colour – a male bird, it's the mark that uses his double note call (the female responds by chirring and purring in a throaty sort of way!).



I sent the next half hour busy being still – watching, listening... giving humble thanks that I had been spared once again to witness SPRING in the hills.

There had been a worry in the community because the instances / numbers dropped, like in other areas. One of the reasons is change of use in the countryside – the pattern of hill farming has completely changed here – and low heath and moor has given way to the thick undergrowth totally unsuitable for skylarks, warblers and pipits. In Fach Wen long ago we used to call these small passerine birds GWAS Y GOG – THE CUCKOO'S SERVANT – for obvious reasons! These were targeted by the cock cuckoo – left to build their nests, and then CUCK-oo, CUCK-oo... the male would call the speckled hen bird there – and after the

carrying on of all in "May morning" – she would lay one egg in a targeted nest – the rest is lore and truth!

I left him to his delight and purpose – but he did not leave me, and my father was somewhere in the ether too. CUCK-OO CUCK-OO...

Like the majority in the quarrying hill farming community – the 'readies' were not easily come by – (When I went to college in 1958 – my father's weekly wage was £5.75 – 5d a week – work that out-) and I went over the top and started "can I have this, can I have that..." all he would say to me "What do you think I am – one of the Rothchilds?", that settled it of course. The Rothchilds were a very very wealthy commerce family – legendary so...but, they also had their good side! If you look at the history of conservation and protection in the country – you will find their influence. Actually, some of their folk preferred the world of nature to the world of "people"! CUCK-OO- CUCK-OO (he was enjoying the glories of Eryri morning)...then I remembered...One of my great scientific/naturalist heroes is a Rothchild...Miriam. In the 1950's Collins had brought out and still do – (145 different titles in the series now) pioneering literature on all aspects of British Wildlife. Now and again, alongside the main volumes, they brought out a volume – MONOGRAPH SERIES – and that is where things fitted together this particular Spring! One of the monographs (very expensive now on the second hand book market) was by Miriam [dropped out of formal education] Rothschild. The strange title "Fleas, flukes and Cuckoos!" The fascinating story of Miriam you can GOOGLE, I will only add that I could not afford a copy (although a collector) in the 1959/60, but this year, my wonderful family had been able to buy one for my 82nd birthday. FLEAS, FLUKES and CUCKOOS. I wonder if you have spotted the twist in the title? – well the answer is PARASITES – and Miriam had trained herself to such an extent that she was one of the world's experts on the parasitic invertebrates that infest-yes-CUCKOO! She and a colleague worked on the volume – it was an instant success – and I have my own copy 70 years plus after! but valued so much.



HANNAH BLYTHYN MS | AS



CONTACT | CYSYLLTU

If any resident would like to discuss an issue or query with me then please get in touch on the contact details below.

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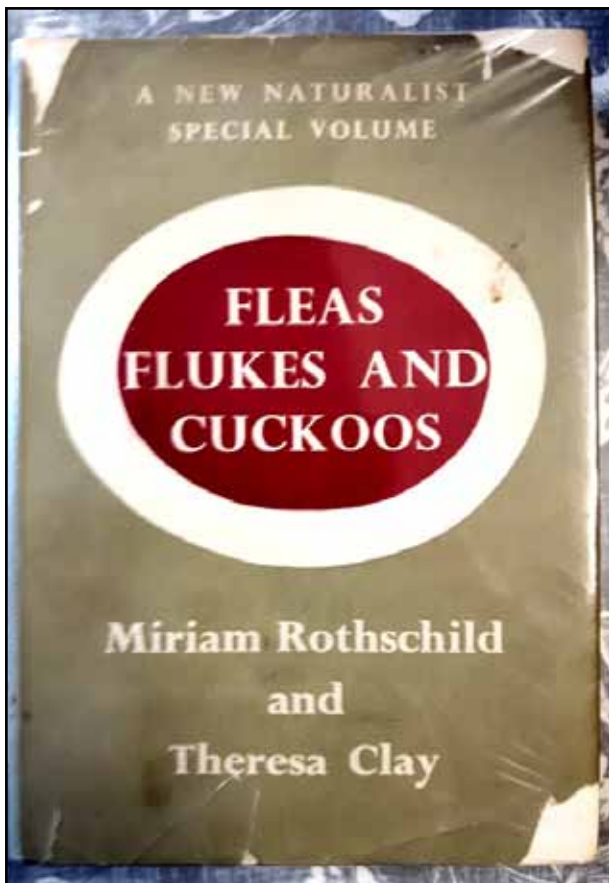
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Talwyd costau'r cyhoeddiad hwn gan Gomisiwn y Senedd, o gronfeydd cyhoeddus



Space is the writer's enemy – perhaps I can write again about this remarkable naturalist and her achievements in a long life of being curious – plus the silver spoon – which helped! She was 96 when she died...

As I put the last dot on my thoughts, I remembered a verse from W H Auden "Short Ode to the Cuckoo"

...Science, Aesthetics, Ethics, may huff and puff but they
cannot extinguish your magic; you marvel
the commuter as you wounded the savage.
Hence, in my diary,

Where I normally enter nothing but social engagements and
lately, the death of friends, I scribble year after year when I first
hear you
of a holy moment."



Miriam Rothschild

GOOD COMPANIONS (John Saunders)

The tea bar at Holywell hospital is still not open to the general public but is still accessible to the staff on a self-service basis. However, we do hope to reopen later this year.

The hospital has requested funding for 44 "nature studies" for the patients. As this proved successful last year, the patients benefitting from being out in the garden, the Good Companions voted to meet the full cost of £1320.

At the moment the hospital is very quiet, with nothing newsworthy to report.

ROMAN WALL? (Chris Dolphin)

Whilst digging the footings recently at Bro Carmel, we uncovered what are thought to be the remains of a Roman wall. The archaeologist on site has requested that we postpone excavation while he further investigates this area. This exposing of this section is expected to take at least a day. We will know more soon when we can resume excavations.



ROB ROBERTS MP
Member of Parliament for Delyn

Please contact me with any issues you would like to raise

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EGLWYSI CYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON WELSH CHURCHES OF THE HOLYWELL AREA

In the Summer Edition of the Five Villages Chronicle there was an article regarding the official Closing Service of Carmel Chapel. It mentioned that the members were seeking to form a new Welsh area chapel with Capel Penbryn based at the old Rehoboth site - EGLWYS GYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON (Holywell and district Welsh Chapel).

Sadly the members of Capel Sion, Lloc have also decided not to re-open. The chapel was built as a Wesleyan place of worship in 1829 and rebuilt 60 years later. It is famous as the Chapel of the 'Plygain' (Capel y Plygain). The Plygain service of worship took place every Christmas morning at 6 a.m. It was a special Welsh traditional service which has been held for well over a hundred years.

These are the services which will be held at EGLWYS GYMRAEG BRO TREFFYNNON at 10a.m - Sunday mornings for the next few weeks:

Medi / September

18fed/ 18th - i'w drefnu / to be arranged
25ain / 25th - Y Parchedig David Owen

Hydref / October

2ail / 2nd - Debbie Roberts
9fed/9th - Gweinidog (Minister) Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies
16eg/16th - i'w drefnu / to be arranged
23ain/ 23rd - I'w drefnu / to be arranged.
30ain/30th - Dafydd Timothy.

Tachwedd / November

6ed/6th - Maryl Rees
13eg/13th - Gweinidog (Minister) Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies
20fed/ 20th - I'w drefnu / to be arranged
27ain/27th - Helena Jones

Rhagfyr / December

4ydd/4th - I'w drefnu / to be arranged
11eg/ 11th - Gweinidog (Minister) Y Parchedig Huw Powell-Davies
18fed/18th - Gwasanaeth Nadolig / Christmas Service.

Croeso cynnes i unrhyw un ddod atom ac i ymuno yn y gwasanaethau. A warm welcome to all who would like to join us in the Services.

CARMEL VILLAGE HALL (Richard Dolphin)



As you will know, the Hall is the hub of Carmel and the wider 5 Villages community. Bringing together children, young people, and adults for sports, social, and other activities. The summer holidays offer an opportunity for the Old Loved Hall to take a rest from its customary day-to-day use. Many groups utilise this time to take a break, before commencing again in September.

During August the Hall has continued to welcome those who wish to carry on, whilst also holding summer specials - such as Laughter Tots Summer Beach Party and the Hall Event Committee's Afternoon Tea, featuring Bingo! Both were a great success, with the picture featuring a happy little 'Dolphin'.



Looking forward, the Hall welcomes everyone to the fundraising Coffee Mornings, held on the second Thursday of each month, 10am until 12 noon. Keep an eye out for the banner and updates via the Carmel Village Hall Facebook page - the best way to keep up to date.

For further information about Hall availability, upcoming events, groups using the hall, or anything else - please direct message the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/carmelvillagehall or contact Chris Dolphin, Secretary, on 01352 713415 or chris_dolphin@hotmail.co.uk

CARMEL BOOK CLUB (Sally Brighton)

Our Book Club continues to thrive, and over the years, we have enjoyed a variety of books. Our discussions on them, have never failed to prove thought provoking, coming as they do from our members who have very differing life experiences. Two of our recent chosen books were no exception:-



THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY CLWYD GROUP

We are a friendly gardening group.
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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. Visitors welcome £3 admission.

Tuesday 20 September, Growing Seasonal Cut Flowers by Alice Taylor, Delamere Flower Farm.

Tuesday 18 October, Flower Power Fairs - Laughs and Pitfalls Judy Popley, the Plant Fairs Organiser.

Tuesday 15 November, Bromeliads and Tropical Plants by Don Billington, multiple gold medal winner RHS Shows. Programme can be subject to change.

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

'Troubled Blood' by Robert Galbraith.
(reviewed by Kath Williams)

Robert Galbraith, pseudonym of J.K. Rowling, continues her series involving private detective Cormoran Strike and his partner, Robin Ellacot. The story investigates the long ago disappearance of Doctor Margot Bamborough, requested by her only daughter. Was she the victim of serial rapist/killer Dennis Creed...or was there an entirely different scenario involved? It's an eventful saga, in which the central cold case shares space with other agency investigations, along with dramatic incidents in the detectives' private lives, past and present.

We enjoyed the book, which we found gripping with the characters well defined and interesting.....a strange family with learning and mental problems, a man who constantly changed his identity as well as someone who it would appear, had caused the death of a relative, as well as some frightening 'underworld' connections. The dynamics of the agency staff were noteworthy too, with the gravelly voiced secretary, Pat, the dour Scot, and the lecherous Morris. This is a book to be recommended..... for lovers of crime fiction, particularly.

The most recent novel enjoyed by our group stimulated especially lengthy and detailed discussions. A book about past experiences which invited us to share ours!

'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig, ponders the infinite possibilities of life. It features a young woman named Nora Seed, who lives a monotonous, ordinary life and feels unwanted and unaccomplished despite a promising start in many areas. One night, her despair reaches a peak and she commits suicide, only to find herself in some sort of 'halfway house', the Midnight Library. Here she is allowed by a librarian who in life, had befriended her, to select books which guide her through various re-enactments of how her life might have turned out had she taken different paths. Several stories in one, thus combine to make this an entertaining and readable book, providing a truly unique experience.

HANNAH BLYTHYN MS



Back to school support

It's that time of year again as a new school year begins and all the preparations that involves. I know many people have raised the rising cost of school uniform and equipment costs, with many uniform stalls and swaps cropping up across communities - all the more so in the face of the cost-of-living crisis. In light of this, the Welsh Government has increased the Pupil Development Grant by £100 for this year with the 2022-2023 scheme now open until June 30th 2023 for all school years from reception to year 11, with families entitled to claim once per child, per school year. Children and teenagers eligible for free school meals can apply for a grant towards school uniform, school trips and kit. The grant this year is £225 per learner or £300 for those going into Year Seven, to recognise the increased costs associated with starting secondary school. For further information contact Flintshire County Council - <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Council-Tax-and-Benefits-and-Grants/Free-School-Meals-and-Uniform-Grants.aspx>

Sticking with the theme of continuing studies, all 16 to 18 year olds who want to continue in education could be eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), thanks to the Welsh Government. Payments are made fortnightly and can be for vocational or academic courses. Student

Finance Wales has more information on the EMA and how to apply: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

Tackling plastic pollution and reducing waste

I know that many people are concerned about the impact of plastic pollution – on our streets, in our seas and across our environment – with the onus on all of us to take action, from grassroots to government and everything in between. Prior to the pandemic, I was pleased to launch and take through a consultation on behalf of the Welsh Government aimed at banning or restricting the most commonly littered single use plastic items. This summer the Welsh Government has – in line with the Welsh Labour manifesto commitment from last May – published a draft of The Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill. The Bill proposes to ban or restrict the sale of some of the most commonly littered single-use plastics in Wales. The draft Bill can be found by clicking the following link: <https://gov.wales/environmental-protection-single-use-plastic-products-wales-bill>.

A little closer to home, it was fantastic to be at Daniel Owen Square in Mold, to meet some of the Bws Bentyg team on their first visit to Mold and to see for myself some of items they have for people to borrow. Bws Bentyg is a brilliant initiative that supports the local community, helps reduce waste and supports moves towards a truly circular economy in Wales. I'm really pleased to see these plans come together and look forward to seeing the difference it makes. Bws Bentyg will be at Mold market every Wednesday morning and is worth checking out.

As always, if you have any questions about my work as your Member of the Senedd or would like to ask for advice and support, please don't hesitate to get in touch - at 52 High Street, Mold, Flintshire, on 01352 753464 or by email Hannah.blythyn@senedd.wales (please note the new address and phone number). You can also keep up to date via my Facebook page – www.facebook.com/hannahblythynMS.



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1ST CARMEL SCOUT GROUP (Russell Williams, Group leader)

Beavers (6-8 yrs)
Cubs (8-11 yrs)
Scouts (11-14 yrs)

CUBS

The Cubs have spent the summer term working on the 'Adventure Challenge' badge.

May saw them working on their tracking skills, laying trails for others to follow. The highlight in May was a visit to the Boardroom climbing centre, where they had an enjoyable evening practising their climbing skills on various walls.

The second half of the term was busy. We had a couple of evenings where they did various games and challenges. We took advantage of the nice weather one evening and went for a walk up to the white quarry in Pantasaph.

Two evenings were spent at the Woodskills centre near Bodfari, where they were able to have a go at making a fire and exploring the woodland. We finished the term off with an archery session, but this proved to be a bit challenging as we had a power cut in the village that evening, but thanks to our new assistant leader Richard Hughes, some temporary floodlighting was set up so we could see what we were doing.

SCOUTS

The Scouts also spent the summer term

working on their 'Adventure Challenge' badge, and we had a very active summer with this section.



In early May we had a visit from several members of the North Wales Search & Rescue team (NEWSAR). They explained what they do and were able to show and demonstrate some of the equipment they use.

In early June we organised a walk in the hills above Beddgelert. Although it proved challenging for some of the Scouts, we had a good day, and the rain held off until we had nearly finished. The weather was good enough for several of the Scouts to have a paddle/swim in the Glaslyn River.

The following week we were in canoes on the River Dee at Eccleston, enjoying a trip down the river organised by Dave from Planetree adventures. We did have a few



games during the trip and some scouts ended up swimming (unintentionally).

The Tuesday after, Rob Jones took them for a Mountain bike ride over the Halkyn mountain area. We were again on Halkyn mountain the following Tuesday where they had a bouldering session. (Short climbs without ropes).

The final night saw us back at the hall cooking burgers, sausages and marshmallows on an open fire.



If anyone wants to gain some experience working with young people, why not come and join us. You can learn some skills and have some fun at the same time.

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ROTARY CLUB TOURS "MOLD CASTLE"

Bailey Hill Project Manager Jo Lane and her team describe the extent of the works undertaken around "Mold's Castle"

Members of The Rotary Club of Flint and Holywell were guests of Mold Town Council when they visited the recently completed Bailey Hill Park in Mold. Showing the Rotarians around the site, The Bailey Hill Project Officer, Jo Lane, gave a brief history of the site from its earliest days following the Norman invasion of England and Wales in the 11th century. William "The Conqueror", following his successful invasion of 1066 rewarded the Norman Knights who helped him defeat the Saxons at the Battle of Hastings, with grants of land. The area now known as Mold was given to a Roger De Monthaul and to protect his new domain, he constructed the first castle in the traditional "Mott and Bailey" style of that period, with a large mound "The Mott" built at the top of Bailey Hill, positioned to take full advantage of its commanding views looking over the Alyn Vale whilst providing living accommodation for "The Lord" and his knights and families. This would have been a defensive structure protected by wooden palisade fencing, with a lower area occupied by the villagers, (The Bailey) also protected by firstly wooden and later by more substantial and permanent stone walling.

Jo, and three of her volunteer guides, Bill, Graham, and Karin explained that

following a Heritage Grant from the National Lottery of £1.8m, the entire Bailey Hill site had been dramatically improved with a new visitor centre. New pathways and cosmetic re-planning of the site, with improved access was also undertaken, designed to encourage increased visitor numbers. Jo, a Mold resident herself, explained that there were many Mold residents who had lived in the town all their lives but had never explored the site, which in the past had been used for a variety of recreational purposes including tennis courts and a bowling green. Indeed, to the lower "Bailey" twelve Gorsedd Stones from the 1922 Eisteddfod can be found on a plateau adjacent to the northerly boundary. The excavation works had also uncovered a wide range of artefacts, many in excellent condition, including arrow heads, building and cooking implements and over twenty skeletons! These skeletons, many of which are in surprisingly good condition, have been sent to Durham University for analysis and Jo stated the entire team were eagerly looking forward to the results of these tests which would give them a much clearer picture of the type of people who lived in Mold in Norman and Mediaeval times, including their ancestry, their diets, life spans etc. The President of The Rotary Club, Malcom Mellor thanked Jo and her team for such an interesting talk and for providing such a fascinating history on the origins of The Town of Mold and its castle.

For further information contact:

David W. Pearce, Press & Publicity
Officer E: davidpearce@icloud.com
Tel: 01352 758922

If anyone is doing their Duke of Edinburgh award, why not join us to do the volunteering part, with one of our sections.

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

Russell Williams
Group leader
01352 713205

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MARK ISHERWOOD MS



As well as Chairing the Senedd/ Welsh Parliament Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee, I am also the elected Chair of the Senedd Cross-Party Groups on Autism, Disability, Hospices and Palliative Care, Funerals and Bereavement, Deaf Issues, Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency, and North Wales.

The work of these Cross-Party Groups is vital, and I receive lots of casework from your area and across North Wales related to my Cross-Party Group work.

The Cross-Party Group on Disability was set up to address key pan-impairment

disability equality issues including implementation of the Social Model of Disability and the right to Independent Living, and I have been the Chair over several Senedd terms. The group also works to promote disabled people's concerns.



It consists of Members of the Senedd from across the political parties and members of the Wales Disability Reference Group, which consists of umbrella bodies in Wales that represent the interests of disabled people.

Since becoming a Member of the Senedd in 2003, I have also become the Patron or equivalent for a number of Disability Charities.

Throughout this time, when speaking in the Senedd, and at events and conferences, I have repeatedly highlighted that disabled people are not disabled by their impairments, but by the barriers to access and inclusion which society places in their way – and emphasised the need for us to work with disabled people to remove

these, seeing the world through their eyes, giving them the voice, choice, control and independence, they seek and deserve.

Sadly, to date too many self-important officials in Welsh Public Bodies continue to tell Disabled people what they can have, rather than work with them to agree their needs and ask them what they want to achieve. I know from my own casework that this is damaging, costly and entirely avoidable.

The CPG's first meeting this Senedd Term on 17th December 2021, included a presentation by the Chief Executive of Disability Wales on the 'Locked Out Report: Liberating Disabled People's Lives and Rights in Wales beyond COVID-19', which originated from discussions at the Welsh Government's Disability Equality Forum.

This found that 68% of deaths from COVID-19 in Wales were among disabled people and stated that: 'there is nothing inevitable about this statistic and this report illustrates how social factors including discrimination, poor housing, poverty, employment status, institutionalisation, lack of PPE, poor and patchy services, inaccessible and confusing public information and personal circumstances, significantly contributed to this figure during the pandemic'.

The report also found that disabled people did not get all the medical help they needed, had less access to public services and social support, had less access to

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public spaces and public life, struggled to live independently and did not always have their human rights fully respected.

The report reaffirmed the fundamental right of disabled people to be fully involved in decisions about their own lives and the need for reasonable adjustments to be made to make sure that everyone is able to use places and services.

Speaking in the Senedd over 2 years ago, I backed a proposal for a Bill to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons into Welsh law.

The purpose of this Bill would be to strengthen rights-based policy approaches to promote the rights of disabled people and use the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons as a framework for future developments.

From all the evidence provided to the Cross-Party Group on Disability, and from what I have been told directly by the disability charities I am involved with, it is clear that the needs of disabled people in Wales cannot continue to be ignored.

We must never again see a repeat of the Welsh Government's reactive response to the needs of disabled people in the first several months of the pandemic, where, for example, the Welsh Government only reacted after Guide Dogs and the RNIB highlighted the barriers being created for blind and partially sighted people and others by Welsh Government funded changes to shared spaces in town centres; and after adults with learning disabilities and people with sensory loss highlighted the absence of accessible communication for them around coronavirus regulations and restrictions; and only reacted to the needs of Autistic people and others who needed to travel further for exercise after their parents raised this with me, from North and South Wales, and I had to raise it in the Chamber before changes were made.

Having hearing loss myself, I appreciate how difficult and frustrating it can be when the support you need is not available. Last year at the 'Disabled Access to Politics' event, I spoke about my own experience and the barriers I have faced working in front line politics.

I said: "fortunately, the then Assembly was very supportive and has always provided me with the equipment I need to follow proceedings in the Chamber and Committee. However, I had to persuade the

Assembly Commission - our Parliamentary Service - to extend this to Cross Party Group and other meetings held on the Parliamentary Estate". I also highlighted that the Senedd has still not had a Member who is a wheelchair user in its almost 23 year existence and referred to the barriers members of my family have faced in getting the appropriate support.

As Professor Debbie Foster of the Cardiff Business School who co-produced the 'Locked Out Report: Liberating Disabled People's Lives and Rights in Wales beyond COVID-19' has said: "to drive the change required will need change to the way we work across the public sector in Wales, with embracement of true co-production not political soundbites that often misunderstand and misuse the term".

LIONS CLUB OFFERS FREE PROSTATE CANCER TESTS

Flint and District Lions Club have announced that their Prostate Cancer Awareness Campaign for this year will commence on 1st October.

Before the Pandemic, the club held annual clinics each of which were attended by approximately 300 men. Over the years, it is believed that these blood test readings may have saved up to forty lives.

The development of a home testing kit means that it is no longer necessary to hold clinics. Tests can be done by the individual in his home. The club understands that the roll-out of this scheme last year led to at least ten local men being referred to their

doctors for urgent treatment.

The campaign chairman, Peter McCracken advised that "those who wish to be tested can apply for a home testing kit. Our campaign will start on the 1st October, and subject to the number of applicants, will extend to 30th November. Unfortunately, the club has not been able to raise funds during the pandemic and is obliged to limit the monies it can expend on the scheme. We will accept responsibility for the cost of the first 250 men to apply for a test. This will cost us over £6000. Obviously, to have the benefit of a sponsored test, it will be a matter of first come, first served."

The club has advised that no application can be made before the 1st October. All applications must be made online to <https://flint.mypsatestests.org.uk/>

Whilst completing the application, reference may be seen to the actual cost (£26.99) BUT by applying the code FLINT100 on the web page the applicant will get a free test.

The offer is open to men aged between 45 and 80 who must live in the postcode areas CH5, CH6, CH7 or CH8

Once an application has been lodged, a test kit will be forwarded to each applicant together with full instructions and details of the return address. A letter or email (depending on the individual's preference) will be sent with the result of the analysis together with full relevant advice. Peter McCracken confirmed that each case is dealt with confidentially and that the club will receive no information about any test.

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A HOT AND DRY SUMMER IN THE FIVE VILLAGES (Robert Moore)

A record high temperature for the UK has been confirmed by the Met Office, 40.3C at Coningsby, Lincolnshire. Record-high temperature records have also been verified for Wales, with 37.1C at Hawarden Airport on 18th July. That was also the hottest day recorded at the weather station, 35.7 degrees. The highest previous July temperature was in 2006 when the mercury reached 34 degrees. The August temperature only exceeded 30 degrees in 2003 (32.8 degrees). So, on the 18th July this year we had the highest temperature ever recorded at the Carmel weather station. The last week of August brought the month's average down by 0.6 degrees.

A record high minimum temperature was recorded at Shirburn Model Farm in Oxfordshire on 19th July when, during a 24-hour period, the temperature never fell below 26.8 degrees.

The rainfall situation was rather different; in no month did we have more than one quarter of the average monthly rainfall for our area, in July only one sixth. This lack of rain has been bad news for farmers (and their animals) and has created extra work for gardeners. The recorded August rainfall at the weather station is, I believe, very unreliable. We had some light rain, which falling on a warm gauge would have evaporate before enough accumulated to activate the sensor.

We have been fortunate in avoiding a hosepipe ban, bans have been imposed on large areas of north-eastern and southern England and south-west Wales. In these areas reservoirs are at a very low level. (a more detailed UK discussion can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62406916>). We also avoided the forest fires such as those that blazed in Portugal and France.

Satellite reception has been partially restored and I now have continuous coverage from (roughly) Malayan peninsula to the north-east of Canada and the USA. I have not yet recovered full continuous coverage of the Caribbean. The European polar orbiting satellites do, however, give one good visible image per day and an infrared image by night, right around the world. These, however, are not suitable for weather animations. But the station now has full coverage of the north Atlantic and Europe. With rising electricity prices, however, I have moved from 24-hour reception to roughly 10 am to midnight.

For most of the Spring we seemed to be buried under deep cloud, so I thought readers might like to see the UK without cloud. The image (see opposite) is from 12th August, the UK is almost cloud free and cities and large towns are visible (this is the infrared radiation from hot bricks, cement and tarmac).

There is a second photo this quarter (also opposite); occasionally when the Sun and a polar orbiting satellite are in the right position, we can see the sunlight reflecting off water. On 23rd July Metop-3 caught the 'sun-glint' over the Caribbean. In this very striking image you can see Florida, Cuba and the whole of the Gulf of Mexico to the Yucatan peninsula and beyond.

Those readers who watch the sky will be aware that on a number of days when we had clear blue skies there were aircraft contrails to be seen; these seeded cloud formation, leading to the loss of the blue sky. A clear illustration of one environmental impact of our passion for flying.

Summer ended with lunch in the garden and a balmy evening with clear skies and excellent visibility. A warm and peaceful end to a rather unusual Summer.

I receive EUMETSAT geostationary images at the weather station, the satellite also relays images from geostationary and polar orbiting satellites right around the globe. I also receive data from the European METOP polar orbiting satellites. These are available strictly for educational purposes. Images are normally kept for seven days, so students and teachers should email to ask about them sooner rather than later and book images in advance if possible (rsmoore@liv.ac.uk). Geostationary satellite images can be used to produce spectacular weather animations for Audio-Visual displays.

UK climate continues to change in 2021 - Met Office (see link) <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2022/uk-climate-continues-to-change-in-2021>

Weather in the Five Villages Summer 2022 (2021 in brackets)				
	Temperatures °C			Total rainfall Mm
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
June	17.1 (18.1)	26.1 (28.0)	5.4 (5.8)	16.0 (32.6)
July	19.1 (19.7)	35.7 (30.7)	7.7 (9.9)	13.5 (91.6)
August	19.7 (17.1)	32.5 (24.0)	7.4 (7.9)	16.6* (13.5*)

+ see below *One week's rain missing because of instrument failure

Summer 2022 compared with Summer 2001 – 2020				
Air temperature at 1800 UTC	Average	Maximum	Minimum	Rainfall (mm)
2001 to 2020	17.0	26.8	8.4	76.5
2022	18.6	31.4	6.8	16.6

Tables for 2001 to 2020 are now available at Holywell library and the county archives.



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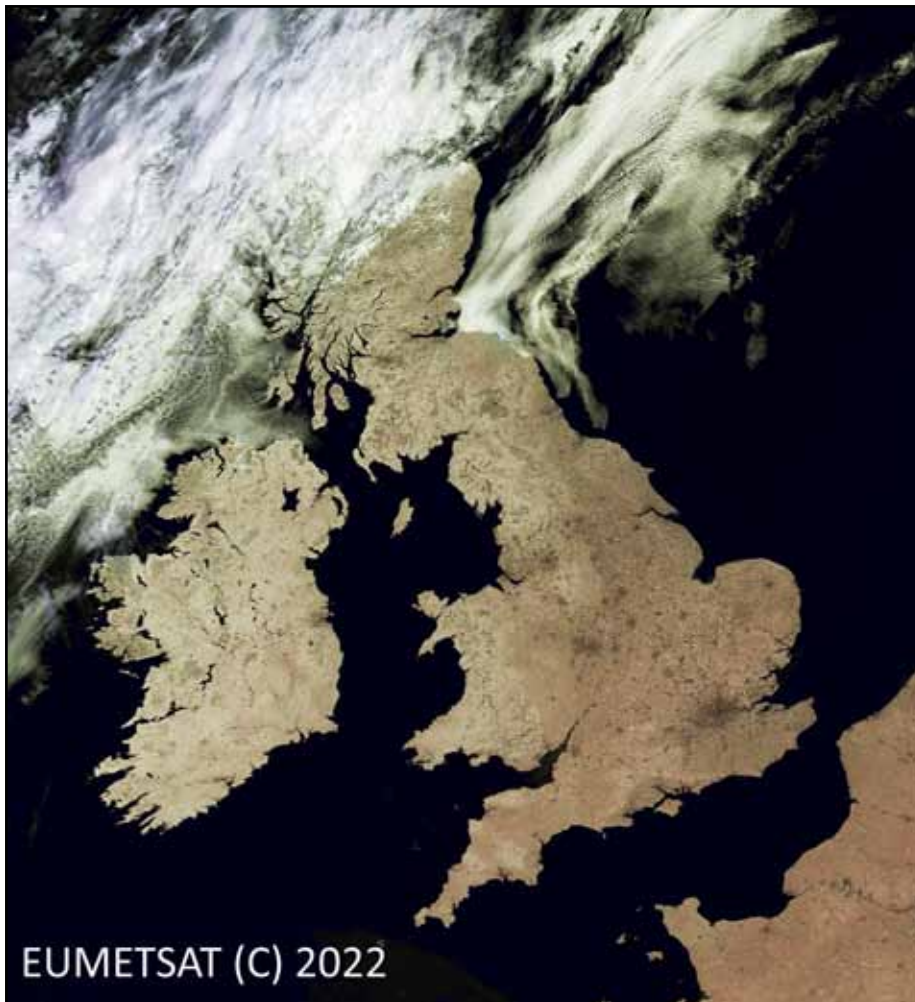
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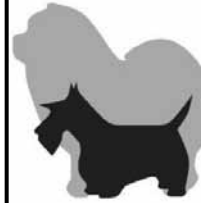
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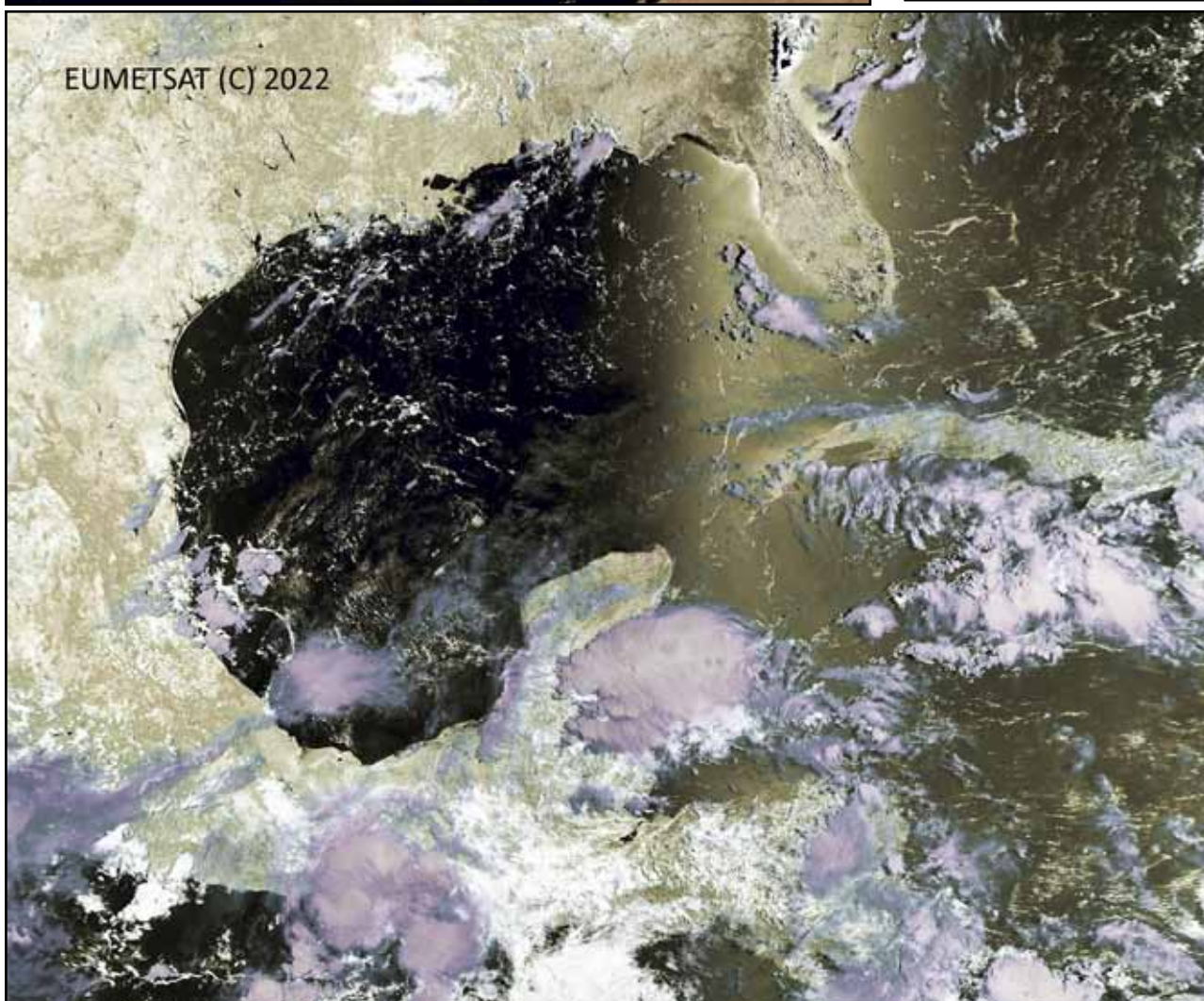
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THE FIVE VILLAGES CHRONICLE ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BIKE RIDE FOR BLOOD CANCER UK (Steven Jones)



The four cyclists with Ben and other well-wishers before their departure

On 19th August, four friends from Carmel set off on a charity bike ride to Barmouth to raise funds for Blood Cancer UK. Tomos Hughes, Sam Marshall, Jac Mclean and Jack Wilkes were all inspired to get on their bikes following the news that their close friend, Ben Roberts from Whitford, had been diagnosed with Stage 4 Lymphoma, a type of blood cancer that affects the immune system.

Ben is currently receiving treatment for the condition, and his positive outlook and desire to raise awareness of this type of cancer led to his four friends embarking on a bike ride in aid of Blood Cancer UK. The four cyclists set off from Carmel on the morning of Friday 19th August and travelled along the north Wales coast to Caernarfon and then on to Barmouth before returning home via the steep hills of Snowdonia to complete a ride of around 210 miles spread over four days. Ben was one of a number of well-wishers who gathered at Carmel Village Hall car park on the morning of the ride as the cyclists departed.

The main aims of the ride were to show support for Ben during his treatment, raise awareness of this type of cancer and raise funds for a charity which works very hard to help people affected by blood cancer.



Jack Wilkes, Tomos Hughes, Ben Roberts, Sam Marshall, Jac Mclean

Many congratulations to the four young men on completing their long ride and best wishes to Ben as he recovers from his treatment. Anyone wishing to sponsor this event can still do so via the Just Giving page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charity-cycle-blood-cancer-uk>

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